



1 Sept. 2009

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos,

IEEE-USA congratulates you on your confirmation as the new Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. We appreciate the heavy task you have before you of ensuring that the nation's inventors have access to a strong and efficient system of protections for their innovations and intellectual property, and we look forward to working with you in the years to come.

When we last spoke earlier this year prior to your appointment, we talked about the possibility of calling upon IEEE's expertise to create tools – such as a dictionary of standard technology terms used in patent applications – which could assist the USPTO's examination process. IEEE's U.S. membership consists of 210,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals with the expertise to help the PTO protect the interests of American innovators, and we stand ready to assist in any way that we can to support the PTO in its important mission. We would welcome the opportunity to continue this conversation with you and your new staff.

We have attached a copy of our position statement, *Patent Reform: U.S. Innovation, Entrepreneurialism and Competitiveness*. This statement suggests policy recommendations that a group of stakeholders – inventors, business owners, and patent attorneys – agree would enhance the U.S. patent system. We have also attached a copy of an Amicus Curiae brief, jointly filed by Dr. Lee Hollaar (the author) and IEEE-USA in the *In Re Bilski* process patent case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court. As you know, a decision in the Bilski case has the potential to define patentability for future inventions.

IEEE-USA welcomes you to Washington and supports your commitment to advancing American innovation, and ensuring economic strength and job growth. If you have any questions or would like to again speak with Keith Grzelak, chairman of our Intellectual Property Policy committee, please do not hesitate to contact Erica Wissolik at (202) 530-8347 or e.wissolik@ieee.org.

Sincerely,

Gordon W. Day, PhD
2009 President, IEEE-USA

Keith Grzelak, M.S.E.E., J.D.
2009 Chairman, IEEE-USA Intellectual Property Committee

GWD/ew