

# Los Angeles Competes For Regional Federal Patent Office

By:

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Recent legislation authorized the US Patent Office to open three regional offices. A new regional office has already opened in Detroit and, according to a recent [article](#) in the Los Angeles Business Journal, numerous cities are competing for the final two slots. The competition is heated and includes, among others, Silicon Valley, San Diego, Boston and New York.

Hosting a regional patent office could be a boon for the local economy, spurring innovation and, according to Los Angeles patent lawyer Morgan Chu, attracting “research and development divisions of major corporations, entrepreneurs trying to bring new technologies to market, and law firms with intellectual and trademark practices”.

The regional offices plan to hire patent examiners, which could speed up the patent process, currently weighed down by a three year backlog. A regional office could accomplish this in part through face-to-face meetings between patent examiners and applicants. A local office in Southern California would increase the likelihood of such meetings for Los Angeles area inventors and reduce the cost of such meetings as compared to traveling to Washington D.C., currently required if a face-to-face meeting is desired.

It remains unclear whether Los Angeles will secure a regional patent office, though many expect at least one of the two remaining facilities to be located somewhere in the State. Silicon Valley with its focus on technology and innovation produces many more patent applications each year than Los Angeles, and could be high on the list. <http://ow.ly/cv35x>

**Update: Recent news has advised that the regional patent office will be located in Silicon Valley. While the office is not located in Los Angeles, the new office will provide assistance and benefits to Southern California companies.**

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