December 5, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Grassley, Majority Leader Reid, and Republican
Leader McConnell:

On behalf of our nearly 200 corporate members and more than 35,000 individual app developer
members, I write in support of President Obama's nomination of Michelle K. Lee to serve as
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Application Developers Alliance is the
preeminent association supporting developers as creators, innovators, and entrepreneurs by
promoting a robust ecosystem for continued innovation and economic growth.

Lee's background as an intellectual property attorney in the private sector as well as her tenure
with the USPTO makes her well suited for this position. While serving the USPTO and during
her tenure as Interim Director, Lee has demonstrated exceptional leadership. By supporting
initiatives to improve patent quality and the post-grant review process, Lee has shown she can
lead and manage the USPTO through a critical time.

App developers, startups, and small businesses are at the forefront of innovation, but too many
are the victims of patent trolls who do not create or innovate. As trolls continue to harm small
businesses and drain millions of dollars from the economy, the need for comprehensive patent
reform is stronger than ever. On this issue, Lee has demonstrated that she is thoughtful and fair.
She understands the balance needed to protect truly novel ideas while protecting innovators from
entities that abuse the system. We expect that she will be integral to protecting startups and app
developers.

We urge the Senate to quickly confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,

Jon Potter
President
Application Developers Alliance