

December 8, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
473 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Michelle K. Lee — Nominee for Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”), I write to support the nomination of Michelle K. Lee for the office of Under Secretary for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”), Department of Commerce. Ms. Lee is imminently qualified for this leadership role and would serve with distinction as the Director of the USPTO.

NAPABA is a national bar association representing the interests of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. Now in its 26th year, NAPABA represents the interests of over 70 national, state, and local affiliate organizations and over 40,000 Asian Pacific American attorneys. NAPABA is deeply committed to supporting the appointment of qualified Asian Pacific Americans to high-ranking political offices, where Asian Pacific Americans are woefully underrepresented.


Ms. Lee would bring a history of outstanding achievement and diverse perspectives to the USPTO. Through a legal career in intellectual property and patent law of over twenty years, Ms. Lee has acquired a depth of experience that encompasses private and corporate practice work and government service. Notably, she served as the USPTO Director of the Silicon Valley Office and, prior to that, as Google’s first Deputy General Counsel and Head of Patents and Patents Strategy. In her capacity as the USPTO Director for the Silicon Valley Office, she oversaw the policy, operations, and outreach efforts of the USPTO in the Western United States. As Google’s Deputy General Counsel and Head of Patents and Patent Strategy, Ms. Lee became an industry leader in handling large and highly complex patent disputes, helped shape the development of patent law by filing amicus briefs on patent issues before the Supreme Court and in the Federal Circuit, and played a key role in many legal and business

discussions concerning patent licensing, purchases, and sales. Currently, Ms. Lee serves as the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the USPTO and acting Director of the USPTO, where she advises the Administration on domestic and international intellectual property policy matters and provides extensive advice to Congressional members and staff on legislative proposals.

Ms. Lee's other achievements include recognition as a 2014 Top 50 Trailblazer in Intellectual Property by the National Law Journal, as a Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal "2012 Best IP Lawyer," and as a "2013 Women of Influence." Ms. Lee also has demonstrated a commitment to community service through her role as co-founder of ChIPs, a non-profit organization devoted to the mentoring, education, and promotion of women in patent and intellectual property related fields.

Given her excellent qualifications, experience, and proven abilities, Ms. Lee would make an outstanding and immediate contribution as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. Accordingly, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association proudly supports the nomination of Michelle K. Lee to serve as the Under Secretary of Commerce of Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George C. Chen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George C. Chen  
President