



December 13, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Room 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Room 152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Andrei Iancu to be the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The American Intellectual Property Law Association (“AIPLA”) is pleased to submit this letter in response to the nomination of Andrei Iancu to be the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

AIPLA is a national bar association with approximately 13,500 members who are primarily lawyers in private and corporate practice, government service, and in the academic community. AIPLA’s members represent a wide and diverse spectrum of individuals, companies, and institutions, and are involved directly or indirectly in the practice of patent, trademark, copyright, and unfair competition law. Our members represent both owners and users of intellectual property and have a keen interest in a properly functioning USPTO.

Years ago, AIPLA issued a White Paper on Recommended Qualifications for the Next Director and Deputy Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The report, which was last updated in 2015, lists specific skills and attributes that would benefit the holder of this Office including, but not limited to the following: possessing a deep background and understanding of intellectual property law; successfully managing and leading a large enterprise; and a demonstrated commitment and willingness to engage and listen to the stakeholder community.

Upon reviewing the background and experience of Mr. Iancu, AIPLA has found that he possesses several of the qualities enumerated in the White Paper and that he appears qualified to be Director of the USPTO.

The USPTO is a central key to this nation’s intellectual property system and this important position has been without a permanent holder for many months. As such, AIPLA urges the Committee to promptly move forward with the confirmation process. We look forward to working with Mr. Iancu upon his confirmation and we thank you in advance for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myra H. McCormack".

Myra H. McCormack
President
American Intellectual Property Law Association