



THE BOSTON PATENT LAW ASSOCIATION

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Senator Eric Lesser
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PRESIDENT - ELECT

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Dear Senator Lesser,

VICE PRESIDENT

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As the President of the Boston Patent Law Association (www.BPLA.org) I, and several members of our Leadership, would like to invite you to meet with us and discuss the important role intellectual property plays in the strength and vibrancy of the Massachusetts economy. With a membership of approximately 800 IP professionals, the BPLA represents those law firms, companies, and individuals that work to obtain patent, copyright, and trademark protection here in Massachusetts, in the United States, and throughout the world.

TREASURER

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Our members, and the law firms they work for, generate over an estimated \$1B in services revenue that contributes directly to the Massachusetts economy. Further, many of the Commonwealth's industries and institutions -- including startups, biotech, hi-tech and manufacturing companies -- which also include our members and clients of our members, depend on critical intellectual property protection. Massachusetts research hospitals and higher education institutions alone have generated an average of \$350 million per year in revenue (past decade) and \$4.7 billion since 1991. (AUTM Licensing Activity Survey, <http://www.autmsurvey.org/>.)

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While we share your concerns about certain abuses of the patent system by a handful of bad actors, we are also concerned about potential unintended consequences for the ability of our membership to protect their intellectual property rights, and/or the rights of their clients appropriately, if legislation intended to quell deceptive patent assertion practices is instituted in too broad of a manner. With that in mind, we have provided input to the process for addressing those deceptive patent assertion practices in our feedback to you and the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. We would like to discuss with you how the BPLA can work more closely with you and the Legislature on this and other issues involving intellectual property as they arise.

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THE BOSTON PATENT LAW ASSOCIATION

We would welcome the opportunity to host you for a meeting at the offices of McCarter & English in Boston or at the State House if that is your preference. Please let us know how best to coordinate with your staff to find a convenient time.

Best regards,

Deirdre Sanders
President
Boston Patent Law Association

cc:
Stephanie Swanson (Via email)
BPLA Board of Governors (Via email)
BPLA *Ad hoc* Legislative Committee (Via email)