

**S**HUSAKU YAMAMOTO is pleased to present its seventeenth issue of *I.P. JAPAN®*. We begin with a discerning Message from Founder-Owner, Shusaku Yamamoto, Esq. Next, we discuss important legislative changes to divisional and amendment practice. We also outline new provisions to Japan's trademark and design laws that will allow the registration of retail services and other improvements in Japan's design law. We also discuss the landmark series of Intellectual Property High Court decisions that confirm the protectability of pharmaceutical trade dress under Japan's Unfair Competition Prevention Law. We also highlight the less onerous duty of disclosure applicable in Japan. We conclude with a commentary of the Supreme Court inventor compensation ruling that inventors are entitled to compensation from their employers' inventions patented in and outside Japan. As always, we hope that the topics discussed in the current issue of *I.P. JAPAN®* will be of interest to all our valued clients and associates. Enjoy reading!

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

### New Patent Law - April 1, 2007

- ★★ *Divisional Filing Opportunities*
- ★★ *Expanded Acts of Infringement*

### New TM & Design Law - April 1, 2007

- ★★ *Retail Services Registrable*
- ★★ *Enlarged Design Registrable Subject Matter*

### Pharmaceutical Trade Dress

- ★★ *Unfair Competition protection for pharmaceutical trade dress*

### Japan's Duty of Disclosure

- ★★ *Far Less Onerous than U.S. Duty*

### Inventor Compensation Litigation

- ★★ *Supreme Court expands scope Inventor compensation calculation Against Employer*

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*I.P. JAPAN®* is only intended to highlight general issues and not a substitute for legal advice. Should you have any specific questions on Japanese IP matters, please get in touch with us at:

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