

## INTRODUCTION

This book, now part of a series of intellectual property books co-published by the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) and Bloomberg BNA, provides an overview of patent infringement litigation in dozens of countries throughout the world. It provides information on comparative law as well as practice tips and practical advice for managing and conducting patent infringement litigation.

This book will not make you an expert on the law of any particular country. Rather, it provides insight to enable you to anticipate potential problems and opportunities, as well as local considerations that confront litigants outside their home jurisdiction.

Inevitably, this compilation has a U.S.-centric bias because the Editor-in-Chief finds it a convenient reference point based upon his own knowledge and experience. It is, nonetheless, intended to provide practitioners and in-house counsel, both in and outside the United States, practical information they can use to manage and direct infringement litigation in other countries.

This book is intended to provide information to the widest possible audience—from neophytes in patent litigation outside their home jurisdictions, to those more widely experienced, and users looking for particular points of law, practice, or procedure in jurisdictions of particular interest.

The Editor-in-Chief has submitted a series of specific questions to each of the country chapter authors, each of whom are highly distinguished professionals. This has been done to provide a uniform framework for the book and to elicit from the authors as much consistency between the organization and structure of the various country chapters as possible. Although some country chapters are long and others are short, the substantive coverage is relatively uniform. The outline was updated in 2016 and the revised outline is being used for new revisions.

Each country chapter is updated approximately every three to five years to reflect changes in national laws. Equally important, attention has been paid to the diversity of substantive patent laws and to that of the general procedural laws of the various jurisdictions, which also vary widely. Despite the superficial similarities of substantive patent laws—more prevalent since the enactment of the TRIPS agreement and various developments in harmonization—the various country chapter authors provide their unique insights into local practices and idiosyncrasies in patent litigation within their respective jurisdictions. The looseleaf format is intended to allow for the expansion and, in certain cases, replacement of country chapters as changes in local laws and practices affecting patent litigation occur.

The focus of this book is on litigation in the courts and not primarily with administrative practice in the various patent offices. For this reason, materials dealing with *inter partes* practices conducted in patent offices, such as opposition, invalidation, or nullity proceedings, are included only insofar as they are implicated by, substituted for, or affect judicial patent infringement proceedings.

The Editor-in-Chief hopes that this unique work will satisfy the needs of those involved in international patent litigation matters outside of their home jurisdiction. Special thanks go to Michael N. Meller, who created and supervised this book for many years, for his longstanding contributions.

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