
Intellectual Property Law

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Dr. Hajime Sakai is a U.S. patent attorney who provides invalidity/non-infringement opinions, prosecutes patent applications, and analyzes and develops licensing strategies. He specializes in the fields of chemistry, materials science and pharmaceuticals, and has broad experience ranging from silicon purification, metallocene catalysts, analgesics, statins and carboxylic acid syntheses to monoclonal antibodies.

Prior to attending law school, Dr. Sakai was a post-doctoral researcher at Princeton University where he carried out theoretical and computer-simulation research on disordered heterogeneous materials and amorphous solids. For his dissertation at UCLA he investigated methods of detecting structural correlation lengths believed to develop within supercooled liquids and glasses.

A native speaker of Japanese, Dr. Sakai often advises Japanese companies on strategies to obtain and challenge patents and to establish licensing arrangements in the United States. With his knowledge of the U.S. patent law and familiarity with the Japanese patent system and ways of doing business, he anticipates likely areas of confusion

and conflict and counsels clients on approaches to achieving their objectives. The countries' patent systems are complex in different ways: in Japan, for example, the scope of a patent granted may be narrower than the patent that could be obtained on the same invention in the United States. Simply translating the patent application that sufficed in Japan would not result in the strongest protection available in the United States.

Examples of his experience include:

- Drafting opinions on exclusivity analyses under the ANDA framework
- Analyzing the worldwide patent portfolio of a European company in connection with its acquisition by a U.S. medical-device manufacturer
- Advising a chemical manufacturer on strategies for balancing patent and trade secret protections (i.e., what to disclose and what not to disclose);
- Assisting in defending a Japanese automaker in a patent infringement lawsuit brought by a non-practicing entity.

EDUCATION

- Columbia University School of Law, New York, J.D., 2005
- University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D. in chemistry, 2000

EDUCATION CONT.

- University of Tokyo, Japan, B.Sc., 1989

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York, 2006

CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIALTIES

- Registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- U.S.-Japan Healthcare Study Group

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Princeton University, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, 2001-2002

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES

- Japanese (native)

PUBLISHED WORKS

- ARE Patent Law Alert: Patentee Bears Burden Of Proving Infringement Even When A Licensee Sues For A Declaratory Judgement Of Non-Infringement January 22, 2014
- ARE Copyright Law Alert: Supreme Court Reverses Second Circuit, Holds "First Sale" Doctrine Applies To Copies Of Copyrighted Works Made Abroad March 19, 2013