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As Managing Partner of Fernandez & Associates LLP, I would like to welcome you to the Fourth Edition of the Fernandez & Associates Intellectual Property Advisors Newsletter. Over the past few years, issues related to intellectual property have become an ever increasing area of law throughout the country. As Fernandez & Associates' IP practice has similarly grown, our group decided a newsletter would be a useful way to provide current information about our group. We hope that you find it informative and useful.  
*Dennis S. Fernandez*

**PRACTICE OVERVIEW**

**F&A** Fernandez & Associates LLP specializes in High-Technology and Intellectual Property Rights, focusing on patent protection of advanced electronic circuits, semiconductor chip designs, network communication systems, biomedical devices, bioinformatics systems, and complex software systems. The firm counsels early-stage electronics, communications, and biotechnology companies and venture investors. Fernandez & Associates LLP specializes in developing and enforcing defensive and offensive US and international patent strategies for early-stage biotechnology, software and semiconductor technologies.

► **Patent Application Prosecution**

Special focus is placed in defining strategic scope of patent claims to encompass legal protection over specific novel product features and overall architecture and methodology, as well as potential competitive activity and emerging industry standards.

► **Intellectual Property Rights Counseling**

Special focus is placed in providing management teams of emerging technology ventures with practical and effective strategies to building valuable Intellectual Property portfolios, as well as minimizing legal risk of infringing IPRs of other entities.

► **Start-up Company Strategic Assistance**

Additionally, the Firm may be available to provide startup companies, in certain situations, strategic business assistance and hands-on consultation regarding technology and marketing plan definition, early-stage seed funding, and initial management team recruiting, in addition to Intellectual Property counseling services. Occasionally, the Firm may assume a more active advisory role, for example, by participating in the company's Advisory Committee.

## **GROUP PICTURE**



## **WELCOME NEW TECHNICAL/LEGAL STAFF**

**Michele Liu** earned both her B.S. and B.A. degrees from the University of Texas in Austin, Texas and a J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law in (year). She recently served as an IP counsel for a Palo Alto law firm, and has worked in Employment and Discrimination Litigation for some of the Bay Area's largest firms. Her area of concentration is in software, hardware, flash devices, computer architecture, optical devices, and server technology.

**Christopher Le Vo** earned a B.S. in Computer Science from San Francisco State University in 2002. He has experience in several different programming languages such as Visual Basic, C, C++ and Java. He has experience in designing web pages and Database. He was a patent editor for Reed Technology and Information Services.

**Shengfeng Chen** earned a B.S. in Chemistry at Peking University in 1995, and then went on to earn a Doctorate of Philosophy in Structural Biology from Rutgers University in 2001. He has worked as a Research Associate at both Rutgers University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He has also been published in numerous medical and scientific periodicals over the years.

**Felicia Gilbert** earned both her B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Sociology from Stanford University. She has worked as a Meeting Services Assistant, and a Research Assistant at Stanford University. She has also worked as a Production Assistant for a historical documentary that aired on KVIE Channel 6.

**Brian Sun** is a senior at UC Berkeley pursuing a B.S. in Molecular and Cell Biology with an emphasis in cell and developmental biology. He has worked as a Triage Assistant at Sutter Roseville Medical Center.

**Marc Knittel** earned a B.A. in Physics from UC Berkeley. He is a member of both the Optical Society of America and the International Society for Optical Engineering. He has worked as a Optical Engineer at both Diablo Optics, Inc. and Foveon, Inc. as well as a Technical Design Associate at Rawson Optics, Inc.

**Gerry Rochino** earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Maryland in 1996, and a M.S. in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University in 1999. She went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2003. She is currently interning at Rigel Pharmaceuticals, and has worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the La Jolla Institute of Molecular Medicine. She has had three separate articles published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

**Zoey Bell** is a senior at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She is pursuing a B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law studies. She is a member of the Undergraduate Law Association.

**Monica Ramirez** earned a B.S. in Information Systems with an emphasis in Business Administration from the Universidad de Oriente Anzoategui in Venezuela in 2001. She then studied English as a second language at Louisiana State University. She has worked as an Administrative Assistant for 2 years and has been working at Fernandez & Associates since July of 2004.

### **RECENTLY ISSUED PATENTS**

Integrated network for monitoring remote objects  
(6,697,103) *Issued February 24, 2002*

Method and apparatus for multi-sensor  
processing (6,415,188) *Issued July 2, 2002*

### **RECENT ARTICLES**

Patent Prosecution in Structural Proteomics  
**Dennis Fernandez and Keala Chan**

Effective International Intellectual Property Strategies  
to Mitigate U.S. Taxes  
**Dennis Fernandez and Inna Shestul**

Top-10 Most Common Intellectual Property  
Rights Mistakes During Venture Capital Due  
Diligence  
**Dennis Fernandez**

### **Recent Conferences**

“Soup to Nuts”, Young Filipino Professional  
Association – YFPA, Burlingame, July 7, 2004,  
**Dennis Fernandez**

“Current Issues In International Cross-Boarder I.P.  
Strategies”, Chinese Information and Networking  
Association, TechSmart Center, Palo Alto, July 14,  
2004, **Dennis Fernandez**