

## Preface

On December 14, 2008, Joseph Straus will celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is the occasion and reason for the present *liber amicorum* honouring his lifelong dedication to and achievements in research and teaching in the field of intellectual property, especially patent law. Friends, colleagues, and pupils in more than 15 different countries in Asia, America and Europe have written 60 articles providing legal, economic and policy perspectives on the challenges raised by 'Patents and Technological Progress in a Globalized Economy'.

Among the many issues addressed in this book are fundamental questions of substantive patent and utility model law (chapter 1); the relationship of exclusive rights and competition, focussing both on inherent limitations of intellectual property law (chapter 2) and limitations imposed by competition laws (chapter 3); the rapid development of specific technical fields such as biotechnology (chapter 4); employee invention law (chapter 5); questions of procedure, enforcement and liability (chapter 6); the relationship of intellectual property law to unfair competition law (chapter 7); the need for territorially limited IP laws to address trans-national circumstances (chapter 8); recent developments in national IP and competition law (chapter 9) and public policies in intellectual property law (chapter 10). The overall theme reflects Joseph Straus's pronounced interest in the patent system and the challenges that it faces, both on a national and international level, an interest and expertise which is evidenced by his many publications in the field (listed in chapter 11).

It is the authors' sincere hope that Joseph Straus will take pleasure in reading these articles, and that the articles will provide stimulation and inspiration for his further academic work, even though, or perhaps especially because, he may not fully agree with some of the conclusions or proposals. It is the heartfelt wish of the contributors and the editors that Joseph Straus enjoy many further years of fruitful scholarly pursuits, and that he remain active on the international patent scene and continue to speak out on the needs of intellectual property.

Munich/Washington, August 2008

The Editors