

Preface to the Fourth Edition

We are happy to present the Fourth Edition of the *IP Deskbook for Business Lawyers: A Transactions-Based Guide to Intellectual Property Law* which features 23 chapters, including 20 updated chapters and three new chapters on: IP assignments; music licensing; and IP issues that arise in advertising.

The purpose of the *IP Deskbook for Business Lawyers* is to be a helpful “go to” reference for general practitioners, business lawyers, and corporate counsel who need to quickly learn and understand the intellectual property (IP) issues that arise in various business contexts. For this reason, each chapter of the book focuses on a particular business transaction, from IP issues related to business start-ups and real-estate transactions to IP issues that arise in mergers and acquisitions and bankruptcy proceedings. The chapters are short and readable and include “Traps for the Unwary” that provide quick information on issues of particular import.

With each successive edition of the *IP Deskbook for Business Lawyers*, the content has gotten better and better, and this edition is no exception. The editors and publisher of the *IP Deskbook* gratefully acknowledge and thank all who have contributed to this book over the years, including the authors of each chapter, the peers who reviewed those chapters, and the many law students and early-career attorneys who conducted research behind the scenes. You can learn many of their identities and affiliations in the first footnote of each chapter.

In total, the *IP Deskbook* now reflects the knowledge, experience, and insights of over 55 experienced attorneys from many successful law firms and companies, law professors, and a judge. It is the mission of the IP Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association to be a resource for business lawyers who confront IP issues regularly or sporadically and we believe that this book has, and will continue, to serve that goal well.

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We have enjoyed working on this project from its inception in 2005 and hope you find the *IP Deskbook* to be a useful tool in your practice.

Sharon K. Sandeen
Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Co-Editor, *IP Deskbook*

Marilyn C. Maloney
Liskow & Lewis
Co-Editor, *IP Deskbook*