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"FICPI and AIPLA to hold International Colloquium on Patent Quality"

WASHINGTON, DC - FICPI and AIPLA announced that they will jointly host an International Colloquium on **"A comprehensive Approach to Patent Quality"** on 8-9 June 2007 in Amsterdam. Key leaders from the Patent Offices, the profession and user groups have been invited to attend.

In 2001, and again in 2003, FICPI and AIPLA joined forces to host high level Colloquia for patent offices and user groups to explore problems arising from the exploding growth in the number of patent applications worldwide and its impact on the functioning of the patent system. The public increasingly perceives the pressure to reduce the backlog of pending applications to have resulted in a lower quality search and examination of patent applications, with more questionable patents issuing as a consequence. Policy makers are beginning to question whether the patent system is serving the public interest as intended.

FICPI and AIPLA believe that a candid discussion by the patent community is urgently needed to evaluate the present situation and identify steps necessary to encourage confidence in the system. The Amsterdam Colloquium will encourage all interested parties – applicants, patentees, venture capitalists, and patent officials – to share their insights into these issues and to open them to discussion and debate.

"The major patent offices have been expending a great deal of effort to maintain and enhance quality without increasing the time from filing to grant. We decided it was an appropriate time to examine the changes made and contemplated as a way of assisting the patent offices as they continue their efforts," said Danny Huntington, President of FICPI.

AIPLA President Judith Saffer notes that, *"Improving the quality of patents is a central focus of a multi-year effort in the United States Congress to revise our patent laws. We believe that a candid discussion of patent quality among interested stakeholders will inform this effort and help identify steps that patent offices and users can take to address the quality issue."*

Entry to the Colloquium is by invitation only, but following the conference, senior members of AIPLA and FICPI will be available to members of the press to discuss the outcome.

For more information, please contact **Mike Kirk**, Executive Director of AIPLA, on +1 703 412-4349, Mkirk@aipla.org, or **John Orange**, President of FICPI's Communications Commission, on +1 416 863 3164, john.orange@blakes.com.

FICPI, the Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle, is a non-political, world-wide body for intellectual property attorneys in private practice. Founded in 1906, FICPI has over 4,500 members in more than eighty countries; its aims include the study all administrative or legislative reforms and all improvements to international treaties and conventions, with the object of facilitating the exercise by inventors and industrialists of their rights, of increasing their security and of simplifying procedure or formalities. FICPI also aims to establish and maintain trusting and cordial relations with official or private international organisations existing in the field of Industrial Property.

The American Intellectual Property Bar Association (AIPLA) is a national bar association of more than 17,000 members engaged in private and corporate practice, in government service, and in the academic community. AIPLA represents a wide and diverse spectrum of individuals, companies, and institutions involved directly or indirectly in the practice of patent, trademark, copyright, and unfair competition law, as well as other fields of law affecting intellectual property. AIPLA, representing both owners and users of intellectual property, strives to enhance the skills and knowledge of its members and to shape the future of IP law in the U.S. and worldwide.