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## Preface and acknowledgements

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The US patent system has changed dramatically since the first edition of *Patent Law and Theory* was published in 2009. The America Invents Act (AIA) was enacted in 2012 and introduced the “first inventor to file” priority and postissuance proceedings to challenge validity. As a result, the US system is now more in line with the patent systems in the rest of the world, in particular the European patent system and patent systems in Asia which model the European system. The rise of the patent assertion entities altered the industry’s perspective on patent enforcement and substantially changed the US case law on patent eligibility, the extent of patent protection, and infringement remedies. The Unitary Patent System and the Unified Patent Court (UPS and UPC) are also expected to overhaul the European patent system. This second edition tries to catch up with these changes, although many provisions in the AIA are unclear and are to be interpreted by the US Supreme Court. The UPS and UPC face many challenges in seeking to deal with the impact of Brexit and it is unclear how the Court of Justice for European Union and UK Supreme Court will react to this.

This book project began in 2015, when I was on sabbatical, but the completion date was delayed several times because I was moved to a joint appointment between the University of Washington School of Law and Keio University Law School with the start of a double degree program. I now teach in Seattle January–March and in Tokyo April–July, and conduct research and teach at the Technical University of Munich in October and November. This new development in my life made it difficult to concentrate on editing the second edition. I am very grateful for the contributors who submitted their chapters on time and agreed to provide the chapter updates that became necessary due to the delay without any complaint.

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Ten chapters from the first edition of this book were removed and eight retained; these have been fully updated by the authors.

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