

Recommended Firms Patent Prosecution	
Tier 1	Abe, Ikubo & Katayama Nakamura & Partners Shiga International Patent Office Yuasa and Hara
Tier 2	Aoyama & Partners Hiroe and Associates Kyowa Patent and Law Office <b>Ryuka IP Law Firm</b> Seiwa Patent & Law TMI Associates
Tier 3	Asamura Patent Office Fukami Patent Office Miyoshi & Miyoshi Ohtsuka Patent Office Soei Patent & Law Firm Suzuye & Suzuye
Tier 4	Itoh International Patent Office Okabe International Patent Office Shobayashi International Patent & Trademark Office Sonoda & Kobayashi Sugimura International Patent and Trademark Attorneys Yamakawa International Patent Office

Recommended Firms Patent Contentious	
Tier 1	Nakamura & Partners TMI Associates Yuasa and Hara
Tier 2	Abe, Ikubo & Katayama Anderson Mori & Tomotsune Mori Hamada & Matsumoto Kubota Ohno & Partners
Tier 3	Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu Nishimura & Asahi STW & Partners
Tier 4	City-Yuwa Partners Hibiya Park Law Offices

in order to facilitate understanding of the structure of the invention, and judgments on the patentability of inventions claimed in product by process claims extended to inventions with identical structures and properties to the product produced by the claimed process, Hiroe says. “On the other hand, in infringement litigation, there have been many cases in which the scope of the patent of a product invention was limited to the product produced according to the claimed process, as a way of balancing the benefits of the patent owner and third parties.”

This ruling is significant in that it prescribes a uniform standard of interpretation of product by process claims both in the examination and litigation stage, and revises the standards for clarity of product by process claims, Hiroe says. “In infringement