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Volunteer Spotlight: Chikako Mori

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Chikako Mori is a registered patent and trademark attorney in Japan with over 13 years of trademark experience. Before founding the firm Sun East IP in Tokyo in 2010, Chikako worked for an IP boutique and then one of the largest general practice firms in Japan.

Chikako's primary practice areas are trademark and design prosecution and trademark opposition and validation for clients in Japan and elsewhere around the world. In addition to her practice, Chikako teaches IP classes as an adjunct lecturer at Waseda University, a prominent private university in Japan. Motivated by her university students, Chikako continues to study trademark law through seminars and lectures.

Chikako's first INTA Annual Meeting was in Chicago in 2007, and she has attended every Annual Meeting since then. Chikako says, "There is no other situation like this, where so many trademark practitioners gather in one place, providing a valuable opportunity to network with peers." One of her greatest joys in attending the Annual Meeting, Chikako says, is "the reunion with the same old friends every year." She adds that because INTA is sophisticated and well organized, she always finds the Annual Meeting to be a comfortable and

pleasant experience even though she is far from home.

Chikako is now a member of INTA's *Trademark Reporter* Committee. She previously served for four years on the *INTA Bulletin* Committee, writing articles about the revision of Japanese Trademark Law and the differences between the legal systems of Japan and China. In addition, she worked with other Asian attorneys to hold INTA Roundtables in Asia.

An accomplished writer, Chikako has authored or co-authored six books, including *Japanese Trademark Law and Practice*, published in China by the Intellectual Property Publishing House. She also writes monthly articles for a Japanese IP magazine.

Chikako, a native of Japan, was a high school exchange student in New Zealand and graduated from Skagit Valley College in Washington State in the United States. Then she entered a Japanese university to study law. Although it may sound like her busy life is "all work," Chikako says that she enjoys visiting Japanese temples and gardens on weekends. She lives in Tokyo with her husband, who, Chikako says, "stays positive, bright and supportive."

Although every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of items in the *INTA Bulletin*, readers are urged to check independently on matters of specific concern or interest.

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