



June 12, 2008

**J. William Frank III**

**CHICAGO** – McCracken & Frank LLP counsel J. William Frank was recently appointed to the Federal Circuit Panel of Mediators in the United States Court of Appeals Court Mediation Program. It is an all volunteer committee which looks at appeals that are selected by the court for the mediation. Bill will mediate some of the patent appeals that have been referred for mediation. The program has been successful with around forty percent of the cases being settled in mediation last year. For more information on the Federal Circuit Panel of Mediators go to <http://www.caafc.uscourts.gov/mediation.html>

The appellate mediation program was established by the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on October 3, 2005. The program is presided over by the Chief Circuit Mediator and the Circuit Mediation Officers. The entire process is then supervised by a three judges whom make recommendations to the Chief Judge. The goal of the program is to allow parties to resolve disputes in a confidential and entirely risk-free setting. The program differs from arbitration in that the decision reached is not binding unless both parties agree on the decision of the mediation committee.

J. William Frank, III has been involved in all aspects of intellectual property law since 1970 and was General Patent Counsel for S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc. from 1984 to November 2001. Bill is a member of the International Trademark Association panel of neutrals and is also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in London. Bill is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and has served as committee chair for the Industrial Design and Membership committees and vice-chair of the AIPLA committee on IP Law Associations. Bill was a member of the AIPLA Board of Directors (1994-1997), and was the AIPLA representative to the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations (2001-2002). In addition, he was named as a Fellow of the AIPLA in 2003 and is currently chair of the Fellows Committee. Additionally, Bill is a member of the American Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution, Science and Technology Law and Intellectual Property Law sections and he was a regular member of the Association of Corporate Patent Counsel while at S. C. Johnson and remains an emeritus member. Bill earned his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S. in chemical engineering from Lehigh University.

*McCracken & Frank LLP specializes in the protection and licensing of intellectual property assets in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, pharmaceuticals and the electrical, mechanical and chemical arts. For more information, please visit [www.mccrackenfrank.com](http://www.mccrackenfrank.com).*

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