



Revised 10/12/05

Meeting Notice

# Antitrust Law Section

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

12:00 noon – 1:30 pm

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP

50 S. Sixth Street, #1500, Minneapolis

## "Patent Pools and Standard Setting – an Economic Perspective"

Presenter: **Lawrence Wu**, Senior Vice President, *NERA Economic Consulting*

How do web applications talk with one another? Why do most light-bulbs fit any lamp? Because of “standards.” Standards are not new – in fact, they’re all around us – but they have taken on increased importance in the last decade. Many Minnesota-based companies participate in standards-development organizations – to simplify product development and reduce non-value-adding costs, and to enhance their ability to participate in an increasingly global marketplace. But participation in standards-development can have implications for a company’s valuable patent rights. Indeed, recent statements by the Federal Trade Commission Chair and the U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust have called for a new approach to thinking about intellectual property and the standards process.

In this context, patent pools are of particular interest because historically, pools have been among the main architects of and contributors to standards. However, while patent pools are generally pro-competitive, there remains much controversy about the antitrust implications of specific licensing terms and arrangements.

Come hear economist Lawrence Wu explain these developments and their importance for your clients. Dr. Wu’s area of expertise is in antitrust and intellectual property. He is frequently invited to speak at conferences and seminars, and his recent presentations have been on topics such as joint ventures, European merger enforcement, and the competitive importance of products in the R&D pipeline. He also is the editor of a book, *Economics of Antitrust: New Issues, Questions, and Insights*.

RSVP and payment by Friday, October 21, 2005. No refunds after this date.

1.0 hour of Standard CLE credit will be applied for.

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