Source: Prof. Hal Wegner (Washington, USA):

In *Sharp v. Samsung Japan* (2009) Japan’s highest court strongly endorsed endorsed a broader use of protective orders by the trial courts to facilitate obtaining trade secret information in patent infringement matters. The Supreme Court endorsed protective orders rendered in the form of an extension of the use of protective orders to preliminary injunction proceedings.

One of the leading patent jurists of Japan provides an excellent study of the overall topic, Toshiaki Iimura, *Intellectual Property Infringement Litigations and Recent Movement toward System Reforms*.

See also his presentation Discovery & Settlement in Japan (April 2009).

In a recent article, the patent litigation *bengoshi* Takenori Abe warns that “[p]atentees should be careful when filing for a preliminary injunction, as they may face a protective order and a potential criminal sanction.”