

• **JERSEY'S NEW IP LAWS**

Like certain other offshore jurisdictions, Jersey has recognised the importance of having a modern intellectual property regime that adheres to international standards. The current IP laws in Jersey date as far back as 1908 and it is clear that these are not befitting of a world-leading finance centre such as Jersey.

From December 2007 to March 2008, the States of Jersey carried out a public consultation on the proposed new IP laws. As a result the draft Intellectual Property (Unregistered Rights) (Jersey) Law 201- ("IPURL") was produced and will be lodged for consideration by the States during 2011.

The IPURL covers certain unregistered IP rights; being copyright, database rights, publication rights, performers' rights and design rights. It is modelled on the provisions of the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 insofar as that Act relates to unregistered rights. We will be providing detailed information on each of these rights

in future updates and releases, but please do let us know if you have any specific enquiries while the IPURL is being considered.

Certain registered IP rights have received more recent updates than unregistered rights, hence the importance of tackling unregistered rights first. However, we understand that a new law dealing with registered rights is also in the making and should be available for public review some time later this year.

Ultimately, Jersey's new IP laws should enable Jersey to become compliant with, and party to, a number of international treaties and conventions, including the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ("TRIPS"), Berne Convention, Universal Copyright Convention and secure membership to the World Trade Organisation ("WTO"). Such recognition would undoubtedly further secure Jersey's reputation as a first class jurisdiction in which to do business.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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