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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Futoshi Hirai

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: Canon Kabushiki Kaisha

Internal Address:

Street Address: 30-2 Shimomaruko, 3-chome Ohta-ku

City: Tokyo, Japan

State:

ZIP:

Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies) Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

Assignment

Merger

Security Agreement

Change of Name

Other

Execution Date: April 16, 2001

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

09/776,829

05/07/2001 LMUELLER 00000194 09776829

01 FC:581

40.00

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Robin, Blecker & Daley

Internal Address:

Street Address: 330 Madison Avenue

City: New York

State: NY

ZIP: 10017

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ 40.00

Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account

Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

18-1644

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9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Marylee Jenkins Reg. No. 37,645

Name of Person Signing

Signature

April 24, 2001

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 2

SOLE
(AFTER APPLICATION FILED)

ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT RIGHTS FOR THE UNITED STATES

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, I, **Futoshi Hirai**
a citizen of Japan
residing at **6-14-1-301, Shinsaku Takatsu-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken, Japan**

hereby sell, assign, transfer and convey unto **Canon Kabushiki Kaisha**
a corporation of Japan
having a place of business at **30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, Japan**

its successors, assigns and legal representatives (hereinafter called the "Assignee"), the entire right, title and interest, for the United States, in and to certain inventions relating to

LENS BARREL

and described in an application for Letters Patent of the United States filed by me on **February 5, 2001**
and which has been accorded Application No. **09/776,829**
and in and to said application, and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted thereon, and all reissues and extensions thereof; and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks of the United States to issue all Letters Patent upon said inventions to the Assignee or to such nominees as it may designate.

AND I authorize and empower the said Assignee or nominees to invoke and claim for any application for patent or other form of protection for said inventions, the benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, and to invoke and claim such right of priority without further written or oral authorization from me.

AND I hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, consent to file or like document which may be required in the United States for any purpose and more particularly in proof of the right of said Assignee or nominees to claim the aforesaid benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

AND I hereby covenant that I have the full right to convey the entire right, title and interest herein assigned and that I have not executed and will not execute any agreement in conflict herewith.

AND I hereby covenant and agree that I will communicate to said Assignee or nominees all facts known to me pertaining to said inventions, and testify in all legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and declarations and in general perform all lawful acts necessary or proper to aid said Assignee or nominees in obtaining, maintaining and enforcing all lawful patent protection for said inventions in the United States.

By: Futoshi Hirai
Futoshi Hirai

Date: April 16, 2001.