

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**2 FERRARI FILES TRADEMARK FOR THE
NAME '849 TESTAROSSA' IN ICELAND**

**4 US APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS \$106.5M
VERDICT AGAINST MEDTRONIC IN HEART
VALVE PATENT CASE**

JULY 2025
VOL.46

The IP, Sports and Gaming Practice is comprised of a seasoned team of lawyers and support staff. Our services cover the full spectrum of intellectual property, sports and gaming laws, both contentious and non-contentious. These include dispute resolution at all tiers of the courts, intellectual property portfolio and asset management, anti-counterfeiting programmes, brand protection and naming rights, digital contents, licensing and sponsorship of sports ventures, events broadcasting, market entry strategies, and regulatory requirements for the gaming industry.

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TRADEMARK

US APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS BORED APE MAKER'S \$8.8 MILLION WIN IN NFT TRADEMARK CASE

In a key ruling for the NFT industry, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned an \$8.8 million judgment awarded to Bored Ape Yacht Club creator Yuga Labs in its trademark suit against artist Ryder Ripps and Jeremy Cahen. The original judgment, granted without trial, found that their satirical "RR/BAYC" NFTs were likely to confuse consumers and awarded Yuga damages and legal costs. The appeals court ruled a trial is needed to assess actual consumer confusion but affirmed that NFTs qualify as goods protectable under trademark law. First Amendment defences were rejected. The case returns to the California federal court.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/us-appeals-court-overtURNS-bored-ape-makers-88-mln-win-nft-trademark-case-2025-07-23/>



COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR SUES COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY FOR TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

Columbia Sportswear has filed a lawsuit against Columbia University, alleging trademark infringement, unfair competition, and breach of contract over the university's use of the word "Columbia" on apparel sold in its bookstore. The suit stems from a 2023 agreement limiting the university's use of "Columbia" on merchandise to instances where it appears with school-specific identifiers, such as a mascot or the word "university." Columbia Sportswear claims the university breached this agreement by selling items, including Nike apparel, bearing only the word "Columbia." The company seeks injunctive relief and damages for economic harm. The case is pending in Oregon federal court.

<https://www.kptv.com/2025/07/24/columbia-sportswear-sues-columbia-university-trademark-infringement/>

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TRADEMARK

FERRARI FILES TRADEMARK FOR THE NAME '849 TESTAROSSA' IN ICELAND

Ferrari has filed a trademark application for the name "Ferrari 849 Testarossa" in Iceland, shortly after winning a legal battle in European courts to reclaim rights to the iconic "Testarossa" name. While the filing does not confirm production plans, the naming convention aligns with Ferrari's recent model designations, sparking speculation of an upcoming special-edition vehicle. The name could be applied to anything from a bespoke one-off to a limited-run model in Ferrari's Icona series. The move follows growing hints of future special releases, including possible manual transmission variants. The filing suggests Ferrari may soon revive the Testarossa legacy.

<https://www.roadandtrack.com/news/a65501949/ferrari-trademark-849-testarossa/>



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PATENT

TULIP INNOVATION SECURES THIRD GERMAN INJUNCTION AGAINST SUNWODA OVER BATTERY PATENTS

On 17 July 2025, Tulip Innovation (“**Tulip**”) secured a third injunction from the Munich District Court against China-based Sunwoda Group of companies (“**Sunwoda**”), following two earlier injunctions on 22 May 2025. The court ruled in favor of Tulip, licensing agent for LG Energy Solution and Panasonic Energy, over European Patent EP 2 378 595 B1. The decision requires Sunwoda to cease sales, recall, destroy infringing batteries, and disclose sales data. The batteries affected include models used in the Dacia Spring. Although the decision is enforceable immediately, it is subject to appeal, with a nullity action by Sunwoda pending.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/tulip-innovation-obtains-additional-battery-patent-injunction-against-sunwoda-group-302512260.html>



VERIZON ORDERED TO PAY \$175 MILLION FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT IN TEXAS FEDERAL COURT

A federal court in Marshall, Texas, has ordered US telecom company Verizon Wireless (“**Verizon**”) to pay \$175 million in damages to Headwater Research (“**Headwater**”) for infringing patents related to wireless communication technology. Headwater, founded by inventor Gregory Raleigh, alleged that Verizon used its patented technology, which is designed to reduce data usage, network congestion, and power consumption, without permission. The technologies were allegedly disclosed under a non-disclosure agreement from 2009 to 2011. Verizon denied the claims, arguing the patents were invalid. This verdict follows a \$278 million win by Headwater against Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in a similar dispute earlier this year in the same court.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/verizon-owes-175-million-patent-infringement-case-texas-jury-says-2025-07-24/>

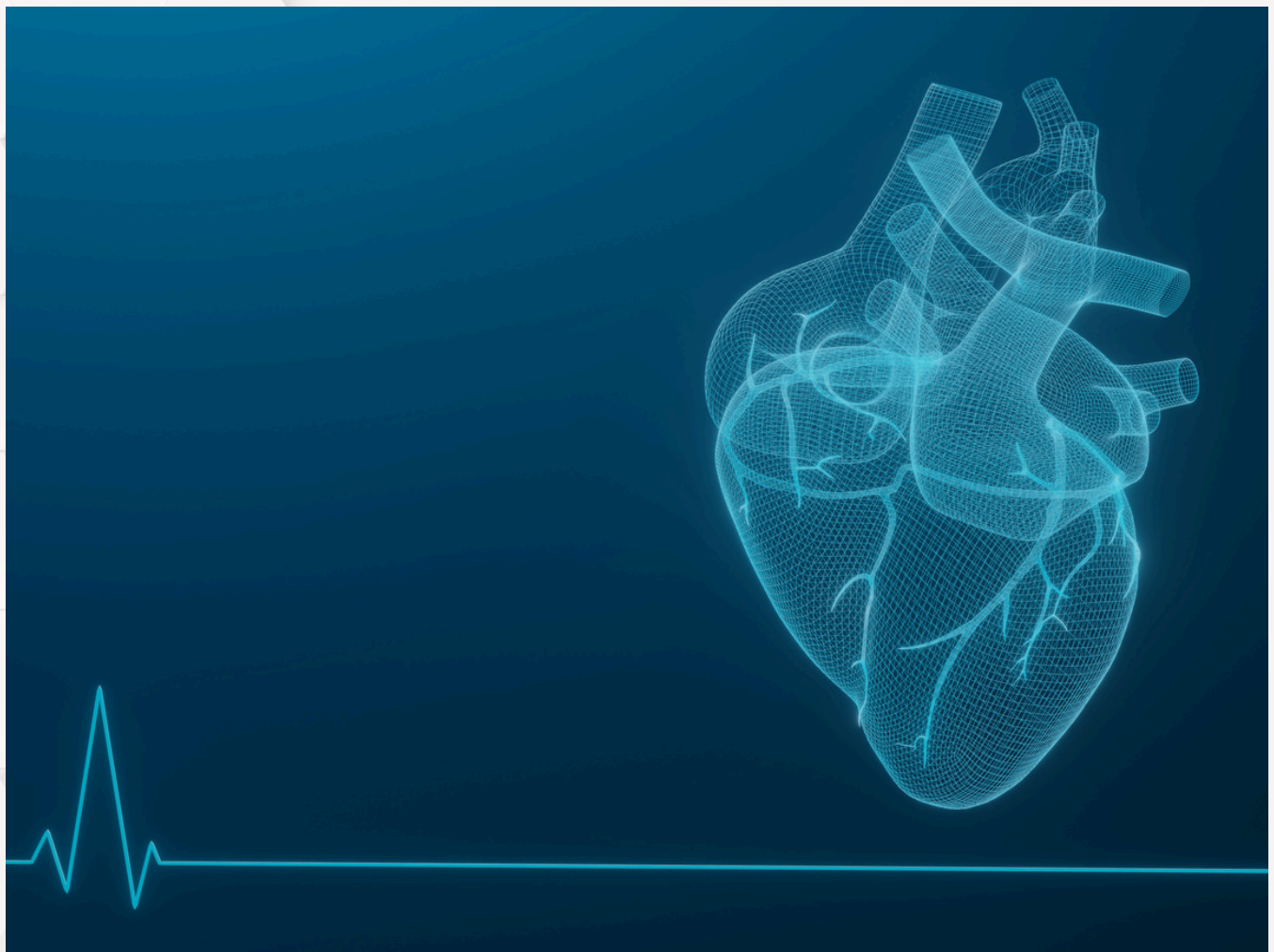
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

PATENT

US APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS \$106.5M VERDICT AGAINST MEDTRONIC IN HEART VALVE PATENT CASE

The United States (“**US**”) Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a \$106.5 million jury verdict against Medtronic CoreValve LLC (“**Medtronic**”), ruling that its Evolut devices for replacing heart valves in heart disease patients did not infringe a Colibri Heart Valve LLC (“**Colibri**”) patent. The court held that the California judge should have ruled in Medtronic’s favor before trial, deeming Colibri’s infringement claims legally unsupported. Colibri had sued in 2020, claiming Medtronic misused confidential information shared in 2014. A jury had sided with Colibri in 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/medtronic-wins-us-appeal-overturn-1065-mln-heart-valve-patent-verdict-2025-07-18/>



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CHINESE COURTS TAKE FIRM STANCE IN FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE BY ORDERING DEMOLISHMENT OF BUILDING

In a landmark ruling, the Henan High Court upheld a demolition order against a building found to infringe the copyright of the iconic Aranya Seashore Chapel, marking the first known instance in China where a structure was ordered to be torn down for copyright infringement. The infringing chapel, built by Henan JKL Real Estate, was ruled too similar to the original and incapable of effective remodelling. Courts dismissed arguments of disproportionality, citing low construction cost and lack of utility. The case diverges from prior practice favouring monetary compensation, signalling China's growing commitment to strong architectural copyright enforcement.

<https://www.iam-media.com/article/chinese-courts-take-firm-stance-in-first-of-its-kind-copyright-infringement-case-ordering-demolishment-of-building>



SYLVANIAN DRAMA TIKTOK CREATOR SUED FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Thea Von Engelbrechten, creator of the viral *Sylvanian Drama* TikTok account, is being sued by Japanese toy maker Epoch for copyright infringement and false endorsement. Known for its darkly comedic skits using Sylvanian Family figurines, the account has gained over 2.5 million followers. Epoch claims the content may mislead viewers into thinking it is officially endorsed. Both parties are now in settlement talks, with a pretrial conference set for August 14. Von Engelbrechten, who dropped out of university to pursue the project full time, has worked with major brands like Burberry, but has not posted new content since January 2025.

<https://www.tokyoweekender.com/japan-life/news-and-opinion/sylvanian-drama-tiktok-creator-sued-for-copyright-infringement/>

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NINTENDO ONLY AWARDED 200,000 RMB IN COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASE DESPITE 500,000+ INFRINGING GAME CONSOLES SOLD

On July 8, 2025, the Jiangsu High Court ruled in favor of Nintendo in a copyright case involving unauthorised retro game consoles preloaded with infringing titles like *Mario Bros*. The unnamed defendant had sold over 500,000 low-cost consoles with 14–16 pirated Nintendo games. The court awarded Nintendo 200,000 RMB (approx. \$28,000) in damages and issued an injunction. It recognised Nintendo's games as audiovisual works protected under Chinese copyright law. While infringement constituted only 4.8% of total content, the ruling emphasised the broader impact on IP rights and market fairness. The judgment is final, underscoring China's tightening IP enforcement in gaming.

<https://natlawreview.com/article/nintendo-only-awarded-200000-rmb-copyright-infringement-case-despite-500000>



PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS

Of Source Codes and Functions - Balancing Copyright Protection Against Monopolisation

'Willing to Wound but Afraid to Strike' - Threats in Trademark Infringement Proceedings

Competing Rights to Copyright in the Virtual Environment

Spilling the Beans in Litigation

The Price of Artificial Intelligence

State of Mind and the Plea of Innocence

False Sense of Security

Privileges of 'Well-Known' Trademarks

Celebrity's Name Taken in Vain

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E-Commerce — Drive Towards Improved Postal Services

Clipping the Wings of Social Media Influencers

10 Key Amendments to Patent Law

Copyright (Amendment) Act 2022

Goodwill Unshaken by Negative Publicity

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Court of Appeal Reaffirms Test for Breach of Confidence

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- Intellectual Property, Sports & Gaming Newsletter Vol. 42
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- Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 44
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