

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

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PLATFORMS INC AND ESSILORLUXOTTICA
OVER ALLEGED SMART GLASSES PATENT
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The IP Practice is comprised of a seasoned team of lawyers and support staff. Our services span the full breadth of IP law, encompassing both contentious and non-contentious matters, in the areas of patents and utility innovations, trademarks, passing off, copyright, franchising, industrial design, trade secrets and breach of confidence. We also advise on portfolio and asset management, brand protection strategies, anti-counterfeiting initiatives, naming rights, licensing and sponsorship of music and sports ventures.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATENT

OPPO AND PANASONIC STRENGTHEN IP COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL PATENT CROSS-LICENSING AGREEMENT

OPPO and Panasonic have entered into a global patent cross-licensing agreement covering cellular standard essential patents, resolving all existing patent disputes worldwide and paving the way for broader intellectual property collaboration. The agreement reflects mutual recognition of each party's intellectual property contributions and a shared commitment to fair and sustainable patent licensing. Both companies emphasised ongoing cooperation in intellectual property initiatives, while reaffirming their continued investment and contributions to standardised technologies and innovation ecosystems.

<https://www.oppo.com/en/newsroom/ip/oppo-and-panasonic-signed-global-patent-cross-license-agreement/>



SOLOS TECHNOLOGY LTD SUES META PLATFORMS INC AND ESSILORLUXOTTICA OVER ALLEGED SMART GLASSES PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Solos Technology Ltd ("**Solos**") has sued Meta Platforms Inc ("**Meta**"), EssilorLuxottica, and its Oakley subsidiary in the US Federal Court, alleging wilful infringement of multiple patents covering "core technologies in the field of smart eyewear". Solos claims Meta's Ray-Ban smart glasses, starting with the Wayfarer Gen 1 and subsequent models, unlawfully use its patented innovations and is seeking billions of dollars in damages as well as an injunction that could disrupt sales. The lawsuit alleges the defendants had long-standing knowledge of Solos' technology through meetings, product testing, and academic research later brought into Meta. The case highlights intensifying patent disputes in the rapidly growing smart glasses market, where Meta currently leads despite Solos' weaker commercial performance.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2026-01-23/meta-essilorluxottica-sued-in-smart-glasses-patent-case>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATENT

EU CHALLENGES CHINA AT THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION OVER WORLDWIDE ROYALTY SETTING FOR STANDARD ESSENTIAL PATENTS

The European Commission has filed a complaint at the World Trade Organisation (“WTO”) accusing China of an “unfair and illegal” practice of allowing its courts to set worldwide royalty rates for EU standard essential patents without the patent owners’ consent. The EU says this practice pressures European companies to accept lower worldwide royalties, thereby giving Chinese manufacturers cheaper access to European technology. China said it will respond in accordance with WTO rules, and the EU has begun formal consultations that could lead to adjudication if the matter remains unresolved within 60 days.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/eu-takes-china-wto-over-high-tech-patent-royalties-2025-01-20/>



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TRADEMARK

NIKE FILES TRADEMARK FOR POTENTIAL CARLOS ALCARAZ SIGNATURE LOGO

Nike has filed a U.S. trademark application for a new stylized “CA” logo that could be the long-awaited signature mark for world No. 1 tennis player Carlos Alcaraz, covering a broad range of apparel and accessories. While neither Nike nor Alcaraz has publicly confirmed the logo’s purpose, the filing suggests the brand is positioning a custom logo as part of its tennis marketing strategy after delays in earlier expected unveilings.

<https://www.si.com/onsi/serve/news/did-nike-just-trademark-carlos-alcaraz-signature-logo>



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY TRADEMARKED HIS IMAGE AND VOICE TO PREVENT AI MISUSE

Actor Matthew McConaughey has filed to trademark one of his iconic catchphrases to stop its unauthorised use by artificial intelligence and protect his image and voice from being exploited without permission, as concerns grow about AI misuse in media and entertainment.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp87z6vexl3o>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

COPYRIGHT

PUBLISHERS SEEK TO JOIN COPYRIGHT LAWSUIT AGAINST GOOGLE OVER AI TRAINING

Publishers Hachette Book Group and Cengage Group have asked a California federal court for permission to intervene in an ongoing class action lawsuit against Google over alleged misuse of copyrighted materials to train its Artificial Intelligence ("AI") systems. They claim Google copied textbooks and books without consent, calling it one of the largest copyright infringements in history. The publishers argue their participation will strengthen the case due to their expertise in evidentiary and legal issues. The lawsuit already involves artists and authors, reflecting wider industry disputes over AI training practices. The court will decide whether to allow the intervention.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/publishers-seek-join-lawsuit-against-google-over-ai-training-2026-01-15/>



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COPYRIGHT

UK GOVERNMENT RECONSIDERS COPYRIGHT REFORM TO BALANCE AI GROWTH AND CREATOR PROTECTION

Britain's technology minister Liz Kendall ("**Kendall**") announced that the government is seeking a "reset" on its proposed copyright reforms aimed at accommodating artificial intelligence. The initial plan would have allowed AI developers to train models on any lawfully accessible material unless creators opted out, but ministers now admit this approach was a mistake. Kendall stressed the importance of protecting creators' rights to fair reward and control over their work, while still supporting AI's economic potential. Culture minister Lisa Nandy echoed the need for a more nuanced policy. A government review due in March will shape the revised approach.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/britain-seeks-reset-copyright-battle-between-ai-creators-2026-01-13/>



2026 POISED TO SHAPE US COPYRIGHT LAW ON AI TRAINING AND FAIR USE

The legal battle over whether tech companies may copy copyrighted works to train artificial intelligence is expected to reach a decisive stage in 2026. After major lawsuits and a landmark \$1.5 billion settlement in 2025, courts will likely issue rulings clarifying whether AI training qualifies as "fair use" or requires licensing. Recent judicial decisions have been divided, with some judges viewing AI training as transformative, while others warn of serious harm to creative markets. Upcoming cases involving Google, Anthropic, Meta, music publishers and artists may reshape the economics of AI development, even as some rights holders pursue licensing partnerships instead of litigation.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/ai-copyright-battles-enter-pivotal-year-us-courts-weigh-fair-use-2026-01-05/>

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

Navigating the E-Money Landscape

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

Employers' Liability for Copyright Infringement

Court of Appeal Reaffirms Test for Breach of Confidence

Trademark Mischief-Makers

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LH
AG
ADVOCATES
AND SOLICITORS



Chng Keng Lung
Partner

Intellectual Property & Innovative Technology

T: +603 6208 5948

E: ckl@lh-ag.com



Irene Wong Oi Ling
Associate

Intellectual Property & Innovative Technology

T: +603 6208 5940

E: wol@lh-ag.com



Irene Ling Xin Hui
Associate

Intellectual Property & Innovative Technology

T: +603 6208 5978

E: lxh@lh-ag.com



Sarah Tham Yue Hui
Associate

Intellectual Property & Innovative Technology

T: +603 6208 5932

E: yht@lh-ag.com

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