

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

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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.



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATENT

INDIA'S SEMAGLUTIDE MARKET SET FOR GENERIC PRICE WAR

India's diabetes and weight-loss drug market is poised for major disruption as Novo Nordisk's semaglutide patent expires, allowing more than 40 local drugmakers to launch over 50 generic brands. Prices are expected to fall sharply, potentially expanding access well beyond affluent urban patients. However, the surge in low-cost options has raised concerns over uneven regulatory oversight, misuse, prescribing confusion, and inconsistent product quality. While cheaper generics may widen treatment access, analysts say long-term success will depend on doctor confidence, reliable supply, quality delivery systems, and consistent patient outcomes, with weaker players likely to exit over time.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/novo-nordisk-patent-expiry-opens-door-cheaper-weight-loss-drugs-india-2026-03-19/>



CHINA PROMOTES PATENTS AS CATALYSTS FOR DRIVING INNOVATION

China is stepping up efforts to turn patents into real economic value by improving how intellectual property is commercialised, with authorities aiming to use patents as a key driver of innovation and growth. Officials said new policies will focus on boosting the quality and efficiency of patent commercialisation, particularly from universities, research institutions, and small and medium-sized enterprises, while aligning inventions more closely with market demand. Early progress is already visible, with commercialization commercialisation rates for patents rising in recent years, though challenges such as long timelines, high risks, and low incentives have historically limited uptake. To address this, regulators are tightening oversight of illegal patent agents and improving support systems, with the broader goal of ensuring that more innovations move from laboratories into practical, marketable products that contribute to China's innovation-driven economy.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202603/24/WS69c1cc07a310d6866eb3f6d6.html>

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PATENT

MODERNA AGREES TO PAY UP TO USD 2.25 BILLION TO RESOLVE PATENT DISPUTE OVER COVID-19 VACCINE TECHNOLOGY

Moderna has agreed to settle a long-running patent infringement dispute with Arbutus Biopharma and Roivant subsidiary Genevant Sciences over key mRNA vaccine technology, committing to pay up to USD 2.25 billion, including USD 950 million upfront and up to USD 1.3 billion contingent on a legal appeal. The agreement, reached just before trial, resolves global litigation over the use of lipid nanoparticle delivery technology in its Covid-19 vaccine and secures Moderna a license to continue using the technology without future royalties. The settlement removes a major legal overhang for Moderna, allowing it to refocus on its pipeline, particularly in next-generation vaccines and oncology.

<https://medcitynews.com/2026/03/moderna-patent-infringement-settlement-arbutus-genevant-roivant-sciences-covid-19-mrna-vaccine-abus-roiv/>



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TRADEMARK

NCAA TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST DRAFTKINGS FOR MARCH MADNESS TRADEMARK VIOLATION

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”) has sued DraftKings for trademark infringement, alleging the sportsbook unlawfully used terms like “March Madness”, “Final Four” and “Elite Eight” in its betting products and promotions. The organisation is seeking an emergency restraining order to stop the usage, arguing it could mislead fans into thinking NCAA has given permission to DraftKings to use them, thereby tacitly endorsing betting on college sports. DraftKings disputes the claim, saying its references are fair use, which is simply describing events rather than exploiting trademarks, and are protected under free speech.

<https://frontofficesports.com/ncaa-sues-draftkings-over-march-madness-trademark-infringement/>



KPDN CONFISCATES ALLEGED COUNTERFEIT GUCCI, BALENCIAGA AND LOUIS VUITTON ITEMS VALUED AT RM 292,800 IN PETALING JAYA

The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living (“KPDN”) seized 468 pieces of suspected counterfeit luxury clothing worth about RM 292,800 during a raid on a storage facility in Petaling Jaya. The items bore trademarks of high-end brands such as Gucci, Balenciaga and Louis Vuitton, which investigators believe were used without the permission of the legitimate trademark owners. The products were allegedly marketed as authentic and sold at discounted prices ranging from RM 450 to RM 1,500 to attract buyers, with links to retail distribution in shopping malls. Authorities also confiscated documents including receipts and inventory records to support the investigation. This case is currently being investigated under the Trademarks Act 2019 for the alleged unauthorised use of a registered trademark without the consent of its rightful owner.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2026/03/13/kpdn-seizes-suspected-gucci-balenciaga-and-louis-vuitton-fakes-worth-about-rm292800-in-pj/212558>

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TRADEMARK

AUSTRALIAN FASHION DESIGNER KATIE PERRY SUCCEEDS IN TRADEMARK BATTLE WITH KATY PERRY

An Australian fashion designer, Katie Perry, has won a long-running trademark dispute against United States (“US”) pop star Katy Perry, with Australia’s High Court ruling in her favour. The case centred on the designer’s right to use her own name for a clothing brand, which she had registered before the singer became a global sensation. The Court found there was no real likelihood of consumer confusion between the two, despite the singer’s global fame. This overturned an earlier decision that had favoured the pop star, effectively allowing the designer to retain her trademark and continue trading under the “Katie Perry” name.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/aseanplus/aseanplus-news/2026/03/11/australian-katie-perry-wins-trademark-spat-against-singer-katy-perry>



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

COPYRIGHT

194 COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASES IDENTIFIED IN MALAYSIA SINCE 2021

A total of 194 copyright infringement cases were recorded in Malaysia between 2021 and 2025, with seizures amounting to approximately RM 4.73 million, according to Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali. The cases, investigated under the Copyright Act 1987, reflect ongoing enforcement efforts against piracy across industries, including creative and publishing sectors. Notably, book piracy remains relatively limited, with only one case recorded between 2022 and 2025 despite two complaints being lodged, and no prosecutions brought to court. Authorities have also enhanced digital enforcement, working with regulators and service providers to block infringing websites and remove illegal listings from e-commerce platforms.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2026/03/03/194-copyright-infringement-cases-detected-since-2021-says-armiza>



MACP INTRODUCES AI POLICY AND REFUSES RECOGNITION FOR PARTIALLY AI-GENERATED WORKS

Malaysia's Music Authors' Copyright Protection ("MACP") has introduced new Artificial Intelligence ("AI") guidelines that refuse to recognise works created fully or even partially using artificial intelligence. Under the policy, only entirely human-created music will qualify for registration, copyright protection, and royalty distribution. The move is aimed at safeguarding the rights and value of human creators, reinforcing the principle that authorship and copyright protection are tied to human effort and originality, not machine-generated content. MACP also plans to implement verification measures and penalties for false declarations regarding AI involvement in submitted works. Overall, the guidelines signal a firm stance by Malaysia's music industry against AI-generated content, prioritising human creativity while broader legal frameworks around AI and copyright continue to evolve.

https://www.nst.com.my/lifestyle/groove/2026/03/1389842/showbiz-macp-introduces-ai-guidelines-declines-recognising-works#google_vignette

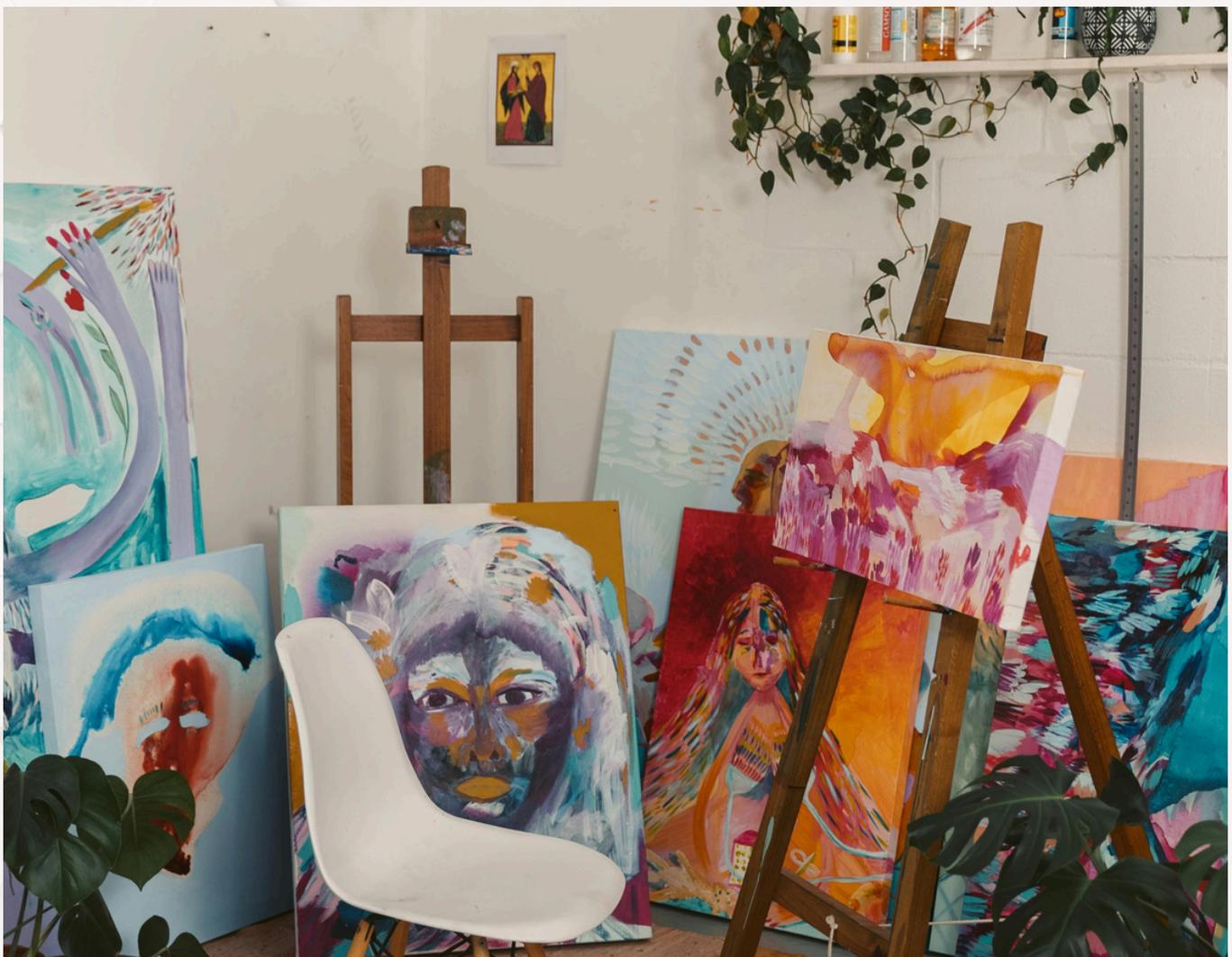
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COPYRIGHT

US SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO REVIEW DISPUTE OVER COPYRIGHTS FOR AI-GENERATED MATERIAL

The US Supreme Court has declined to hear a key case on whether AI-generated works can be copyrighted, effectively leaving existing rulings in place that require human authorship for copyright protection. The dispute involved computer scientist Stephen Thaler, who sought copyright for an artwork created entirely by his AI system. His claim had been rejected by the US Copyright Office and upheld by lower courts, which ruled that works without human creators are not eligible for protection. By refusing to review the case, the Supreme Court did not issue a new ruling but reinforced the current legal position, i.e. under the US law, copyright applies only to works created by humans, not autonomous AI systems.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2026/03/02/us-supreme-court-declines-to-hear-dispute-over-copyrights-for-ai-generated-material>



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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