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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

UK COURT AWARDS ZTE USD 392 MILLION IN PATENT CASE AGAINST SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS

Samsung Electronics has been ordered by the UK High Court to pay USD 392 million to ZTE for a license to use ZTE's mobile phone network patents. The dispute forms part of a wider global battle over fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory ("FRAND") licensing terms, with parallel proceedings taking place in China, Germany and Brazil. The Court determined the payment after the parties failed to agree on the renewal of a previous licensing agreement. The amount awarded exceeded Samsung's proposed figure of USD 200 million but was lower than the USD 731 million sought by ZTE. Both parties retain the right to appeal.

<https://finance.yahoo.com/markets/stocks/articles/uk-court-orders-samsung-pay-134429325.html>



JINKOSOLAR PREVAILS AFTER CHINA INVALIDATES FIRST SOLAR TOPCON PATENT

JinkoSolar secured a favourable ruling in China after the China National Intellectual Property Administration invalidated a TOPCon solar cell technology patent owned by First Solar's subsidiary TetraSun. The patent was declared invalid for lacking novelty and inventive step, with all 17 claims struck down. The disputed Chinese patent corresponds to a key US patent involved in ongoing enforcement actions by First Solar against several solar manufacturers, including JinkoSolar. Despite the Chinese ruling, the related US patent remains valid, and litigation and investigations in the US are continuing.

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/2026/05/22/china-invalidates-first-solar-topcon-patent-in-major-win-for-jinkosolar/>

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PATENT

UK APPEAL COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF NOKIA IN STREAMING PATENT CASE

Nokia succeeded in blocking patent lawsuits brought in London by Acer and ASUS in a dispute concerning video coding technology patents. The UK Court of Appeal ruled that Nokia had already offered licences on FRAND terms to be determined at arbitration, and therefore, the London proceedings should not continue. The decision effectively ends the UK lawsuits and cancels the scheduled trial.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/nokia-wins-uk-appeal-block-acer-asus-video-streaming-patent-lawsuits-2026-05-12/>



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

TRADEMARK

CAPITAL ONE SUES ALLEGED SCAM CAMPAIGN OPERATORS OVER TRADEMARK MISUSE

Capital One has filed a lawsuit against unidentified operators of alleged robocall and telemarketing scam campaigns for trademark infringement and false advertising. The bank claims the defendants used the “CAPITAL ONE” and “DISCOVER” trademarks in automated calls to mislead consumers into believing they were speaking with legitimate bank representatives. According to the lawsuit, the alleged scams involved prerecorded calls warning recipients of suspicious transactions and requesting personal or account information. Capital One stated that the legal action aims not only to seek damages but also to uncover and disrupt the infrastructure supporting the fraudulent operations.

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/05/13/capital-one-lawsuit.html>



ELF LABS PREVAILS IN FINAL TRADEMARK DISPUTE FOLLOWING SUPREME COURT DECISION

Elf Labs secured a final trademark victory after the US Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal challenging its “RAPUNZEL” trademark registration. Earlier decisions by two Federal Courts had already ruled in favour of the company, thereby rendering the trademark protection permanent and binding. The ruling strengthens protection for Elf Labs’ broader portfolio of more than 500 registered character assets, including Cinderella, Snow White and The Little Mermaid, which support its licensing and entertainment businesses. The company stated that the decision provides greater certainty for businesses investing in registered character intellectual property.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/elf-labs-wins-permanent-trademark-victory-after-supreme-court-closes-door-on-challenges-302777523.html>

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TRADEMARK

TETHER SEEKS TRADEMARK REGISTRATION FOR SEVEN MARKS IN SOUTH KOREA

Tether has filed seven trademark applications in South Korea, expanding its strategy beyond merely registering stablecoin product names to include protection for its company name, logo and assets such as Tether Gold (“XAUT”). The filings were made as South Korea considers new regulations that may require foreign stablecoin issuers to establish a local presence before operating in the country. Industry observers view the move as a preparatory step for a stronger business expansion in South Korea’s growing digital asset market.

<https://coinpedia.org/news/tether-files-seven-trademark-applications-in-south-korea/>



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

COPYRIGHT

SHEIN FILES FOR BREACH OF COPYRIGHT AGAINST TEMU IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (“UK”)

Shein and Temu are engaged in a legal dispute before the UK High Court, with Shein accusing Temu of large-scale copyright infringement. Shein alleges that Temu used thousands of Shein’s product images to market alleged copies of its clothing designs, claiming Temu sought to gain an unfair competitive advantage by leveraging Shein’s established market presence. Temu has denied the allegations and argued that Shein’s lawsuit is aimed at suppressing competition rather than genuinely protecting copyright. Temu has also filed a counterclaim seeking damages after removing thousands of product listings following an injunction obtained by Shein. In addition, Temu alleges that Shein violated competition laws by requiring suppliers to enter into exclusive arrangements, with that aspect of the dispute scheduled for trial next year.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2026/05/11/shein-accuses-temu-of-039industrial-scale039-copyright-breaches-in-uk-legal-battle>



META PLATFORMS ACCUSED OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (“AI”) TRAINING DISPUTE

Five major publishers, including Elsevier, Cengage, Hachette, Macmillan and McGraw Hill along with author Scott Turow, have filed a proposed class-action lawsuit against Meta Platforms in a Manhattan Federal Court, alleging that Meta unlawfully used millions of copyrighted books and journal articles to train its Llama large language AI models. The publishers claim Meta relied on pirated materials without obtaining permission, arguing that such conduct undermines authorship and legitimate scholarship. Meta has denied the allegations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/may/05/publishers-sue-meta-copyright-ai>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

COPYRIGHT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION INVITES PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON EUROPEAN UNION (“EU”) COPYRIGHT FRAMEWORK

The European Commission has launched a call for evidence to gather feedback on potential reforms to the EU copyright framework and to assess the effectiveness of the 2019 Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market. The review will examine whether the Directive has improved the use and licensing of copyright-protected content in the digital environment and promoted a fairer copyright marketplace. The consultation also seeks views on emerging issues arising from generative AI, online piracy, remuneration for recorded music, and access to copyrighted works for research purposes. Contributions from stakeholders are open until 25 June.

<https://www.publicnow.com/view/BC9BE2C88F12879058C0FFE4851F8B67C364CFE5>



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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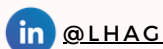
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