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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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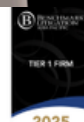
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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATENT

SHANGHAI COURT REJECTS XIAO-I PATENT CLAIMS AGAINST APPLE'S SIRI

The Shanghai High People's Court has dismissed all patent infringement claims by Shanghai Xiao-I against Apple's Siri, ruling on 10 June 2026 that Siri does not infringe Xiao-I's "A Chat Robot System" patent and that the relevant iPhone models fall outside the patent's scope. Xiao-I had sought about RMB 10 billion (USD 1.43 billion) in damages and an injunction to stop Siri-related products in China, but the court rejected the claims while also denying Apple's request to recover litigation costs. Although China's Supreme People's Court had earlier upheld the validity of Xiao-I's patent, the infringement action still failed, and Xiao-I has said it will appeal the decision.

<https://macdailynews.com/2026/06/23/shanghai-court-dismisses-all-patent-infringement-claims-by-xiao-i-against-apples-siri/>



OCADO DROPS PATENT INFRINGEMENT SUIT AGAINST PENTAMASTER

United Kingdom-based online grocery technology company Ocado has discontinued its patent infringement lawsuit against Pentamaster and its subsidiaries without liberty to file afresh. The dispute, initiated in December 2024, concerned allegations that Pentamaster infringed patents related to warehouse automation and robotics. Pentamaster had denied the allegations, maintaining that it neither infringed the patents nor commercialised the products in question. The company previously disclosed that both parties were exploring an amicable settlement and had said the litigation was not expected to materially affect its financial position or operations.

<https://theedgemalaysia.com/node/808489>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATENT

SONY PATENTS ADAPTIVE PLAYSTATION CONTROLLER BUTTONS

Sony has filed a patent application for PlayStation controller buttons that can change their physical properties by hardening or softening depending on the game or application being played. The patent, filed in November 2024 and published in May 2026, describes several mechanisms to achieve this, including elastomers with magnets and fluid-filled membranes. According to the filing, the buttons could require more force to press in certain gameplay scenarios, such as when a character is stuck or struggling to move. While Sony has not announced any controller featuring the technology, the patent follows the adaptive trigger functionality introduced in the DualSense controller and earlier patents relating to deformable controller buttons.

<https://www.military.com/sony-patents-bizarre-new-playstation-controller-buttons>



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TRADEMARK

U.S. COURT RULES AGAINST BACARDI IN 'HAVANA CLUB' TRADEMARK CASE

A United States ("U.S.") appellate court has ruled against Bacardi in its long-running dispute over the HAVANA CLUB trademark, upholding the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO")'s 2016 renewal of the mark in favour of Cubaexport, a Cuban state-owned entity. Bacardi had argued that the trademark should have expired after Cubaexport failed to renew it in 2006. However, the Court found that a licence subsequently granted by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control effectively removed the legal obstacles to renewal, validating the registration. The decision represents the latest development in the decades-long dispute between the parties over ownership and use of the HAVANA CLUB brand in the United States.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/bacardi-loses-us-appeal-long-running-havana-club-trademark-dispute-2026-06-16/>



CHINA PROPOSES STRICTER MEASURES AGAINST MISLEADING TRADEMARK USE

China has proposed amendments to its Trademark Law that would introduce stricter measures against the deceptive use of registered trademarks as part of broader efforts to enhance consumer protection. Under the draft amendments, businesses that mislead consumers as to the nature, quality or origin of goods or services through trademark use could face fines of up to five times the illegal turnover where such turnover exceeds RMB 50,000, or up to RMB 250,000 where the turnover is minimal or cannot be determined. The proposed amendments also seek to address bad-faith trademark filings and the accumulation of trademarks without genuine commercial use, underscoring China's ongoing efforts to maintain fair competition and strengthen confidence in the marketplace.

<https://english.news.cn/20260624/446fb878abb3450fa21de026f435d014/c.html>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

TRADEMARK

SWATCH SUES SAMSUNG FOR TRADEMARK DAMAGES

The long-running intellectual property dispute between Swatch and Samsung has continued, with Swatch pursuing claims in the United Kingdom over digital watch faces available for Samsung Galaxy smartwatches. Swatch alleges that the digital watch faces reproduce the designs of its iconic timepieces without authorisation, infringing its intellectual property rights, and is reportedly seeking damages of approximately USD 170 million. The dispute underscores the increasing importance of protecting product designs in digital environments, particularly as traditional consumer products are replicated in virtual formats.

<https://www.ft.com/content/c08774bc-d948-416a-9abb-a6fdda645087?syn-25a6b1a6=1>



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

COPYRIGHT

JAMENDO SUES NVIDIA OVER ALLEGED COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT IN AI MUSIC TRAINING

Luxembourg-based music platform Jamendo has filed a copyright infringement lawsuit against Nvidia in a California federal court, alleging that the company unlawfully copied hundreds of thousands of audio files and related metadata from its platform to train its Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) models, Fugatto and Audio Flamingo. Jamendo claims it discovered the alleged use in 2024 and had previously sought compensation before commencing legal proceedings. The lawsuit seeks statutory damages of up to USD 150,000 per infringed work and an injunction preventing further use. The case adds to the growing wave of copyright disputes concerning the use of protected content for training generative AI systems.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/nvidia-sued-by-music-company-jamendo-over-ai-training-2026-06-23/>



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 OFFICIAL SONG HIGHLIGHTS THE MULTI-LAYERED NATURE OF COPYRIGHT IN MUSIC

Shakira and Burna Boy's Dai Dai, the official song of the FIFA World Cup 2026, demonstrates the complex web of intellectual property rights involved in a global music release. The song is protected by copyright in both its musical composition and sound recording, while its worldwide distribution through streaming, broadcasting, live performances and sponsorship campaigns generates multiple royalty streams. The track also illustrates the role of performers' rights, mechanical rights, broadcasting rights and trademark protection in major sporting events. Notably, Shakira has pledged her royalties and performance fee from Dai Dai to the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, highlighting how intellectual property can also support charitable initiatives.

<https://www.wipo.int/en/web/wipo-magazine/articles/dai-dai-shakira-and-burna-boys-world-cup-song-and-its-ip-rights-99498>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

COPYRIGHT

MACP INTRODUCES AI COPYRIGHT GUIDELINES AND EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR EAST MALAYSIAN MUSIC CREATORS

Music Authors' Copyright Protection ("MACP") Berhad has launched new AI copyright guidelines during its East Malaysia Tour 2.0 in Kota Kinabalu. The guidelines provide that only works created entirely by humans are eligible for recognition and emphasise that AI companies should obtain permission and provide fair compensation before using copyrighted works for AI training. MACP also introduced two new award categories for members from Sabah and Sarawak, relaxed its membership requirements to encourage young creators, and unveiled the "myKarya" portal to simplify copyright registration and membership management. The initiative reinforces MACP's commitment to strengthening copyright awareness and protecting the economic rights of Malaysian music creators.

<https://tvsabahnews.com/macp-strengthens-copyright-awareness-among-music-creators-in-sabah/>



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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