

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

**2 MALAYSIA CONSIDERS ALLOWING
COPYRIGHT OWNERS TO OPT OUT OF AI
TRAINING**

**4 GOOGLE LOSES BID TO
CHALLENGE US PATENT-
REVIEW POLICY**

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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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TRADEMARK

ITALY PM SEEKS EU TRADEMARK FOR HER VOICE AMIDST GROWING AI DEEPFAKE CONCERNS

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has applied to register her voice as a trademark with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (“EUIPO”), submitting a four-second audio recording of herself repeating the phrase “I am Giorgia Meloni” in Italian. The application aims to provide additional legal protection against the unauthorised commercial use of her voice, amid growing concerns over deepfakes and manipulated content generated by artificial intelligence (“AI”), and currently remains under examination. Italian media reported that although trademark registration would not automatically prevent AI-generated voice imitations, it could provide an additional legal basis to challenge certain unauthorised uses.

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/italy-pm-meloni-seeks-eu-trademark-her-voice-amid-ai-deepfake-risks-2026-10-05/>



OPENAI SUED OVER “ASTRA” TRADEMARK

TradeSun, a software company that develops AI agents to analyse trade documents for banks and financial institutions, has sued OpenAI in San Francisco federal court over OpenAI’s use of the name “Astra” for its AI model. TradeSun alleges that it has used the Astra name since 2021 and that OpenAI’s use of the same name would cause consumer confusion. It seeks monetary damages and a court order preventing OpenAI from using the name. OpenAI has denied the allegations, describing the complaint as meritless.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/openai-sued-trademark-infringement-over-astra-ai-model-2026-10-05/>

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COPYRIGHT

MALAYSIA CONSIDERS ALLOWING COPYRIGHT OWNERS TO OPT OUT OF AI TRAINING

The Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia ("MyIPO") is reviewing Malaysia's copyright framework to address the use of copyrighted works as training data for AI systems. The proposed changes include allowing copyright owners to opt out of having their works used for data mining, as well as clarifying the scope of permitted use, including the types, purposes and volume of content that may be accessed. The review also covers ownership of AI-generated outputs. MyIPO is consulting stakeholders to develop a balanced framework that protects copyright owners while supporting technological development, trade and investment. No final approach has been decided.

<https://bernama.com/en/general/news.php?id=2616201>



MALAYSIA CONSIDERS COPYRIGHT LAW AND OVERSIGHT OF COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

Malaysia is considering amendments to the Copyright Act 1987 to strengthen oversight of collective management organisations ("CMOs"), particularly in relation to royalty collection and distribution. The review comes amid ongoing legal challenges to the implementation of guidelines governing CMO operations, including requirements for royalty tariff revisions to be notified to and approved by the Controller of Copyright. Separately, the Government is examining copyright issues arising from the use of copyrighted works to train AI systems. These developments signal potential changes to Malaysia's copyright framework, with implications for copyright owners, CMOs and businesses using copyrighted works, particularly as the use of copyrighted content in AI training continues to raise questions about the protection of intellectual property rights.

<https://bernama.com/en/news.php?id=2619556>

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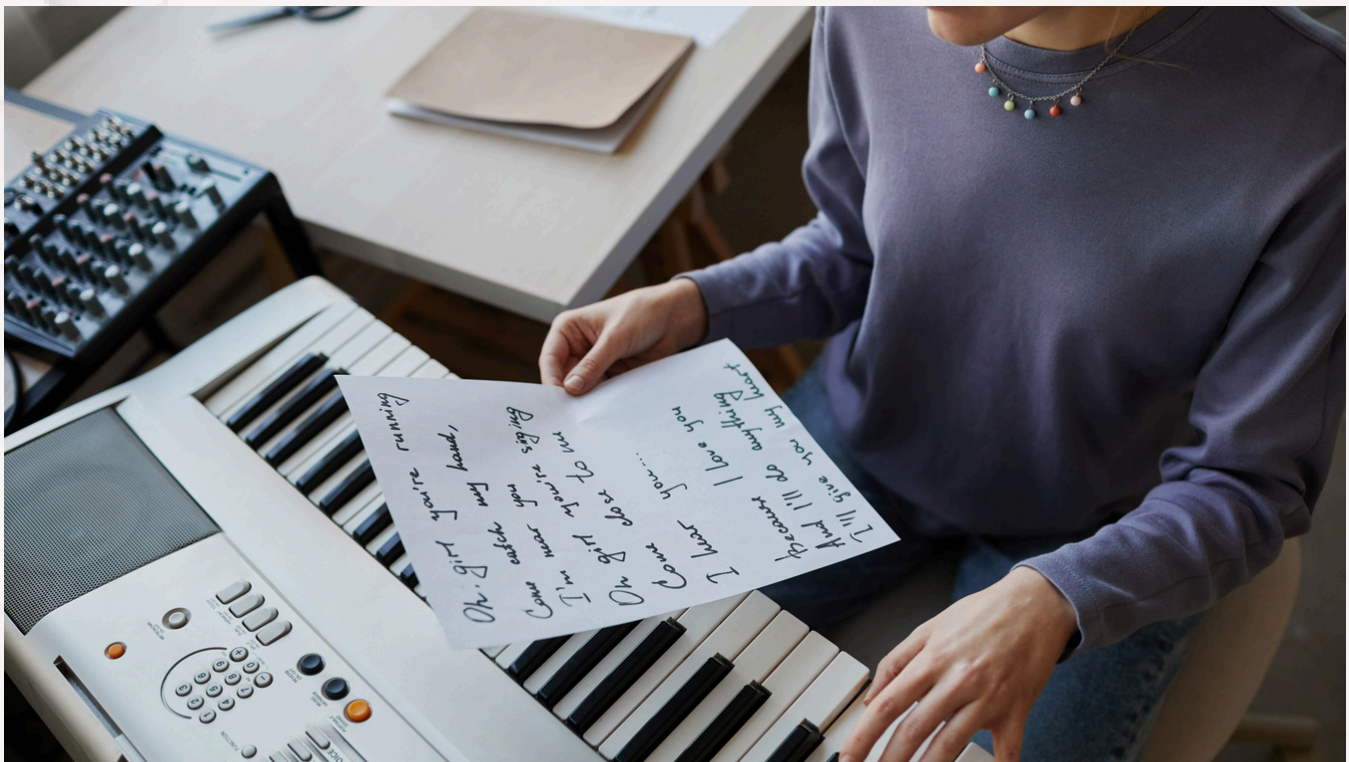
COPYRIGHT

ANTHROPIC ARGUES THAT TRAINING ITS AI ON SONG LYRICS IS “FAIR USE” UNDER US COPYRIGHT LAW

Anthropic and major music publishers have presented competing arguments in a US copyright case concerning Anthropic’s use of copyrighted song lyrics to train its Claude AI chatbot. Anthropic argued that its use of the lyrics was transformative and constituted fair use, while the publishers, including Universal Music Group, Concord and ABKCO, argued that Claude’s ability to generate lyrics threatens the market for their copyrighted works. The publishers cited nearly 120,000 requests for AI-generated lyrics over a six-month period as evidence of potential market harm.

The case highlights the ongoing debate over whether the use of copyrighted works to train generative AI models constitutes fair use, particularly where AI-generated outputs may compete with the original works. The court’s decision may have implications for copyright owners and AI developers in determining the extent to which copyrighted material may be used for AI training without authorisation.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/anthropic-music-labels-make-key-arguments-ai-training-case-2026-10-21/>



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

PATENT

GOOGLE LOSES BID TO CHALLENGE US PATENT-REVIEW POLICY

The US Supreme Court has declined to hear Google's challenge to a US Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") policy that makes it more difficult to challenge the validity of older patents through administrative review. Under the "settled expectations" policy, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board ("PTAB") is more likely to reject requests for inter partes review of patents that have been in force for more than six years. Google challenged the policy after the PTAB refused to review a patent owned by software company VirtaMove, which had accused Google of infringement. Google argued that the USPTO had exceeded its authority by effectively imposing a time limit that Congress had not enacted. The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit had previously rejected Google's challenge, and the Supreme Court's refusal to hear the appeal leaves the policy in place. The decision may make it harder for technology companies to challenge older patents and could affect patent litigation strategies in the United States.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/supreme-court-rejects-google-challenge-us-patent-agency-review-policy-2026-10-19/>



APPLE FACES MORE THAN US\$5.7 BILLION LIABILITY IN HAPTIC TECHNOLOGY PATENT CASE

A US jury has ordered Apple to pay more than USD 5.7 billion to San Diego-based Taction Technology ("Taction") after finding that Apple's Taptic Engine, which produces tactile vibrations in iPhones and Apple Watches, infringed two of Taction's patents. Taction filed the lawsuit in 2021, alleging unauthorised use of its patented haptic-feedback technology. Apple denied infringement, argued that the patents were invalid, and maintained that its technology was fundamentally different. The case had previously been dismissed in 2023, but the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit revived it in 2025. Apple said it would appeal the verdict, described as the largest of its kind in a haptic-technology dispute.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/tech/tech-news/2026/09/26/us-jury-says-apple-owes-record-57-billion-in-haptic-technology-patent-case>

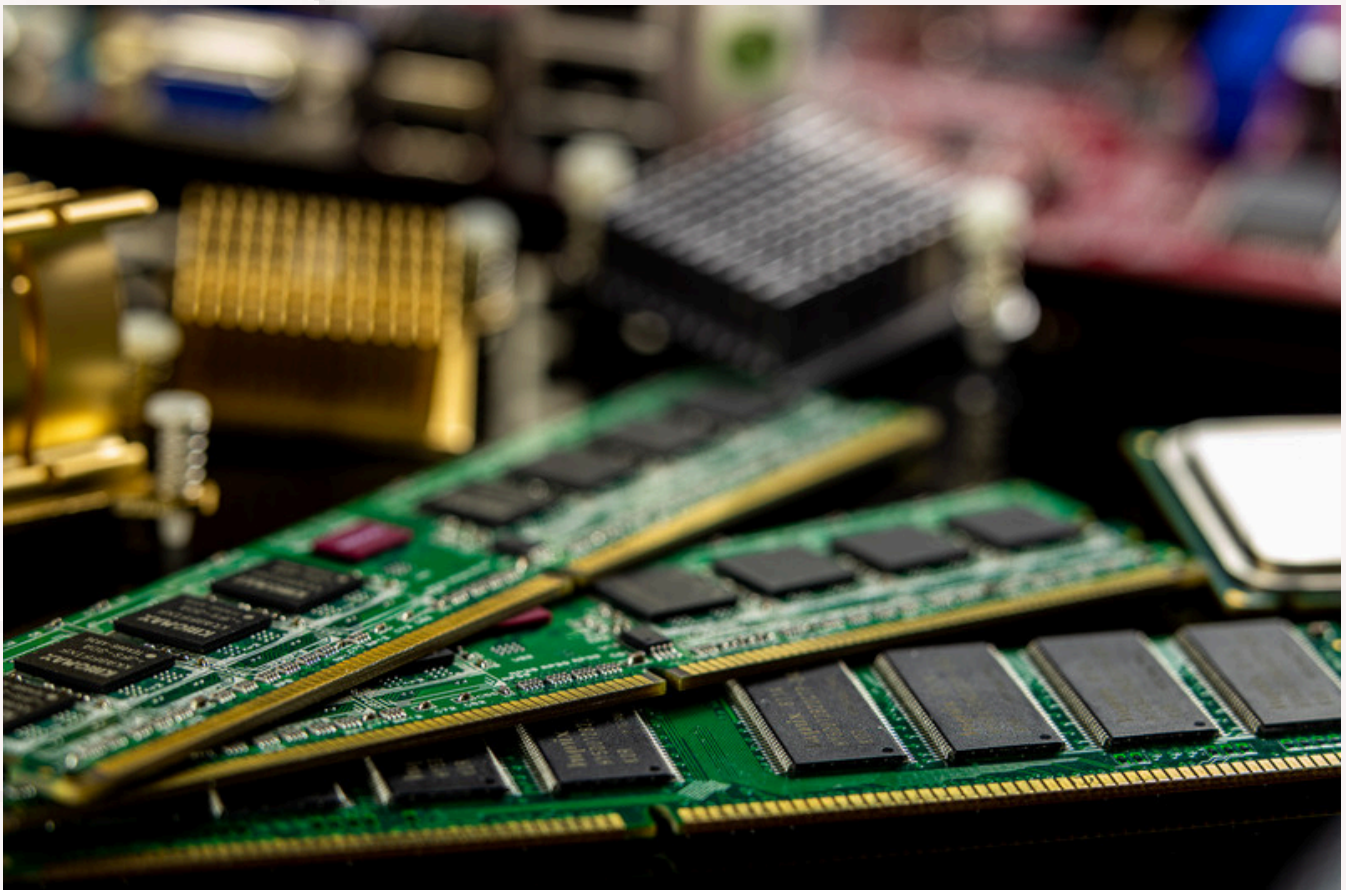
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PATENT

MICRON AGREES TO PAY USD 600 MILLION TO SETTLE NETLIST PATENT DISPUTE

Computer-memory company Netlist has reached a USD 600 million settlement with Micron Technology to resolve a patent dispute involving memory-chip technology, including high-bandwidth memory used in AI computing. Under the agreement, Micron will pay USD 30 million quarterly over five years in exchange for a licence to Netlist's patent portfolio. The settlement follows a USD 445 million patent-infringement verdict Netlist won against Micron in Texas in 2024. Netlist had also filed a new complaint with the US International Trade Commission seeking to block imports of certain Micron chips used in AI-related products. The agreement resolves the companies' pending legal disputes and highlights the commercial value of patent rights in advanced memory technology.

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/micron-enters-600-million-settlement-netlist-patent-dispute-2026-10-06/>



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

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Navigating the E-Money Landscape

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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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