

# NewsLetter

---

## | GENERAL TOPIC

---

1 ....Proposed Amendment to Invention Promotion Act

---

## | PATENTS

2 ....ETRI Develops "Zing," a High-Speed Close Proximity Communication Technology

2 ....Samsung Acquires Harman International for KRW 9 Trillion

3 ....Sharp Rise in Patent Filings on Mobile Biometric Authentication Technology

5 ....Competition in Generic Drug Market

6 ....Decision from IPTAB on Inventive Step of Numerical Limitation

---

## | TRADEMARKS

8 ....Korean Supreme Court Holds that Overall Impression of a Shop May Be Protected as Trade Dress

10 ....Korean Patent Court Invalidates Mark Registered for "Contact Lenses" as Imitation of Well-Known Mark for "Jewelries and Watches"

11 ....Supreme Court Decision on Requirements for Statutory Damages under Trademark Act

---

## | GENERAL LAW

13 ....Supreme Court Puts Brakes on Prosecutors' Collection of Kakao Talk Conversations

---

## | TRADEMARKS

14 ....New Member: Jeong Hwan Lee(advisor), Young-Soo Choi (lawyer) Hyun-Su Kim, So-Min Park, Min-Ho Park, Kyung-Hyun Park, Ji-Hyun Kim (Patent Attorney)

16 ....Lee International Named Leading Law Firm in 6 Practice Areas by Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2017

# GENERAL TOPIC

## GENERAL TOPIC

### • Proposed Amendment to Invention Promotion Act

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MTIE) has announced that the current Invention Promotion Act (IPA) will be partially amended to modify the relationship between employer and employee with respect to employee inventions. The following summarizes the important changes introduced by the amendment.

1) Pursuant to the amendment, when an employer has made an assignment agreement with an employee with respect to an employee's invention, the employer will automatically succeed to the right to acquire a patent once the invention is completed (Article 13 of the IPA as proposed to be amended). Under the current IPA, the employer is required to give a notice of its intent to succeed to the right within four months from the employee's notification of the completion of the invention. The MTIE states that the amendment will reduce the risk that the employer might face if the employee were to assign the invention to a third party prior to the employer's succession to the right).

2) Even when there is no assignment agreement made between an employer and

an employee, the employer will automatically acquire a non-exclusive license to an employee's invention (Article 10 of the IPA as proposed to be amended). Under the current IPA, only small-and-medium sized enterprises are entitled to automatically obtain a non-exclusive license to use employee's invention. However, as a result of the amendment, large companies will also benefit from the automatic grant of a non-exclusive license. The MTIE states that this amendment aims to ensure appropriate recompense for the employer that has contributed to the completion of the employee's invention.

3) The applicable scope of the employee's invention is expanded. Under the amended IPA, if the creation and development of an employee's invention is protected by the Act on the Layout-Designs of Semiconductor Integrated Circuits and the Protection of New Varieties of Plants Act, it will be included in the applicable scope of the employee's invention (Article 2 of the IPA as proposed to be amended). As a result, the intellectual property rights with respect to the scope of other similar-types of inventions will also be further protected.

The proposed amendment is currently under review by the Ministry of Government Legislation and the National Assembly, and will take effect if approved.

# PATENTS

## PATENTS

### • ETRI Develops "Zing," a High-Speed Close Proximity Communication Technology

ETRI (Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute) announced on October 18, 2016 that it has developed a new high-speed close proximity technology entitled "Zing". Zing enables users to easily and rapidly send and receive gigabytes of contents when their device is within 10 cm. The technology does not require using complicated connection procedures. According to ETRI, Zing allows users to obtain the desired data when their device is in contact with an unmanned service terminal (kiosk).

Zing's data transmission rate is 3.5 Gbps, which is approximately 8,000 times faster than the current near field communication (NFC) technology, which can be used only in extremely limited areas, such as transportation cards, due to its limited data transfer rate. ETRI is promoting Zing as the next generation high-speed NFC, which does not require an internet connection.

Zing technology can be applied to a variety of products and services, such as smart home appliances including TVs and refrigerators, in-vehicle infotainment, smart Internet of Things (IoT) advertisements in shopping malls or on

the street, kiosks in subway stations, as well as smart phones, cameras and notebook computers.

Zing is expected to be established as an international standard in the first half of 2017, which will provide a foothold for its commercialization. ETRI's research team has filed 27 patent applications in Korea and overseas for the Zing technology, including essential patents, and published 38 treatises. ETRI plans to develop medical devices utilizing the Zing technology. Such devices could be used in a dental clinic to send an oral X-ray instantaneously to the dentist's nearby computer.

An ETRI official said, "Zing is capable of receiving and sending desired data safely and rapidly without using an internet connection as long as a user puts a device near an adjacent terminal, will contribute to the development of new high-speed direct communication services between devices."

### • Samsung Acquires Harman International for KRW 9 Trillion

With a view to accelerating its progress in the new growth field of electronic equipment for automobiles, Samsung Electronics has agreed to acquire Harman International, a US-based maker of connected car and audio

# PATENTS

company systems, in a ‘Big Deal’ worth over KRW 9 trillion,. Samsung Electronics’ board of directors approved the acquisition in a meeting on November 14, 2016. The total cost of the acquisition will be US\$ 9 billion (approximately KRW 9.392 trillion) at US\$ 112 per share, which will be the highest amount ever paid by a Korean acquiror for an overseas company.

“Samsung Electronics will lead a new platform in the field of connected cars by combining Harman’s know-how and extensive customer network in the electronic equipment industry with Samsung’s IT and mobile technologies as well as its capacity in the parts industry,” said O-Hyun Kwon, Vice-president of Samsung Electronics.

A spokesman for Samsung Electronics further stated, “Through the acquisition of Harman, we have prepared a basis to take a leap as a global leader in the market of electronic equipment for connected cars, which is growing at an average annual rate of 9 %.”

The market for electronic equipment for connected cars, which reached US\$ 45 billion in 2015, is predicted to grow to equal the current global television market of US\$ 100 billion by 2025. Harman is a leading company that has achieved sales of US\$ 7 billion per annum in the field of electronic equipment, which includes infotainment

and telematics for connected cars as well as security.

## • Sharp Rise in Patent Filings on Mobile Biometric Authentication Technology

According to a report from the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) on recent patent filing trends, the number of patent applications related to mobile biometric authentication technology has increased from a total of 76 in 2011 to 178 in 2015.

The rise of biometric authentication technology in patent applications is attributed to its convenience factor providing an easy alternative to PIN authentication by virtue of its low error rate, its effectiveness afforded using practically invariable and unique biological traits, and its convenience for data collection.

### (1) Patent Applications in 2011-2015 by Technology

Among patent applications filed with the KIPO by field, mobile biometric authentication technology applicable to smartphones and voice recognition recorded the highest number at 270 (43.3%), followed by facial recognition 103 (16.5%), fingerprint recognition 172 (27.5%), and iris recognition 40 (6.4%) (see Table 1).

# PATENTS

Table 1.

Field	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Fingerprint	12	26	35	38	61	172 (27.5%)
Iris	3	3	4	12	18	40 (6.4%)
Face	12	21	22	15	33	103 (16.5%)
Voice	43	57	58	54	58	270 (43.3%)
Others	6	6	10	9	8	39 (6.3%)
Total	76	113	129	128	178	624 (100%)

### (2) Patent Applications in 2011-2015 by Applicant

Of all the applicants for mobile biometric authentication patents related to smartphones, corporate entities including LG Electronics and Samsung Electronics accounted for the majority with 418 patents (67.0%), followed by individuals 157 (25.1%), universities 29 (4.7%), and research institutes 20 (3.2%) (see Table 2).

Table 2.

Applicant	Corporate Entity	Individual	University	Research Institute	Total
Number of Patent Applications	418 (67.0%)	157 (25.1%)	29 (4.7%)	20 (3.2%)	624 (100%)

### \* Biometrics Authentication Technology Market Trend

Market-intelligence firm Tractica projects that the global market revenue for biometrics technology will grow from \$200 million in 2015 to \$14.9 billion in 2024.

Meanwhile, the number of smart devices that are biometrically enabled is expected to reach 4.8 billion by 2020, according to Acuity Market Intelligence.

Factors driving the growth of the mobile biometrics market include miniaturization and enhanced accuracy of sensors, increasing popularity of wearables, and widespread use of Internet of Things (IoT) services for financial technology and healthcare.

A KIPO official said, “As mobile biometric authentication technology continues to develop, biometrics will be a natural fit for everyday life in the areas of mobile

# PATENTS

authentication and mobile payment. In the wake of advances in this technology, a gradual increase is expected in patent applications for biometric fraud detection technology and biometric information modification technology for biometric data renewal after disposal.”

## • Competition in Generic Drug Market

More than 150 drug products stood to benefit from the generic exclusivity system that was introduced last year in the wake of the full implementation of the drug approval-patent linkage system under the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Starting with the grant of generic exclusivity for a combination drug of Amlodipine Besilate and Losartan Potassium on May 8, 2015, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) granted generic exclusivity to a total of 155 generic drugs with respect to 18 main ingredients (formulations) through September 2016. However, it was found that most of the generic drug manufacturers did not enjoy the anticipated exclusivity benefits from monopoly, let alone from oligopoly, with respect to those main ingredients, because the average number of generic products per main ingredient reached 8.6.

A representative main ingredient is a combination drug of Amlodipine Besilate and Losartan Potassium where 45 generic drugs manufactured by 20 pharmaceutical companies including Huons were granted generic exclusivity. The exclusive marketing period was May 9, 2015 to April 1, 2016, but as the 20 companies were competing with each other, there was no expectation of exclusivity in the market for the drug.

A total of 17 drug products manufactured by nine pharmaceutical companies including Kolmar Korea were competing fiercely for Febuxostal during the exclusivity period of December 12, 2015 to November 1, 2016.

Similar situations were found for, among others, Sitagliptin Phosphate, Sitagliptin Phosphate Hydrate, a combination drug of Sitagliptin Phosphate and Metformin Hydrochloride, a combination drug of Sitagliptin Phosphate Hydrate and Metformin Hydrochloride, etc. The exclusivity period for these single and combination drugs runs from September 2, 2023 to June 1, 2024, which is still about seven years away, but so many products were granted generic exclusivity that the exclusivity is of limited value.

On the other hand, some products are succeeding in establishing a generic exclusive market.

Dong-A obtained generic exclusivity for its three generic drugs for Carvedilol covering the period from September 24, 2015 to February 7, 2016, and Boryung obtained generic exclusivity for its one generic drug for Pemetrexed Disodium 2.5 Hydrate covering the period from November 28, 2015 to August 27, 2016. In these cases, these pharmaceutical companies were the only generic applicants authorized for the main ingredients of the drugs, and thus they were able to benefit substantially from the exercise of exclusive rights.

Similarly, Teva-Handok obtained generic exclusivity for its two generic drugs for a combination drug of Budesonide and Formoterol Fumarate Hydrate, with an exclusivity period from March 30, 2016 to January 30, 2017, thereby achieving a monopoly for the drug.

In addition, Daewon obtained generic exclusivity for one generic drug for Deferasirox, for which the exclusivity period is June 25, 2017 to March 24, 2018.

## • Decision from IPTAB on Inventive Step of Numerical Limitation

The Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB) of the Korean Intellectual Property Office recently issued a decision

# PATENTS

acknowledging the inventive step of an invention characterized by a numerical limitation (IPTAB Case No. 2015 Won 4693). The examiner had issued a final rejection of the application, finding no inventive step based on prior art, despite the presence of a meaningful numerical limitation in the patent application. Lee International handled the application and successful appeal on behalf of its client.

## (1) Standards for Determining the Inventive Step of an Invention Characterized by a Numerical Limitation

Two decisions of the Supreme Court set forth the standards for determining the inventive step of an invention characterized by a numerical limitation:

In 2007, the Supreme Court held: "If an invention is identical or similar to the prior art in terms of objective and effect and is only differentiated from the prior art by a numerical limitation on a range, and if a remarkable effect is not produced within the limited range, the invention will be deemed to lack an inventive step because the limited range is considered easily selectable by one of ordinary skill in the art through typical and repeated experimentation." (Supreme Court Case No. 2007 Hu 1299, issued on November 16, 2007)

Further, in 2010 and again in 2013 the

# PATENTS

Supreme Court opined: “If the numerical limitation has significance as technical means for achieving an objective that is different from the objective of the prior art and produces a qualitatively different effect in comparison to the prior art, the invention will be deemed to have an inventive step.” (Supreme Court Case No. 2011 Hu 3193, issued on February 28, 2013; and Supreme Court Case No. 2008 Hu 4998, issued on August 19, 2010)

## (2) Invention at Issue

Claim 1 of the invention at issue relates to a two-layered flexible substrate comprising a metal layer formed with a nickel-containing alloy, a copper thin film layer formed on the metal layer by dry-plating, and a copper plate coating film formed on the copper thin film layer by electroplating. In particular, claim 1 defines that the sulfur concentration contained in the copper plate coating film is in the range of 10 mass ppm to 150 mass ppm.

All the elements and technical features of the invention, except for the sulfur concentration (10 mass ppm to 150 mass ppm), are identical to, or are not substantially different from, those disclosed in the prior art reference cited by the examiner.

The specification of the patent application states that the technical effects of the

invention deteriorate and undesired technical problems may occur at sulfur concentrations below 100 mass ppm or greater than 150 mass ppm.

## (3) IPTAB Decision

The IPTAB determined that the specification of the patent application sufficiently supports the critical significance of the defined range of the sulfur concentration.

The IPTAB further determined that the specification describes examples and comparative examples, which show a substantial difference between the effect (such as surface roughness Ra [nm] after chemical polishing) obtained within the defined range and the effect obtained outside the range. Thus, the defined range of the sulfur concentration has technical significance as well as critical significance.

## (4) Lee International Comments

We believe the IPTAB did not strictly require that there should be an unpredictable and considerable change in effect at the upper and lower limits of the defined range of the sulfur concentration since the cited prior art reference does not disclose or suggest a numerical limitation on a sulfur concentration.

In December 2015, the Korean Patent Court issued a decision acknowledging the inventive step of a numerical limitation

based on a “qualitatively different effect” in comparison to the prior art. The Patent Court held: “The numerical limitation on element X in this invention has significance as technical means for achieving an objective, which is different from the objective of the prior art, and results in the improved antistatic effect, which is qualitatively different from the effect obtained by the prior art, and therefore, the numerical limitation in this invention could not have been easily conceived from the prior art by one of ordinary skill in the art.” (Patent Court Case No. 2015 Heo 1089, issued on December 24, 2015)

In the past, there have been few cases acknowledging the inventive step of an invention characterized by a numerical limitation. With these recent rulings by the IPTAB and the Patent Court, we expect that numerical limitations will be more positively considered in determining the inventive step of an invention.

# TRADEMARKS

## TRADEMARKS

### • Korean Supreme Court Holds that Overall Impression of a Shop May Be Protected as Trade Dress

The Korean Supreme Court held that the overall impression of a bakery, including its signboard, banner and design of the interior and the exterior of the shop, can be protected as trade dress under the Korean Unfair Competition Prevention Act (UCPA) (Decision No. 2016-da-229058 issued on September 21, 2016).

## (1) Factual background

Since May 2013 the Plaintiff has operated a bakery selling sweet red bean buns near Seoul Station, using a highly distinctive interior and exterior design that are distinguishable from conventional bakeries. The Plaintiff's sweet red bean buns gained popularity and generated sales revenue of over KRW 10 million per day.

An ex-employee of the Plaintiff opened his own bakery where the design of the interior and the exterior was almost identical to the Plaintiff's bakery, and sold sweet red bean buns whose shape was identical to the sweet red bean buns sold at the Plaintiff's bakery. The Plaintiff filed an action against him alleging unfair competition.

# TRADEMARKS

The appearance of the two bakeries and their marks are shown below:

	Plaintiff's bakery	Defendant's bakery
Exterior Design		
Mark		
Signboards on the exterior of the shops		

## (2) Findings

The Supreme Court concluded that the overall impression of the Plaintiff's bakery was created as a result of considerable investment and efforts by the Plaintiff and that the Defendant's shop produces an impression that is identical or confusingly similar to the Plaintiff's shop. The Supreme Court further concluded that the operation of the Defendant's shop infringes upon the

Plaintiff's economic interest by appropriating the outcomes achieved by the Plaintiff, through substantial investment and effort, for Defendant's own business without permission from the Plaintiff, in a manner contrary to the fair commercial practices or competition order under Article 2(1)(j) of the UCPA, which defines as an "act of unfair competition," among other things, any acts "infringing on other persons'

# TRADEMARKS

economic interests by using the outcomes, etc. achieved by them through substantial investment or efforts, for one's own business without permission, in a manner contrary to fair commercial practices or competition order".

This decision is the first decision of the Supreme Court based on Article 2(1)(j) of the UCPA, which was implemented in January 2014 and serves as a catch-all provision to Article 2(1) of the UCPA, which set forth the prohibited acts of unfair competition. Prior to January 2014, there had been no provision of the law directly applicable to the case wherein a third party obtained unfair economic interests by imitating the design of another's shop. This decision confirms that trade dress of a business as a whole can now be protected in Korea.

## • Korean Patent Court Invalidates Mark Registered for "Contact Lenses" as Imitation of Well-Known Mark for "Jewelries and Watches"



The Korean Patent Court has concluded that the registration of a third party mark "POLLYPOLLY" (the "Third Party Mark") registered for "contact lenses" should be invalidated based on the proposition that it was filed in a bad faith for a "free ride" on the fame

of the well-known mark "Folli Follie" (Patent Court Decision No. 2016 heo 6664 issued on August 26, 2016). Lee International successfully handled this case on behalf of its client.

## (1) Facts

Folli-Follie Commercial Manufacturing and Technical Societe Anonyme ("FF Group") is the owner of the mark "Folli Follie" ("FF Group's Mark"), which it uses in connection with its goods including "sunglasses," as well as its core goods "jewelries and watches." FF Group noticed that the Third Party Mark, which is confusingly similar to FF Group's Mark, had been registered in Korea for the goods "contact lenses", and filed an invalidation action against the Third Party Mark on the basis that the application to register the Third Party Mark was filed in a bad faith to obtain a "free ride" on the fame of the FF Group's Mark.

The pronunciation and spelling of the marks are quite different in English, but Korean does

	FF Group's Mark	Third Party Mark
Mark		
Goods	Watches, jewelries, sunglasses, etc.	Contact lenses

# TRADEMARKS

not have a native “f” sound, so foreign words with an “f” tend to be pronounced as a “p”; thus “Folli Follie” would likely be pronounced “Polly Polly” and would be written in Korean in the same manner as the Korean in the Third Party Mark.

## (2) Judgement

If the goods and services associated with the compared marks are similar or commercially-related, the Korean courts tend to consider such fact as a major factor in determining the bad faith. On that basis the Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB) of the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) dismissed an invalidation action against the Third Party Mark indicating that the “connect lenses” associated with the Third Party Mark are not directly in conflict with the extensively used “watches and jewelries” associated with the FF Group’s Mark.

However, Lee International concluded that the IPTAB’s decision was unreasonable and filed an appeal with the Korean Patent Court. In the appeal, Lee International vigorously argued that the registration of the Third Party Mark should be invalidated for at least three reasons: (i) the owner of the Third Party Mark has filed other applications to register a mark which imitates other parties’ famous marks; (ii) the Third Party Mark and the FF Group’s Mark are confusingly similar, because they are pronounced the same in Korean; and (iii)

compared goods associated with the Third Party Mark and the FF Group’s Mark are all categorized as fashion items.

The Korean Patent Court found the arguments in the appeal to have merit and reversed the IPTAB’s decision based on the following reasons: (i) the FF Group’s Mark is well-known both in and outside of Korea in the field of fashion accessories; (ii) the compared marks are identical in terms of pronunciation; (iii) the goods “contact lenses” associated with the Third Party Mark are highly likely to be considered as beauty and fashion items, and thus they are commercially-related to the “watches and jewelries” associated with the FF Group’s Mark, and the FF Group’s Mark is used in connection with “sunglasses,” which are similar to “contact lenses;” and (iv) the owner of the Third Party Mark has filed several applications to register other marks which imitate other third parties’ famous marks.

The owner of the Third Party Mark has appealed the Korean Patent Court’s decision to the Korean Supreme Court and the case is pending. However, as it stands, the Patent Court decision provides some comfort to the owners of famous marks in that it found that a third party acted in bad faith by registering a similar mark to a well-known mark even though the products are not identical.

## • Supreme Court Decision on Requirements for Statutory Damages under Trademark Act

The Supreme Court ruled that a trademark owner may not file a claim for statutory damages under the Trademark Act if the owner has not in fact been using the registered trademark.

Under the Trademark Act, a trademark owner is entitled to receive compensation for damage arising from breach of its trademark and the amount of compensation is presumed to be equivalent to the fees normally paid for using such trademark. In ordinary situations, the trademark owner must prove the fact of breach of its trademark and the fees normally paid for its use, but is not required to claim and/or prove the existence of damage in detail. However, if the trademark owner has simply registered the trademark without actually using it, then the third party can deny the existence of any damage, which deprives the owner of any right to compensation.

Under the provisions for filing a claim for statutory damages under the Trademark Act, a trademark owner may file a claim for damages in an amount less than KRW 50 million against a person who used a trademark identical or similar to the trademark owner’s, either intentionally or by mistake, on the same or similar designated goods, instead of

# TRADEMARKS

claiming and proving the actual amount lost due to the breach of trademark. In dealing with this kind of claim, the court will review the tenor of all the arguments and consider the findings of investigation into relevant evidence in determining the amount to be paid up to KRW 50 million.

However, the Supreme Court ruled that the foregoing provision applies only exceptionally in order to allow a trademark owner to receive a certain amount of compensation rather easily even if the owner is not able to prove the amount of damages and thus, the requirements for its application should be interpreted strictly as required under the law. This makes it clear that when filing a claim for statutory damages, the trademark owner must have been using the registered mark at the time such mark was infringed, in order to qualify for the statutory damages.

# GENERAL LAW

## GENERAL LAW

### • Supreme Court Puts Brakes on Prosecutors' Collection of Kakao Talk Conversations

The Supreme Court has ruled that it was illegal for the prosecution to collect the record of conversations stored in the servers of Kakao Talk – a highly popular mobile instant-messaging application in Korea – from Kakao Corp. (“Kakao”) after having received a court-issued permission known as a “limitation on telecommunication.”

The investigative body had requested the record of conversations from Kakao based on the permission issued by the court whenever the prosecution found it necessary. Since Kakao does not have any equipment for real-time monitoring of conversations, every three to seven days it would extract conversation records stored in its servers and then submit them to the investigative agency.

However, the Supreme Court found that, according to the “limitation on telecommunications” provided under the Protection of Communications Secrets Act (the “Act”), the monitoring of telecommunications refers to the act of learning or recording the content of, or directly interrupting transmission or reception of, real-time communications, but does not include accessing records that

have already been received and stored. The Supreme Court also stated that a company which had received the request of limitation of telecommunications act on the request in ways that are required under the Act, and if the company does not possess equipment necessary for doing so, it should request the investigative body to provide such equipment. The Supreme Court added that if the company did not make a request for the equipment and failed to meet requirements in accessing information, the content of information obtained such a way will not qualify as evidence of admission of guilt because they were collected without following legitimate procedures.

The Supreme Court’s decision suggests extracting telecommunications that have been received and stored in servers, during a period allowed by the permission, is not a legitimate monitoring as defined under the Act, because it does not satisfy the requirement of simultaneity and currency of monitoring. Accordingly, the prosecution will not be able to monitor conversations on Kakao Talk unless it brings in real-time monitoring equipment.

## LEE NEWS

### • New Member: Jeong Hwan Lee (advisor), Young-Soo Choi (lawyer) Hyun-Su Kim, So-Min Park, Min-Ho Park, Kyung-Hyun Park, Ji-Hyun Kim (Patent Attorneys)



Jeong Hwan Lee

Jeong Hwan Lee is an advisor at Lee International. He is a recognized expert in corporate intellectual property and has built his career exclusively in patent issues over the past 40 years. Prior to joining Lee International, he worked at LG Group in departments related to intellectual property for more than 39 years until he was appointed as vice president.

Assuming the position of Chairman of the LG Patent Consultative Conference from 2010 to 2016, he managed and controlled the patent-related work of LG Group that was becoming ever more complicated due to the convergence and integration of sophisticated technologies. Even after becoming LG’s vice president in 2005, he continued to be engaged in patent work through leading patent dispute negotiations.



Young-Soo Choi

Young-Soo Choi advises and litigates for numerous leading enterprises, local and global, in areas of real property finance and development, sports & entertainment, intellectual property, labor and energy (electricity). Prior to joining Lee International in 2016, Mr. Choi worked for Sojong Partners (2008-2016). He also served as a mediator at Seoul Northern District Court. He studied international trade law at Columbia University Law School in the U.S. Mr. Choi received a bachelor’s degree in law from Korea University in 1998 and passed the 44th bar examination in 2002.



# LEE NEWS



**Hyun-Su Kim**

Hyun-Su Kim has more than ten years of experience handling domestic and foreign patent application procedures in the area of chemistry. Prior to joining Lee International, Ms. Kim worked for E.M. Hwang & Partners (2015~2016), Y.S. Chang & Associates (2007~2014). She graduated from Ewha Womans University with a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1998.



**So-Min Park**

So-Min Park has more than three years of experience in mechanical engineering, material engineering, display devices and, in particular, instruments. Prior to joining Lee International, Ms. Park worked for Y.P. Lee, Mock & Partners (2013-2016) and KBK & Associates (2012-2013). She received a bachelor's degree in new materials engineering from Korea University in 2013.



**Min-Ho Park**

Min-Ho Park is a patent attorney at Lee International. His practice focuses on patent application, office action, disputes, appeal and litigation related to machine for domestic companies. Prior to joining Lee International, Mr. Park was a patent attorney at Muhann (patent & law firm) from 2013 to 2016 where he dealt with machine related issues. He graduated from Hanyang University in mechanical engineering in 2014.



**Kyung-Hyun Park**

Kyung-Hyun Park is a patent attorney at Lee International. She practices primarily in the areas of patent application and domestic and foreign registration regarding electrical and electronic items such as printers, UI/UX and video codecs. Before joining Lee International IP & Law Group, she was a patent attorney for Y.P. Lee, Mock & Partners (2014-2016) where she handled electrical and electronic related matters. She graduated from Yonsei University in electrical and electronic engineering in 2013.

# LEE NEWS



**Ji-Hyun Kim**

Ji-Hyun Kim has more than three years of experience handling domestic and foreign patent application procedures in the area of chemistry. Prior to joining Lee International, he worked for Moon & Moon International (2013) and Y.P. Lee, Mock & Partners (2013-2016). He is a graduate of Yonsei University (B.S., Chemistry, 2013).

• **Lee International Named Leading Law Firm in 6 Practice Areas by Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2017**

Legal 500 Asia Pacific, a directory of the most highly regarded law firms and practitioners in the region, has selected Lee International as a recommended firm in six key practice areas:



- Intellectual property - Patents and trade mark attorneys
- International arbitration
- Dispute resolution
- Employment
- Real estate
- Tax



# Lee International

IP & LAW GROUP

*Since 1961*



## Your trusted local advisor

Lee International IP & Law Group was founded in 1961 and currently ranks as one of the largest law firms in Korea.

Lee International retains distinguished legal professionals with expertise in all major areas of the law, with a special focus on intellectual property. Recognized as one of the premier law firms in Korea, Lee International advises clients on a diverse range of high profile matters, including intellectual property disputes and litigation, licensing, commercial litigation, international transactions, real property matters, tax matters, and international trade disputes.

Lee International is a leader in patent prosecution, trademark prosecution, and IP disputes and litigation including patent litigation, trademark litigation, anti-counterfeiting matters, domain name disputes, copyright disputes and trade secret enforcement. Lee International counsels many Fortune 100 and other leading multinational companies on how to successfully maneuver not only through the complexities of Korean law, but also through the unique intricacies of doing business in Korea.

리인터내셔널 특허법률사무소  
03737 서울시 서대문구  
충정로 23 풍산빌딩

Poongsan Bldg., 23 Chungjeongro  
Seodaemun-gu, Seoul 03737, Korea  
info@leeinternational.com

Tel 82-2-2279-3631  
Fax 82-2-2273-4605  
www.leeinternational.com



Lee International

IP & LAW GROUP