



Tony Yeo
Managing Director, Intellectual Property
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LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore
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ABOUT TONY

Tony is the Managing Director of our Intellectual Property department, and a Director in our Dispute Resolution department. He also heads our Healthcare & Life Sciences Practice. Tony is currently representing leading biotech and pharmaceutical companies such as Sanofi-Aventis, Novartis, and Becton Dickinson; government statutory boards such as Sentosa Development Corporation, and Health Promotion Board; as well as listed companies such as PT Bayan Resources Tbk and Manhattan Resources Ltd.

Tony is a litigator with an active court practice as an advocate. He has acted as lead counsel in many complex matters, including numerous patent infringement cases. He is experienced in intellectual property litigation and enforcement including patent, trade mark, and copyright litigation. His civil and commercial litigation practice includes banking litigation and contract disputes.

Tony was appointed by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) as an IP Adjudicator for a two-year term from April 2019. He is also the President of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) – Singapore Group, a member of the Law Society’s Inquiry Committee and Disciplinary Tribunal, and a member of the Examination Board at IPOS for registered patent agents.

He also co-authored the Singapore chapter of *Global Pharmacovigilance Laws & Regulations: The Essential Reference*, which has been described as a “groundbreaking book” and a “landmark guide” published by the US based *Food and Drug Law Institute*. Tony also co-wrote the article “*Legislating medical devices in Singapore*” in *Financier Worldwide: Biotechnology & Life Sciences e-Book 2010*.

Under his guidance and leadership, Drew & Napier clinched double wins at the 2018 Asia IP Awards, winning both the Singapore Trade Mark Firm of the Year and the Singapore Patent Firm accolades.

EXPERIENCE

Tony has been involved in many high profile matters. Here are just a few recent cases:

- Representing Becton Dickinson Medical (S) Pte Ltd (“**Becton Dickinson**”), a global leading medical technology company, in an on-going patent infringement suit commenced by B. Braun Melsungen AG (“**B. Braun**”) in HC/Suit 655/2018, in relation to medical catheters. Becton Dickinson has counterclaimed for, *inter alia*, a declaration of non-infringement and a declaration that B. Braun’s patent is invalid. This suit is part of the ongoing litigation and contentious proceedings in various jurisdictions between Becton Dickinson and B. Braun.
- Representing Ila Technologies Pte Ltd., an industry leader in state-of-the-art lab grown diamond technology in a patent infringement suit commenced by Element Six Technologies Ltd, a subsidiary of the De Beers Group, in HC/Suit No. 26/2016.’
- Representing TWG Tea Company Pte Ltd (“**TWG Tea**”), a subsidiary of public listed OSIM International Ltd, in HC/S 799/2017. TWG Tea is a home-grown brand famous for its luxury tea boutiques and salons. The action was started TWG Tea against a former office holder and shareholder of TWG Tea (“**Defendant**”) for the return of TWG Tea domain name. Also acted for TWG Tea and two of its office holders in the counterclaim brought by the Defendant for malicious falsehood, unjust enrichment and conspiracy.
- Acted as lead counsel representing Sentosa Development Corporation, a statutory board, in Suit 1084/2014, in an action

- involving the use of the well-known SENTOSA trade mark. This action also involves Rule 13 of the Trade Mark Rules, governing, *inter alia*, the registration of a mark which bears the name or initials of any government body or statutory board.
- Acted as lead counsel representing Novartis AG and its subsidiary Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd in 2 ongoing actions, Suit 1298/2014 and Suit 44/2015, under Section 12A of the Medicines Act, involving patents in relation to the drug with the active ingredient imatinib and marketed under the brand name GLIVEC®.
 - Acted as lead counsel in a patent infringement action involving an invention relating to drugs for breast cancer treatments (Suit No. 305/2010/Y). Tony represented the patent owner, leading global pharmaceutical company Aventis Pharma S.A. and Sanofi-Aventis Singapore Pte Ltd. Both companies are subsidiaries of the Sanofi-Aventis Group. The drug involved, TAXOTERE®, forms the subject matter of the patents involved in the litigation, and is one of the Group's leading oncology drug available in more than 100 countries.
 - Successfully assisted to represent the client in Suit 703/2008/X concerning disputes over defamation, malicious falsehood and shareholdings in an Indonesian listed company in the coal mining business. In the recent Court of Appeal decision in *Low Tuck Kwong v Sukamto Sia* [2013] SGCA 61, the Court of Appeal reversed the Trial Judge's decision on several aspects in the client's favour.
 - Successfully represented a Singapore listed company in Suit 207/2009 against the company's ex-chief executive officer for alleged breach of director's duties in the High Court decision of *Scintronix Corp Ltd (formerly known as TTL Holdings Ltd) v Ho Kang Peng and another* [2013] SGHC 34. The Court of Appeal affirmed the High Court's decision in *Ho Kang Peng v Scintronix Corp Ltd* [2014] SGCA 22.
 - Successfully represented the client to amend the patent in litigation in the Singapore High Court decision of *Novartis AG and Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd v Ranbaxy (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd* [2012] SGHC 253.
 - Acted as lead counsel in an application by Aventis Pharma S.A and Sanofi-Aventis Singapore Pte Ltd in Originating Summons 991/2011/L for a Court determination under Section 16(1B)(c) of the Medicines Act (Cap 176) on issues concerning patent declarations made by another pharmaceutical company to the Health Sciences Authority of Singapore for product licenses. TAXOTERE® is also the drug which forms the subject matter of the patents involved.
 - Acted as lead counsel representing Novartis AG and its subsidiary Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd in a patent infringement action involving an invention relating to drugs for hypertension treatment, involving the drug VALSARTAN® in Suit 150/2011/R, Suit 1085/2012/G and Suit 537/2013
 - Representing a client in a dispute involving a joint venture agreement for the development of a plant to produce upgraded coal in Suit 940/2011/N.

ACCOLADES

Chambers Asia-Pacific
Intellectual Property
2019 – Band 1

Band 2 (2009 to 2018)

Clients say that Tony is "a seasoned patent litigator".



Tony Yeo

"He quickly understands complex IP issues and is able to convey them in a way that is easy to understand," adding: *"He understands the client's needs and delivers results that meet the company's strategy and goals. He is also very creative and thinks outside the box."*

"He is extremely hands-on, clear in his thinking, has foresight and draws a lot of perspective from his past experience to evaluate the next steps,"

"...with Tony we are well informed, and he always walks in with a sound plan which makes it easy to make an informed decision."

"[Tony] leverages on his strong healthcare and life sciences sector expertise and regularly acts for major pharmaceutical clients in notable patent infringement disputes."

"A highly reputed litigator in the IP practice who is described as both "hugely enthusiastic" and "very commercial.""

"A very confident individual who always stays on top of the situation."

Managing Intellectual Property

Voted an IP Star 2018 – Patent litigation, Patent prosecution, Trade mark litigation, Trade mark prosecution

"Tony is responsive, quick thinking and highly practical in his advice."

"First class service and quality work"

"Tony [Yeo] is charming, knowledgeable, and has a knack of explaining things simply and in the context of the overall strategy. He is an effective litigator and is incisive in cross-examinations."

The Asia Pacific Legal 500

Intellectual Property 2019 – Leading individual for 9 consecutive years

Dispute Resolution 2018 – Recommended lawyer

Sources say that Tony is "a fantastic strategist and a great litigator"

"Diligent, sound in judgment and pragmatic in approach"

"One of the foremost lawyers in Drew & Napier's excellent litigation practice with in-depth knowledge of IP-related issues"

Asialaw Leading Lawyers

Intellectual Property; Dispute Resolution 2018 – Market-Leading Lawyer for 2 consecutive years



Client feedback (2017): "Market-leading lawyer Tony Yeo's "strategic thinking, honesty and timely responsiveness"... (is) prized by clients."

Who's Who Legal

Life Sciences 2019 – Leading Lawyer for 9 consecutive years

"Tony Yeo is recommended across our life sciences chapters for his wide-ranging expertise in the area."

Patents 2018 – Leading Lawyer for 5 consecutive years

Trademarks 2018 – Leading Lawyer for 2 consecutive years

Clients say Tony is a "formidable litigator" who is "extremely knowledgeable in IP matters".

He impresses with his "ability to balance commercial considerations with effective legal strategies".

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2018 edition

Recommended lawyer for Dispute Resolution in 2018

Clients say: "Tony is responsive, commercially aware and a skilled advocate"

World Trade Mark Review 1000

Enforcement and Litigation 2019 – Recommended individual for 2 consecutive years

Sources commend Tony's "efficient delivery" of "well-informed" strategies.

IAM Patent 1000

Recommended individual in litigation and transactions in 2018

"Famed for its strength in disputes, the firm boasts no shortage of star litigators – and Tony Yeo stands out among them. A courtroom sharpshooter with over 25 years' experience in patent litigation..."

Tony Yeo [is] "one of the most outstanding IP litigators in Southeast Asia"; "Tony has all the characteristics that make up the perfect outside counsel; he understands your business needs and goals, and precisely tailors his advice and strategy to meet these. Extremely resourceful, he thinks outside the box while delivering clear and direct advice that enables quick decisions to be made."

Life sciences captain Tony Yeo "keeps competitors on their toes" in hotly contested disputes between big pharma combatants. "Clients adore the highly intelligent Tony Yeo; his facility for grasping the technicalities of a case means that he always quickly addresses the real problem."

World IP Review

Identified as a leading practitioner in IP in 2017



Asia IP Experts 2018

Listed as a leading individual for 3 consecutive years in IP Enforcement, Patents, and Litigation

Listed as a leading individual for Pharma & Biotech for 6 consecutive years

ILO Client Choice Awards

Winner of the Singapore Healthcare & Life Sciences Award 2013

Asian Legal Business

Ranked among other lawyers in ALB's Hot 100

- “Legislating medical devices in Singapore” in *Financier Worldwide: Biotechnology & Life Sciences e-Book 2010*

APPOINTMENTS/MEMBERSHIPS

- IP Adjudicator at the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) from April 2019 for a two-year term
- President, International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) – Singapore Group
- Honorary legal counsel, Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA)
- Honorary legal counsel, Singapore Advertisers Association
- Member, Singapore Patent Agents Examination Board at IPOS
- Member, Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) Disciplinary Committee
- Member, Supreme Court Pleadings Precedent Selection Committee - Intellectual Property
- Member, Law Society's Inquiry Panel and Disciplinary Tribunal
- Member, Asian Patent Attorneys Association
- Member, International Trademark Association

PUBLICATIONS

- The Singapore chapter of *Practical Law Company – Life Sciences Global Guide* 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017
- The Singapore chapter of *Life Sciences, Getting the Deal Through*, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- “Developments in Singapore's Healthcare Regulatory Landscape” in *Asian Legal Business November 2013*
- The Singapore chapter of “*Global Pharmacovigilance Laws & Regulations: The Essential Reference*” published by the Food & Drug Law Institute, which has been described as a “groundbreaking book” and a “landmark guide”