



Tony Yeo
Managing Director, Intellectual Property
Director, Dispute Resolution
Head, Healthcare & Life Sciences

LL.B. (Hons), National University of Singapore

Admitted to the Singapore Bar (1992)

T: +65 6531 2512 F: +65 6532 0324 E: tony.yeo@drewnapier.com

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 and Novartis; 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 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, including a counterclaim by Ila Technologies Pte Ltd to revoke Element Six Technologies Ltd's patents in the Singapore High Court.
- Representing Golden Village Multiplex Pte Ltd ("Golden Village"), Singapore's leading cinema operator, in HC/S 1155/2019, in a suit commenced by Composers and Authors Society of Singapore Limited ("COMPASS") in relation to the payment of royalties for the public performance of musical works in the films screened at Golden Village's cinemas. The suit includes a counterclaim by Golden Village for breach of contract and misrepresentation by COMPASS.
- Acting as lead counsel representing Novartis AG and Novartis (Singapore) Pte Ltd in an ongoing patent infringement action (HC/Suit 1062/2019) involving a patent in relation to the drug with the active ingredient imatinib and marketed under the brand name GLIVEC®. Also acted as lead counsel in relation to the same drug in HC/S 1298/2014, HC/S 44/2015, HC/S 1061/2015, HC/S 685/2016, HC/S 784/2017 and HC/S 1035/2018.
- Represented Becton Dickinson Medical (S) Pte Ltd ("Becton Dickinson"), a global leading medical technology company, in a patent infringement suit commenced by B. Braun Melsungen AG ("B. Braun") in HC/Suit 655/2018, in relation to medical

catheters. Becton Dickinson had also resisted B. Braun's application to amend its patent in Suit and had counterclaimed for, *inter alia*, a declaration of non-infringement and a declaration that B. Braun's patent is invalid. This suit was part of ongoing litigation and contentious proceedings in various jurisdictions between Becton Dickinson and B. Braun.

- Successfully represented 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 successfully represented TWG Tea and two of its office holders in the counterclaim brought by the Defendant for malicious falsehood, unjust enrichment and conspiracy. On 3 May 2019, the High Court rendered Judgment in favour of TWG Tea for its claims for its domain name and dismissed all of the Defendant's counterclaims against TWG Tea and two of its office holders ([2019] SGHC 117).
- 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. This included advising Sentosa Development Corporation on related trade mark revocation and invalidation proceedings before IPOS.
- Acted as lead counsel for Aventis Pharma S.A. and Sanofi-Aventis Singapore Pte Ltd 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 and the exclusive licensee. 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 Sukanto 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 *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.
- Advised Health Promotion Board on matters like the use of a slogan during Health Promotion Board's marketing campaign and issues related to contractual breaches.

ACCOLADES

Chambers Asia-Pacific
Intellectual Property 2020
– Band 1 for 2
consecutive years



Band 2 (2009 to 2018)

Sources say that *“You can take comfort knowing that Tony is at the wheel when driving forward your litigation in uncharted legal landscapes.”*

Tony is *“a seasoned patent litigator”*.

“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 2019 –
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 2020
– Leading individual for 10
consecutive years

Dispute Resolution 2018 –
Recommended lawyer



‘Tony Yeo is an absolutely first-class litigator. Amazing in the court room. He is not only able to provide high-level strategic advice, but is able to also zoom in and pick up on the minute details. Great depth of knowledge.’

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

2020 - Elite Practitioner for 3
consecutive years



Tony Yeo is recommended
by his client for his *“great depth of knowledge. Very savvy. Fantastic litigator.”*

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 2020 – Leading Lawyer for 7
consecutive years

Trademarks 2019 – Leading Lawyer for 3
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 2019 edition

Identified as a Dispute Resolution Star in Intellectual Property



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

Ranked gold band in litigation in 2019

"Managing director of intellectual property Tony Yeo is most at home when resolving intricate patent disputes on behalf of major clients in the healthcare and life sciences arenas. Renowned for his silver-tongued advocacy, Yeo is a master of cross-border and technically advanced patent infringement suits."

"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."*

Asia Business Law Journal

Identified as one of Singapore's Top 100 lawyers 2019

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

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 Life Sciences, *Getting the Deal Through*, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2020
- The Singapore chapter of *Practical Law Company* – Life Sciences Global Guide 2013, 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”
- “Legislating medical devices in Singapore” in *Financier Worldwide: Biotechnology & Life Sciences e-Book 2010*