



# Ian Liu

## Partner | Intellectual Property | Hong Kong

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### Ian is a Partner in the Patent and Designs, and China IP Practices.

Ian is admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong and is also a UK Chartered patent attorney and Chinese patent attorney. In addition, Ian has obtained the Legal Professional Qualification Certificate Examination of the People's Republic of China making him qualified in both common law and civil law jurisdictions. He is also qualified to practice in the Greater Bay Area with the GBA Legal Professional Qualification.

Ian holds an MSc in Technology and Policy, an MSc in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT. and a BEng (1st Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Imperial College, London. Ian worked in the software industry prior to joining the legal profession and his background in IT and fintech makes him one of the very few lawyers in Hong Kong with solid technology and patent skills.

Prior to starting his career at Deacons, Ian worked in the hi-tech software industry with TIBCO Finance Technology (a Silicon Valley-based company) and was a financial software consultant with Reuters.

Ian has been advising on cross-border IP litigation and enforcement, and commercial matters with a focus on China and new technology, for over a decade. Ian's wide ranging practice covers complex patent litigation and enforcement, trade mark anti-counterfeiting, software and copyright protection, commercial IP and technology transfer, cybersecurity risk and data protection, hi-tech M&A work including IP due diligence, technology licensing negotiation and acquisition. In particular, drawing on his computer science and electronic engineering background, Ian advises on cutting edge IT issues including IT security, blockchain, cryptocurrencies, AI and NFTs.

Ian also advises universities, its technology transfer offices and R&D entities in Hong Kong extensively on various technical commercial IP matters including software and copyright protection, technology transfer, as well as matters in relation to patent assignment, licensing agreements and ownership disputes.

### Highlights

- Advising a statutory body in relation to touchless technology including infringement analysis and assessing validity of existing patents.
- Advising a Hong Kong Company in patent enforcement in the UK against a major international conglomerate.
- Advised a global nanotech company on patent infringement, anti-unfair competition and trade secret actions in Mainland China, including advising on investigations and evidence preservation for actions before local Intellectual Property Offices and PRC Courts, and defending invalidations before the Patent Re-examination Board.
- Acted for a well-known UK automotive company in a landmark design invalidation action in China involving the determination of general consumers and design freedom, evaluation of the overall impression for innovative design features and common design features, the significance of the side view and front view of a car design, and the non-obviousness requirement of a patentable design.
- Advised a famous Japanese electronics and electrical appliances company in relation to potential patent claims and standard essential patent licensing involving 4.5G LTE telecommunication technologies in China.
- Advised a Chinese private equity fund on the US \$1.8 billion acquisition of the worldwide IP and technology relating to the power amplifier business of a well-known Netherlands semiconductor company including due diligence on the patents and technology acquired and negotiating on the IP, technology transfer and licence agreements.
- Advised a joint venture between 3 major stock exchanges on legal issues arising from

### Principal Areas

- Intellectual Property
  - Copyright
  - Designs
  - Enforcement and Litigation
  - Internet and Online Business
  - IP Commercial Advisory
  - Patents
  - Trade Marks
  - Trade Secrets and Confidential Information

### Sectors

- Art
- FinTech
- Technology, Media and Telecom

### Languages

- English
- Cantonese
- Mandarin

### Jurisdictions

- Hong Kong





developing and franchising index-linked and other equity derivatives in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

- Advised a global cosmetic company in China on privacy issues including its privacy policy, data transfer, online collection of personal information online and data exchange with e-payment platforms.
- Advised an offshore e-platform targeting Chinese customers on compliance with the Cybersecurity Law.

## More about Ian Liu

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### Accolades

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- **Legal 500**
  - Recommended Lawyer, TMT, Hong Kong (2021– 2025)
  - Recommended Lawyer, IP, China (Foreign Firm) (2021– 2024)
  - Next Generation Partner, IP, China (Foreign Firm) (2017– 2020)
- **IAM Patent 1000**
  - Leading Individual, Patent Litigation, Hong Kong (2018–2024)
  - Leading Individual, Patent Transactions, Hong Kong (2021–2024)
- **IAM Global Leaders**
  - Leading Individual in Hong Kong (2025)
- **ManagingIP**
  - Patent Star, Hong Kong (2023–2024)
  - Notable Practitioner, Hong Kong (2021–2022)
  - Rising Star (2018)
- **WTR 1000**
  - Recommended Individuals, Transactions, Hong Kong (2023–2024)

### Appointments/Memberships

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- Member, The International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI)
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA)
- Member, All-China Patent Attorneys Association (中国专利律师协会) (ACPAA)
- Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)
- Member, The Institution of Engineering and Technology (The IET)
- Member, The Law Society of Hong Kong

### Education

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- Passed Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Qualification Examination (2022)
- PCLL, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- LL.B (Hons), The University of London, UK
- PG Cert. Intellectual Property, Bournemouth University, UK
- M.Sc. Degree in Technology and Policy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
- M. Sc. Degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US
- B. Eng. (1st Hons), The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, UK

### Recent Activities

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Ian was recently quoted in a China Daily Hong Kong article titled, “[Art tech – it’s all in the race](#)” where he shared his insights on non-fungible tokens (NFTs) regarding the intellectual property rights associated with digital works and third party intellectual property infringement risks.

