

특허법원

IP HIGH COURT OF KOREA

Where Creativity Meets Fairness
IP High Court of Korea

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Welcome to the IP High Court of Korea

Today, intellectual property is a key driver of technological innovation and industrial development. To foster innovation and maintain fair competition, intellectual property disputes must be resolved promptly and fairly.

The IP High Court of Korea was established to meet this need as the nation's only court specializing in intellectual property. Since opening its doors in 1998, the Court has played a leading role in advancing intellectual property justice in Korea, specializing in actions to revoke administrative decisions concerning patents, utility models, trademarks, designs, and plant variety protection rights. Its role expanded in 2016, when it assumed exclusive jurisdiction over civil appeals concerning these rights, in addition to its existing jurisdiction over actions to revoke administrative decisions.

Expertise and predictability are central to intellectual property adjudication. Disputes involving advanced technologies require a thorough understanding of the technology and careful examination of the facts. The Court brings together judges with diverse academic backgrounds and experience in intellectual property cases, supported by a specialized system that includes judicial technical examiners and judicial professional examiners. This ensures that its adjudication is grounded in both legal and technical expertise. Through its *Rules of Practice*, the Court also seeks to make proceedings timely and predictable by clarifying the issues early and examining them efficiently.

Intellectual property disputes increasingly cross national borders. In response, the Court is expanding the use of international video hearings, enabling parties abroad to participate in hearings remotely. Through the International IP Law Research Center, it also continues to strengthen cooperation with courts, international organizations, and research institutions around the world. Becoming an internationally trusted forum for intellectual property disputes, serving companies and individuals worldwide, is a central goal of the Court.

In the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies continually present new possibilities and challenges for intellectual property law. The Court strives to understand these evolving technologies and to develop legal principles that respond to the needs of our time. We are committed to protecting innovation, ensuring fair competition, and leading the future development of intellectual property adjudication.

This brochure introduces the Court's organization and jurisdiction, trial and hearing procedures, notable decisions, and international cooperation activities. I hope it offers a clearer understanding of the role and vision of the IP High Court. We look forward to your continued interest and support. Thank you.

HAN Kyu-Hyun
Chief Judge of the IP High Court of Korea



"The IP High Court will be a trusted source of strength for innovation and creativity in our society."

Vice Chief Judge

Taeksoo JUNG

Greetings. I am Taeksoo JUNG, Vice Chief Judge of the IP High Court of Korea, and I am delighted to welcome you through this brochure. We have redesigned this brochure and enriched its content to give readers a more vivid sense of the Court and its work.

As intellectual property disputes increasingly cross national borders, major countries around the world are competing to build courts that earn international trust. We take pride in the strides the IP High Court of Korea has made toward the future as a forum for open and flexible thinking, but we will not rest on our achievements. We will continue to shape the resolution of intellectual property disputes and lead the development of international standards. To this end, we will refine our procedures to ensure thorough adjudication informed by specialized expertise and strengthen our international standing through conferences and comparative legal research. Above all, amid the profound changes and complexities brought about by new technologies and ideas, the Court will provide reliable standards for judicial decision-making. The IP High Court, as a specialized court, will be a trusted source of strength for innovation and creativity in our society.

Each day, our judges strive to deliver timely and fair justice, mindful of the weight of tradition and the responsibilities of our time, and guided by trust and respect for their colleagues. Alongside them, all members of the Court quietly carry out their duties with dedication and pride in contributing to its distinguished history. I close with a humble request for your continued interest in and encouragement of these individuals, whose daily work and commitment are so worthy of recognition and support.

Behind the timely and fair administration of justice at the IP High Court are the members of our Administration Bureau, who quietly and faithfully carry out their duties. The courtroom doors open on time, case records are managed with meticulous accuracy, and our international conferences are brought to life before a global audience thanks to your care and dedication.

Each and every one of you is a precious pillar supporting this Court: the directors of the divisions, who provide steady leadership; the judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers, who bring specialized insight to the facts of each case; the heads of the sections, who take responsibility for their respective areas of expertise; the clerks of court, who serve on the front lines of judicial proceedings; the administrative officers, who provide the foundations for our organization; and the administrative clerks, who readily take on tasks large and small.

Your hard work is the source of the Court's strength as it earns the public's trust and advances onto the world stage. Having witnessed your diligence and dedication firsthand, I am deeply grateful and, as Director General of the Administration Bureau, immensely proud of you.

I will listen to your voices and work to create an environment in which you can take pride in what you do. United by mutual trust and warm friendship, we will together build the world's leading IP High Court.
To every member of the Administration Bureau who continues to serve with quiet dedication each day, I offer these words with deep respect and warm appreciation.

"United by mutual trust and warm friendship, we will together build the world's leading IP High Court."



Director General of
the Administration Bureau

Jun-oh JIN

Overview

Mission & Strategy

History

Jurisdiction

Structure of IP Litigation

IP High Court in Numbers



Mission & Strategy

Mission

Fully Establishing the IP Hub Court

Delivering world-class IP adjudication that is prompt, fair, and predictable

Becoming the Court of Choice for IP Companies

Creating an environment where IP rights holders and their competitors can coexist in the marketplace

Strategy

Strengthening K-IP Adjudicative Capabilities

Ensuring Predictable and Transparent Proceedings

- Establishing and expanding the use of the *Rules of Practice*
- Operating AI pilot divisions

Strengthening Expertise in Civil Appeals

- Sharing experience in handling infringement cases and enhancing the efficiency of issue identification
- Promoting mediation in infringement cases

Enhancing Technical Expertise in Adjudication

- Strengthening the capabilities of judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers
- Reorganizing the Advisory Council on Science & Technology and the Judicial Professional Examiner Recommendation Committee

Building K-IP Court

Expanding Access to Justice for Global Companies

- Conducting international video hearings
- Laying the groundwork for international mediation

Expanding the Role of the International IP Law Research Center (IIPLRC)

- Publishing the latest IP research reports
- Advancing judicial cooperation with WIPO and providing judgments in English

Promoting International Exchange

- Working toward the establishment of K-IP Week
- Strengthening exchange and cooperation with WIPO and other international organizations

K-IP Engagement

Listening to and Supporting the IP Community

- Listening to opinions at the Intellectual Property Policy Forum

Supporting the Next Generation of IP Professionals

- Providing lectures and education for KAIST students
- Hosting the Intellectual Property Litigation Moot Court Competition

Systematizing Online Archive Management

- Promptly publishing decisions online and providing materials in Korean and English

History

1998 03.01.
Opening of the IP High Court (in the Seoul High Court building)
Establishment pursuant to the amended Court Organization Act promulgated on July 27, 1994.
Inauguration of Kong-Woong CHOI as the First Chief Judge



2000 03.01.
Relocation to the Daejeon Court Complex



2003 09.01.
Relocation to the current IP High Court building

2005 11.21.
Expansion to four judicial divisions

2010 03.24.
Enactment (Promulgation) of the Act on the Use of Electronic Documents in Civil Litigation
First Court in Korea to Introduce Electronic Litigation



2013 10.21.~10.22.
Korea-US IP Judicial Conference

2015 10.14.~10.15.
1st International IP Court Conference

2016 02.22.
Expansion to five judicial divisions

09.01.
Establishment of the procedural guidelines for actions to revoke IPTAB decisions in the IP High Court

2017 05.23.
Opening of the International IP Law Research Center (the judiciary's first research center within a court)

2018 04.28.
International Symposium Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the IP High Court



06.13.
Establishment of the International Division

09.01.
Establishment of the procedural guidelines for actions to revoke IPTAB decisions and civil appeals in the IP High Court

2019 01.25.
First international case
- 2017Heo3720



2020 02.07.
Second international case
- 2019Heo4147

2021 11.17.
Expanded implementation of video hearings

2024 11.06.~11.07.
10th International IP Court Conference



2025 02.10.
Inauguration of HAN Kyu-Hyun as the 23rd Chief Judge of the Court

07.11.
Comprehensive revision and distribution of the *Rules of Practice for Civil Appellate Trial in the IP High Court of Korea*

11.07.
Revision and distribution of the *Rules of Practice for Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions in the IP High Court of Korea*

11.12.
Third international case
- 2024Heo14780

Fourth international case
- 2024Heo14803

2026 03.
Operation of AI Pilot Divisions

Jurisdiction

Territorial Jurisdiction

Among Korea's high courts and district courts, the IP High Court alone has nationwide jurisdiction. Actions to revoke IPTAB decisions, as well as appeals from first-instance judgments in cases involving infringement of patent rights, utility model rights, design rights, trademark rights, and plant variety protection rights (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Patent Rights, etc."), must be brought before the IP High Court of Korea.

Jurisdiction by Court Level

1. First-Instance Proceedings in Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions

Actions to revoke IPTAB decisions are lawsuits challenging decisions issued by the IPTAB and fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the IP High Court. A party dissatisfied with a judgment of the IP High Court may appeal to the Supreme Court. Accordingly, litigation challenging IPTAB decisions follows a two-tier court system: the IP High Court → the Supreme Court.

2. Infringement Cases Involving Patent Rights, etc.

Since January 1, 2016, the IP High Court of Korea has had jurisdiction over appeals in infringement cases involving Patent Rights, etc. These cases therefore follow a three-tier court system: the competent district court (Seoul Central, Busan, Daegu, Gwangju, Daejeon, or Suwon District Court) → the IP High Court → the Supreme Court.

Cases within the Jurisdiction of the IP High Court

1. Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions

The IP High Court hears first-instance cases prescribed in Article 186(1) of the Patent Act, Article 33 of the Utility Model Act, Article 166(1) of the Design Protection Act, and Article 162(1) of the Trademark Act, as well as cases assigned to its jurisdiction under other statutes, including Article 54(1) of the Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act and Article 103(1) of the Act on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

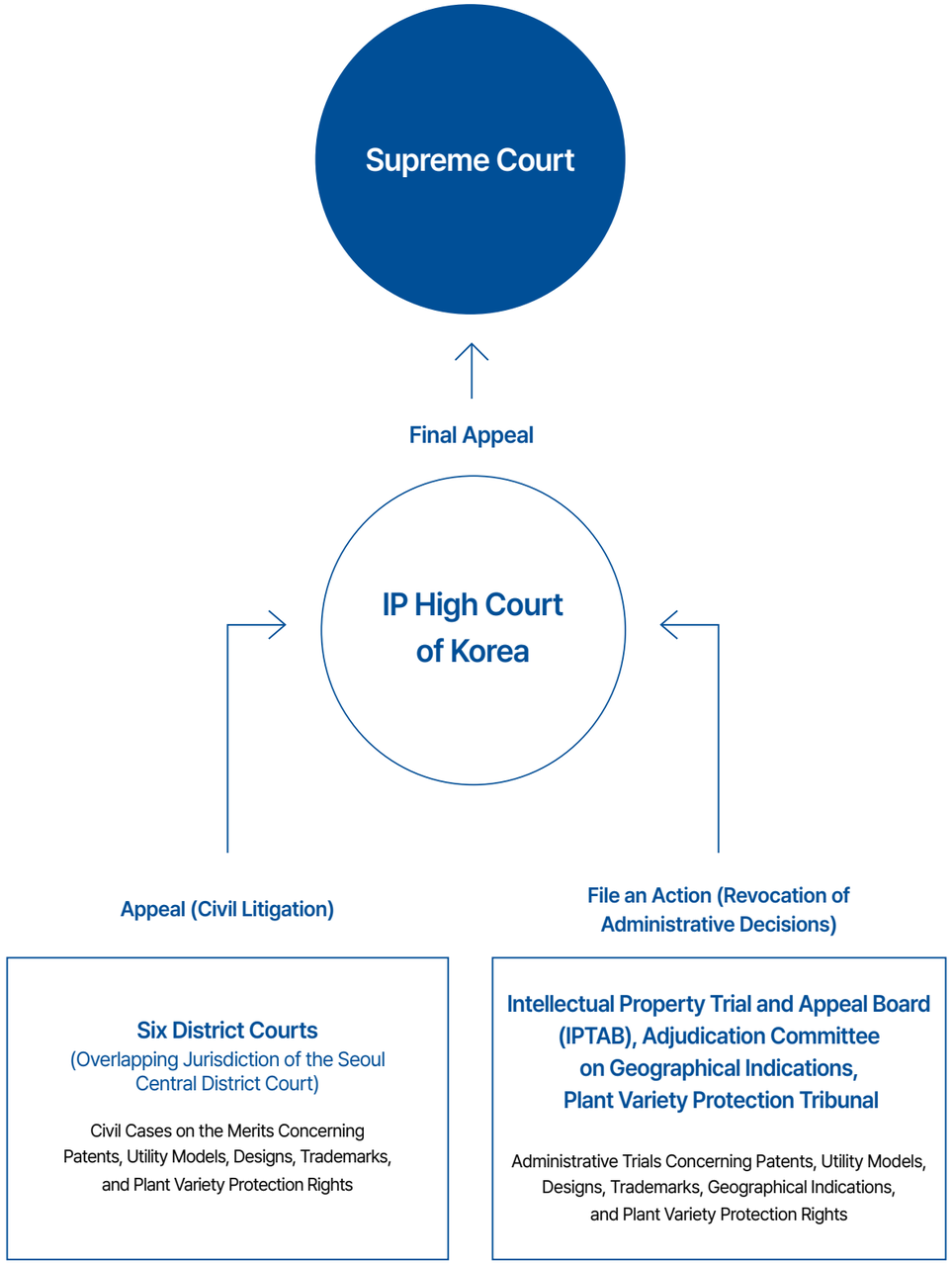
Types of Cases Handled by the IP High Court

- Actions to revoke IPTAB decisions in ex parte proceedings, brought against the Minister of Intellectual Property
- Actions to revoke IPTAB decisions in inter partes proceedings, brought against the registered rights holder or an interested party
- Actions under the Agricultural and Fishery Products Quality Control Act (Article 54(1))
- Actions under the Act on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Article 103(1))

2. Infringement Cases Involving Patent Rights, etc.

The IP High Court hears appeals in cases concerning patent rights, utility model rights, design rights, trademark rights, and plant variety protection rights.

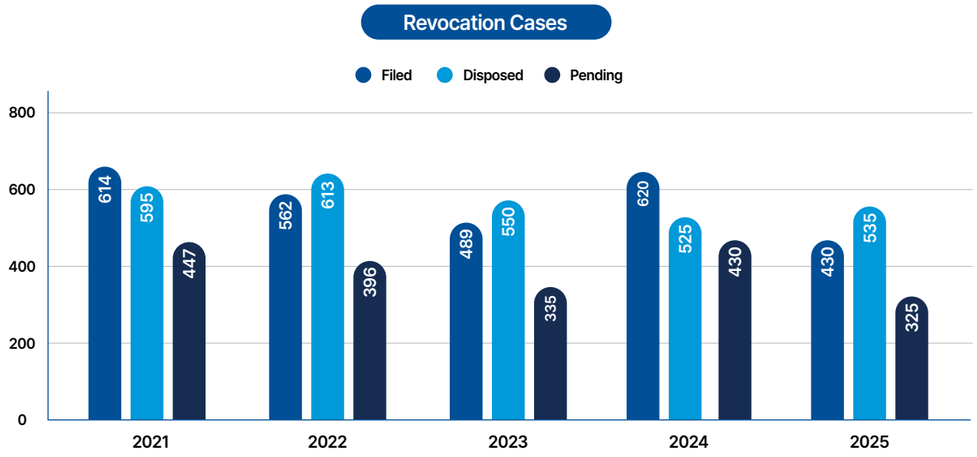
Structure of IP Litigation



IP High Court in Numbers

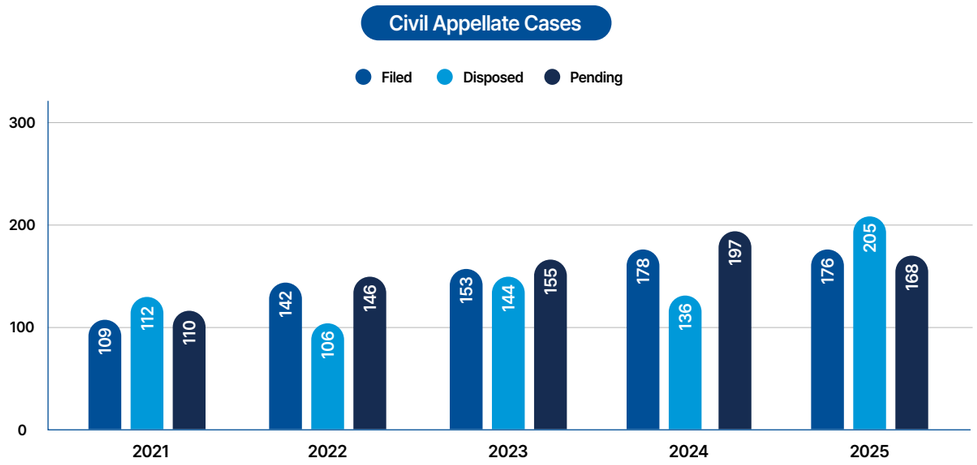
Unit: Cases

Cases Filed, Disposed of, and Pending



Five-Year Total

Filed **2,715** Disposed **2,818**

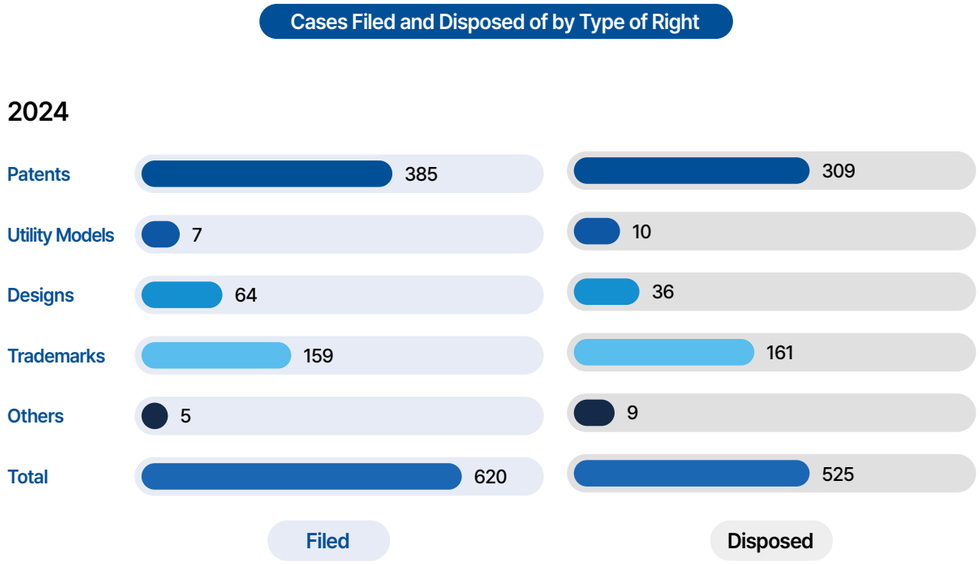


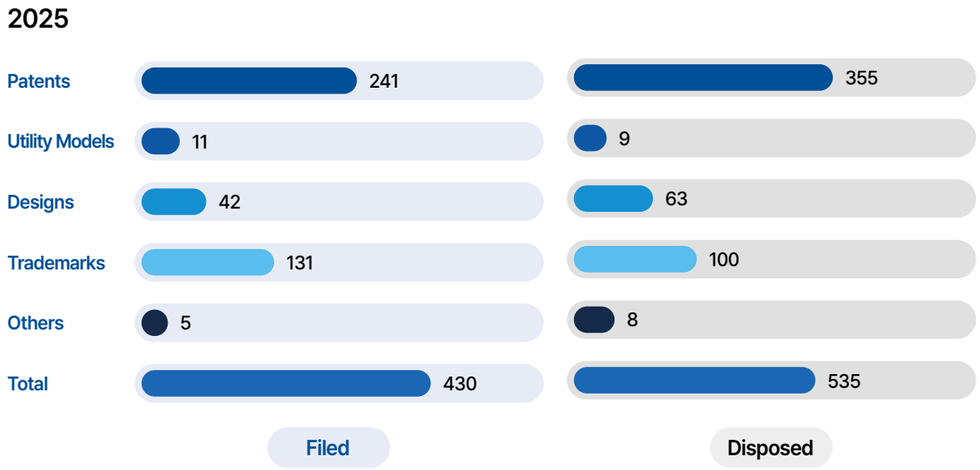
Five-Year Total

Filed **758** Disposed **703**

Unit: Cases

Revocation of IPTAB Decisions: Cases Filed and Disposed of by Type of Right

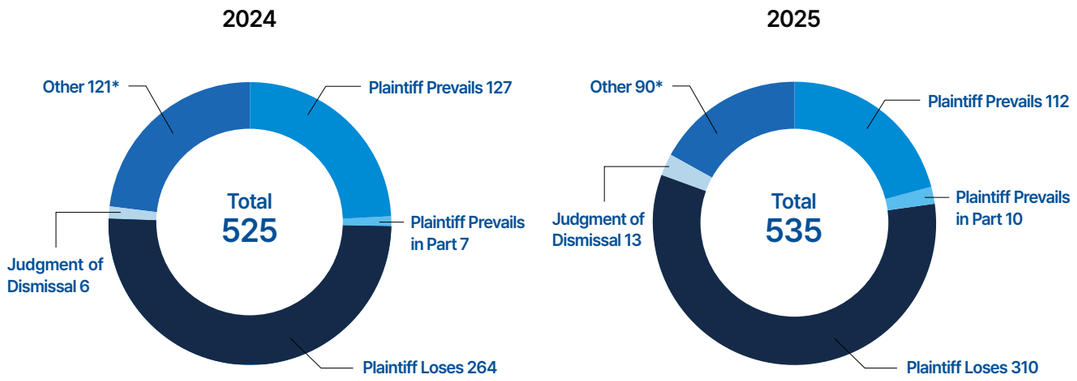




Cases Disposed of by Final Outcome

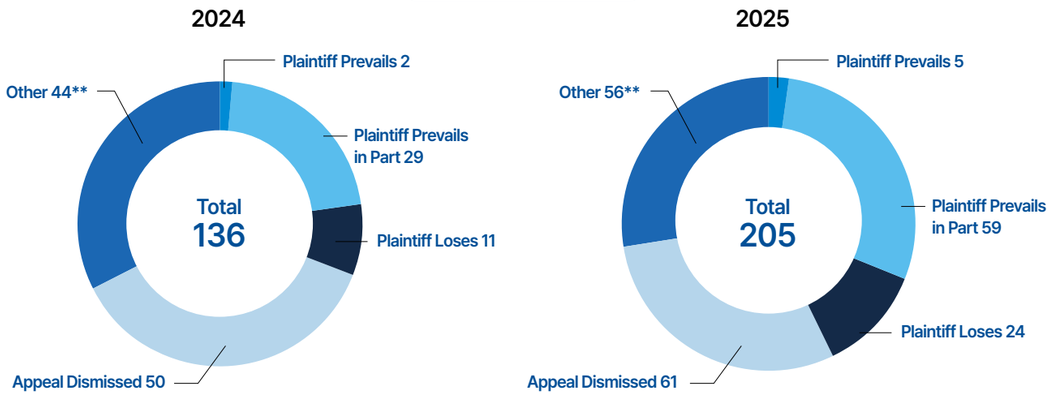
Unit: Cases

Revocation Cases



* "Other" includes withdrawal of the action, deemed withdrawal of the action, orders dismissing the complaint, etc.

Civil Appellate Cases

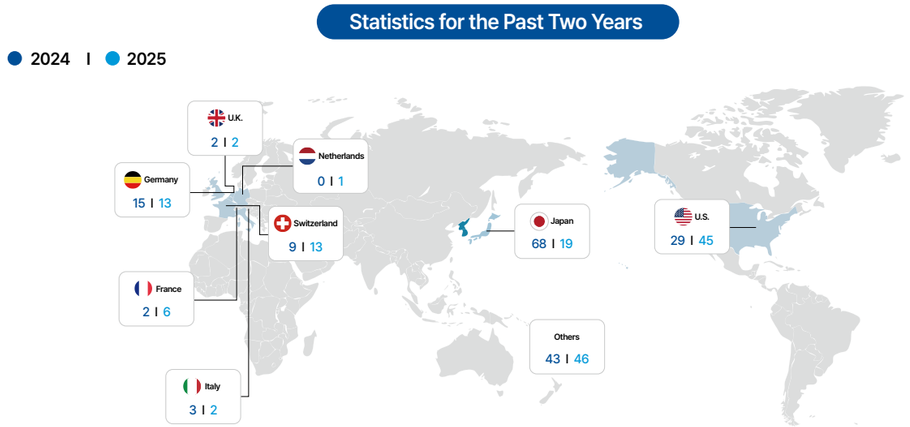


** "Other" includes withdrawal of the action, withdrawal of the appeal, transfer, decisions recommending settlement, judgments of dismissal on procedural grounds, etc.

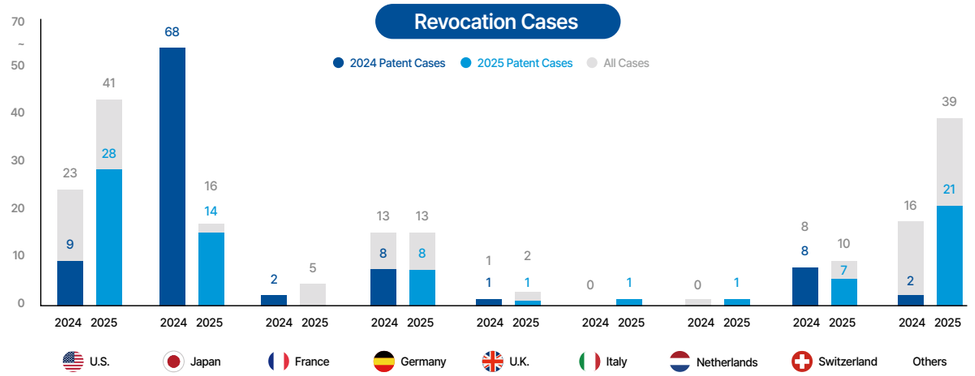
Cases Involving Foreign Parties

Unit: Persons (including legal entities)

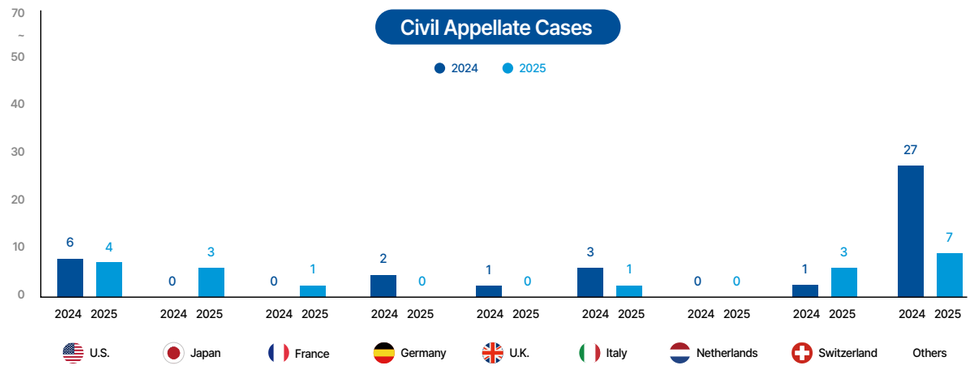
Statistics for the Past Two Years



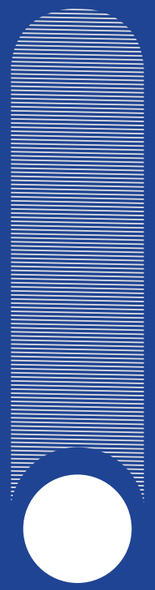
Revocation Cases

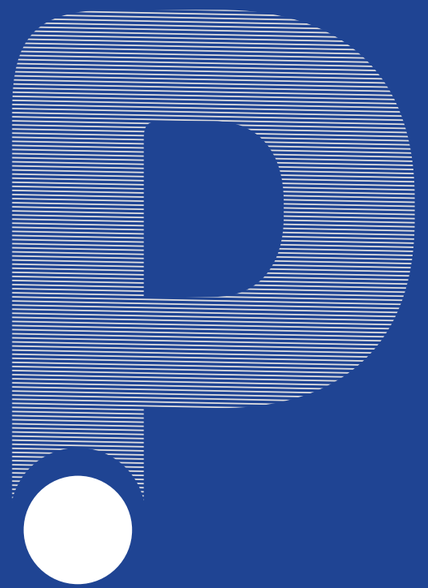


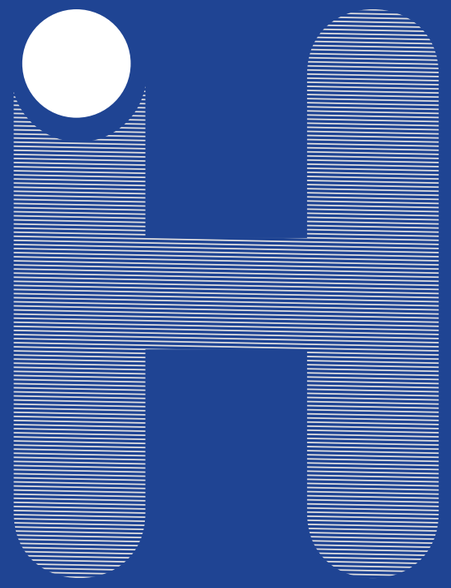
Civil Appellate Cases

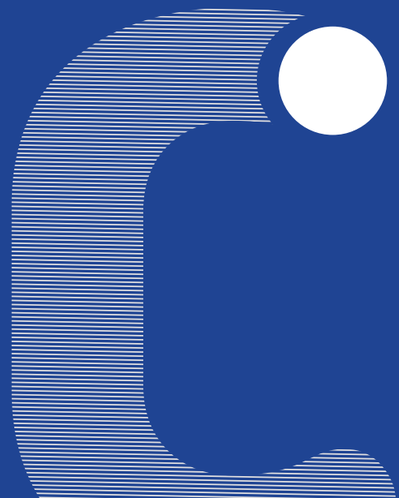


Organization



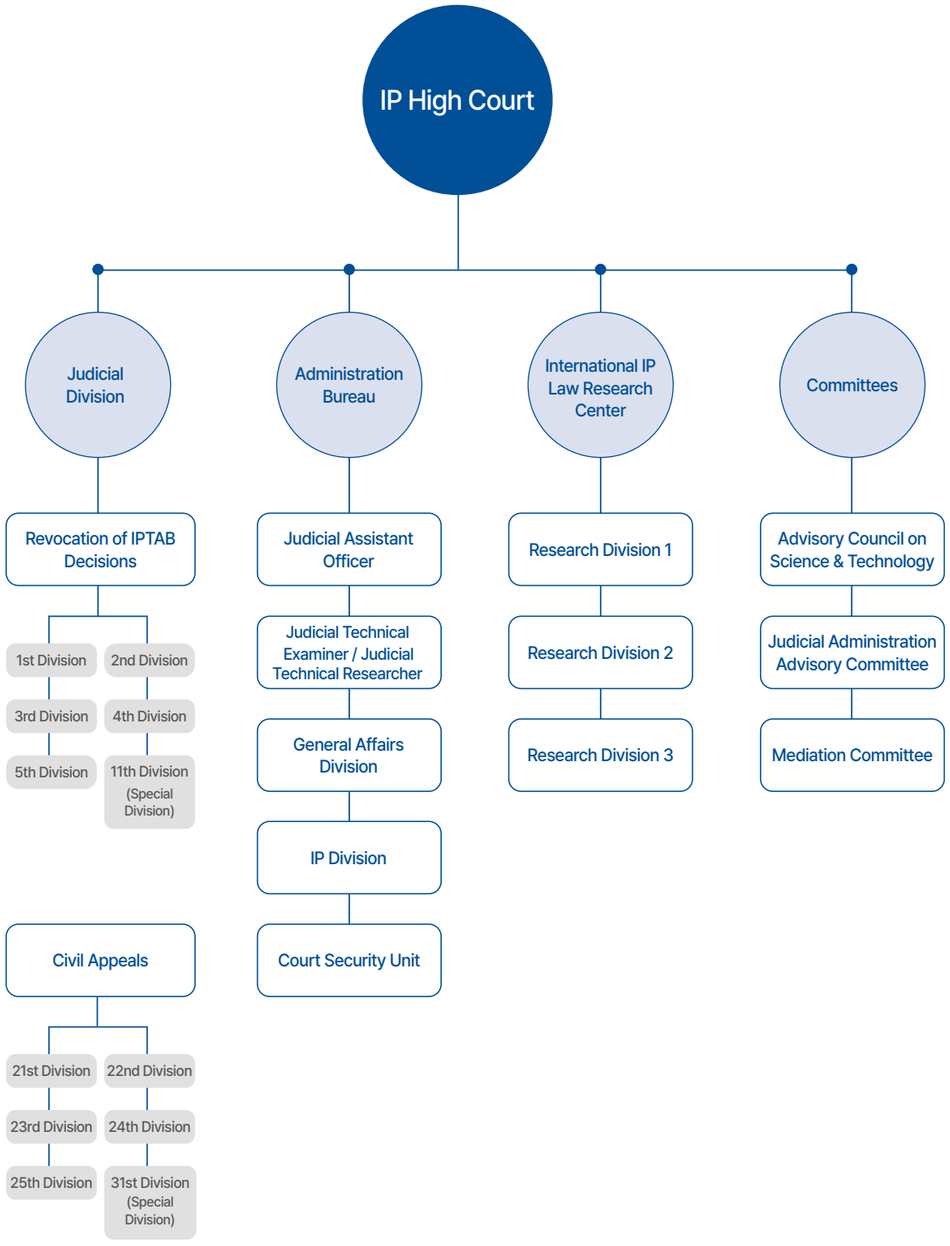






Organization Chart & Staffing
Judicial Divisions
Law Clerks
Administration Bureau
International IP Law Research Center
Judicial Administration Advisory Committee
Advisory Council on Science & Technology
Mediation Committee
External Mediation Institutions

Organization Chart



Staffing

(as of July 1, 2026)

Personnel by Job Category

Judges	17
Judicial Technical Examiners and Judicial Technical Researchers	22
General Staff	49
Law Clerks	5
International IP Law Research Center	4
Court Security Officers	8
	105

Judges by Category

Category	Number	Academic Background
Chief Judge of a High Court	1	Science/Engineering/Natural Sciences: 3 Humanities/Social Sciences: 8 Both Science/Engineering and Humanities: 6
Presiding Judges Specialized in IP Cases (High Court Judges of the IP High Court)	7	
Presiding Judges on Rotational Assignment (High Court Judges of the Seoul High Court)	2	
Judges on Rotational Assignment (Judges of the IP High Court)	7	

Judicial Divisions

The Court has a special division presided over by the Chief Judge, and five divisions, each presided over by a High Court Judge. Each division hears actions to revoke IPTAB decisions and civil appeals.





Law Clerks

Law clerks are assigned to divisions to provide specialized support to judges. Drawing on extensive practical experience in advanced technology industries, including the semiconductor industry, they primarily review civil appeals and actions to revoke administrative decisions concerning design rights, trademarks, and plant variety protection rights. Their duties include preparing research reports and written opinions based on specialized analysis and legal research.

Greetings from the Presiding Judges

The 1st Division is composed of Vice Chief Judge Taeksoo JUNG, High Court Judge Young Gi KIM, and Judge Jihwan NOH. Judge Taeksoo JUNG brings substantial experience, having heard cases at the IP High Court for more than ten years since 2012. Judge Young Gi KIM combines IP expertise with a deep understanding of procedural law and outstanding organizational skills. He also serves as Director of the International IP Law Research Center and played a major role in the comprehensive revision of the Court's *Rules of Practice*. With an academic background in materials engineering, Judge NOH has a strong understanding of patented technologies and shows great promise as a specialist IP judge.

Hyemin KWAK, a law clerk who majored in chemical and biological engineering, provides effective support to the three judges through meticulously prepared reports and written opinions. A total of 22 judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers, including Junghyun HAM, Kyungju CHO, and Sangtae LEE, assist the Division in its examination of cases and technical investigations, providing expertise essential to patent adjudication. The 1st Division will continue striving to earn your trust through a thorough understanding of each case and the fair conduct of proceedings.



[1st Division]
Presiding Judge
Vice Chief Judge
Taeksoo JUNG



[21st Division]
Presiding Judge
High Court Judge
Young Gi KIM

The 21st Division seeks to advance sound judicial practice through in-depth research and rigorous discussion. Guided by a commitment to "predictable proceedings grounded in reasonable and thorough case management conferences," our Presiding Judge works closely with two judges and a law clerk who bring exceptional insight into technology and specialized areas of law.

The team is led by Presiding Judge Young Gi KIM and supported by Judge Jihwan NOH, a mainstay of the Division who carefully analyzes the facts and legal issues; Judge Joung Woon YUN, who balances judicial administration duties with an in-depth examination of cases from multiple perspectives; and Law Clerk Hyemin KWAK, who prepares thorough research reports for each case. Keeping pace with rapidly evolving technology and increasingly complex civil appeals, the 21st Division will strive to strengthen public trust in the judiciary and resolve disputes fairly by conducting hearings that give careful attention to the parties' arguments and delivering timely, well-reasoned decisions.

Alongside the work it shares with the Court's other divisions, our Division is designated as an "International Division," conducting hearings in foreign languages or international video hearings under certain requirements. These procedures enable parties abroad to participate in patent litigation across barriers of time, distance, and language. Recently, our Division was also designated to pilot the use of commercial AI tools in judicial proceedings. With the consent of both parties, we use these tools for limited tasks, such as reviewing background technology and translating foreign-language materials, while assessing the quality of their output and the limits of their use in judicial work.

The members of our Division, particularly High Court Judge Eunhee PARK, Judge Wonmyeong KWON, and our law clerk Youngju LEE, combine knowledge of IP law with technical expertise in various fields, including electrical engineering. They play a central role in strengthening the Division's capacity to adjudicate patent disputes.

We will continue to do our utmost to resolve increasingly sophisticated IP disputes promptly and fairly, grounded in an accurate understanding of the technologies involved.



[2nd/22nd Divisions]
Presiding Judge
High Court Judge
Soyoung HAN



[3rd/23rd Divisions]
Presiding Judge
High Court Judge
Kisu KIM

The IP High Court is one of Korea's leading specialized courts, resolving intellectual property disputes promptly and predictably through an accurate understanding of technology. Given the many cases involving parties from abroad, the Court also closely follows developments in legal principles and practice in international IP litigation, keeping pace with—and at times taking the lead in shaping—global standards.

As Presiding Judge of the 3rd Division, I take pride in this role and feel a strong sense of responsibility. Drawing on the scientific and engineering backgrounds and extensive IP experience of High Court Judge Jiyul AHN and Judge Hyunjung SONG, we will make every effort to deliver even more timely and predictable proceedings and decisions, grounded in a deep understanding of technology and rigorous legal reasoning.

Guided by the IP High Court's commitment to bringing creative technology and fair justice together, our Division seeks to reach sound and reasonable decisions consistent with domestic and international norms and standards. We pursue this goal through timely, fair, and predictable proceedings grounded in a balanced understanding of technology and law.

The members of our Division bring diverse academic backgrounds to their work: Presiding Judge and High Court Judge Sungyop WOO (electronic engineering and law); Judge Hyunhwa LIM (biological sciences); Judge Yongjae SHI (earth and environmental sciences); and Law Clerk Seungwook HWANG (materials science and engineering). These backgrounds give our Division a distinctive combination of technical and judicial expertise.

As intellectual property disputes grow increasingly sophisticated, we remain committed to understanding their varied and complex technical and legal issues accurately and delivering decisions that are firmly grounded in legal principles and earn the trust of the parties.



[4th/24th Divisions]
Presiding Judge
High Court Judge
Sungyop WOO



[5th/25th Divisions]
Presiding Judge
High Court Judge
Jaeryung KIM

As technology advances rapidly, intellectual property disputes are becoming increasingly complex. The IP High Court has resolved these disputes through a deep understanding of technology and expertise built over time. Recognizing the far-reaching impact a single judgment can have on industry and the future of technological development, the Court approaches every case with care.

The 5th Division includes High Court Judge Jiyoung YI and Judge Jaehyeok SUNG, who bring an exceptional understanding of IP adjudication gained from handling cases involving biotechnology and other advanced technologies at the IP High Court and elsewhere. We will listen attentively to the parties while ensuring that disputes are resolved without undue delay, working toward fair outcomes through timely and thorough proceedings.

Judges

as of July 1, 2026

11th Division (Revocation Actions) 31st Division (Civil Appeals)



Chief Judge HAN Kyu-Hyun

1st Division (Revocation Actions)



Vice Chief Judge Taeksoo JUNG



High Court Judge Young Gi KIM



Judge Jihwan NOH

21st Division (Civil Appeals)



High Court Judge Young Gi KIM



Judge Jihwan NOH



Judge Joung Woon YUN

2nd Division (Revocation Actions) 22nd Division (Civil Appeals)



High Court Judge Soyoung HAN



High Court Judge Eunhee PARK



Judge Wonmyeong KWON

3rd Division (Revocation Actions) 23rd Division (Civil Appeals)



High Court Judge Kisu KIM



High Court Judge Jiyul AHN



Judge Hyunjung SONG

4th Division (Revocation Actions) 24th Division (Civil Appeals)



High Court Judge Sungyop WOO



Judge Hyunhwa LIM



Judge Yongjae SHI

5th Division (Revocation Actions) 25th Division (Civil Appeals)



High Court Judge Jaeryung KIM



High Court Judge Jiyoung YI



Judge Jaehyeok SUNG

Civil Mediation



Judge Joung Woon YUN

Administration Bureau

The Administration Bureau supports the judicial divisions and oversees court administration, including administrative affairs, public services, and records management. It comprises the General Affairs Division, the IP Division, judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers, the Court Security Unit, and judicial assistant officers, playing a key role in strengthening expertise in adjudication and improving the efficiency of court administration.

General Affairs Division

Led by its Director, the General Affairs Division oversees the overall operations and day-to-day administration of the IP High Court. The General Affairs Section plans and coordinates major court events and handles personnel administration and audits. The Finance Section prepares the Court's operating budget, ensures transparent expenditure and budget execution, and manages assets and supplies efficiently. The Facilities Management Section maintains courthouse facilities and oversees safety, providing a comfortable and reliable environment for both work and judicial proceedings.



IP Division

The IP Division supports the judicial work of the IP High Court, managing administrative tasks for the special division and five judicial divisions to ensure that proceedings run accurately and promptly. In addition to cases on the merits, it handles applications such as requests for preliminary injunctions. It also receives complaints and other filings, serves judgments, issues certificates, and provides other public services.



Judicial Technical Examiners and Judicial Technical Researchers

The IP High Court maintains a system of judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers to support the examination of IP cases involving Patent Rights, etc., in which technical issues are sharply contested. These technical specialists bring extensive experience and in-depth knowledge across a range of scientific and technological fields, including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, telecommunications, chemistry, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical sciences. They have served as examiners or administrative judges at the Ministry of Intellectual Property, hold master's or doctoral degrees in science or engineering, or are qualified as patent attorneys. Through expert, objective analysis of cases involving technical disputes, they support accurate and prompt adjudication.



Court Security Unit

The Court Security Unit is a specialized security team responsible for keeping the Court safe and maintaining a peaceful environment. It ensures security inside courtrooms during proceedings and protects the courthouse as a whole. By safeguarding judges, court personnel, and visitors, the Unit provides a secure environment for judicial proceedings.



Judicial Assistant Officer

Judicial assistant officers perform court duties relating to proceedings to determine litigation costs and orders for the issuance of execution clauses under the Civil Procedure Act.

International IP Law Research Center

The International IP Law Research Center was established in May 2017 to strengthen the IP High Court's research capabilities and support its development as an IP Hub Court by expanding international exchanges and public outreach. Its establishment was a pioneering initiative without precedent among courts in Korea or IP courts worldwide. The Center serves as a focal point for the research and exchanges essential to the Court's development into a world-class specialized IP court and will mark its 10th anniversary in May 2027.



Conducting Comparative Legal Research on Intellectual Property

The Center compares Korea's IP adjudication system and practices with the relevant laws, case law, and operation of comparable systems in major jurisdictions to identify directions for further development. It publishes reports that systematically present its findings, including *Comparative Research on the Article and Similarity Test of Design* and *Comparative Research on Descriptive Marks and Acquired Distinctiveness.*

Supporting the Court's Internationalization and Specialization

The Center conducts comparative legal research on issues arising in adjudication to support the IP High Court's internationalization and specialization. At the request of judicial divisions, it examines key issues for which comparative analysis is particularly valuable in practice. It also comprehensively revised the *Rules of Practice in the IP High Court of Korea* to make proceedings more predictable and strengthen public confidence in the Court's procedures.

Publishing English-Language Case Collections and Strengthening Cooperation with WIPO

Since 2015, the Court has published *IP High Court Decisions* annually, bringing together selected significant judgments in English. Beginning with decisions rendered in 2023, it has also published *Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea*, a separate English-language collection of summaries of leading cases. The judgments are also made available through WIPO Lex (https://www.wipo.int/en/web/wipolex), the legal database of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). By providing easy access to key Korean court decisions for readers worldwide, this initiative enhances the Court's international standing and credibility.

Promoting Domestic and International Academic Exchanges on Intellectual Property

As a hub for domestic and international academic exchanges on intellectual property, the International IP Law Research Center plays a central role in organizing the annual International IP Court Conference, which brings together judges and legal professionals from Korea and abroad. Since 2025, the Center has also hosted summer and winter International Seminars, continuing to expand opportunities for international academic exchange.

Building Domestic and International Networks

The Center maintains programs for independent researchers, visiting scholars, and visiting researchers, and builds networks with leading research institutions at home and abroad to support joint research and the sharing of research materials. It has worked steadily to establish a foundation for cooperation in advancing international litigation practice and to broaden the range of research topics by appointing independent researchers.

As part of its organizational restructuring in 2025, the Center established an Advisory Board. In November of that year, it signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Korea Institute of Intellectual Property, followed by an MOU with Mongolia's Judicial Training, Research and Information Academy (JTRIA) in February 2026. Through these initiatives, the Center continues to strengthen its domestic and international partnerships and expand research and exchanges in international intellectual property law.

- **Independent Researchers:** Taeho JUNG (Professor, Kyonggi University, Intellectual Property Department), Dongjun KIM (Professor, Chungnam National University School of Law)
- **Domestic Advisory Board Members:** Sang Jo JONG (Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University School of Law), Sang-Wook HAN (Attorney, Kim & Chang), Sungyop WOO (Presiding Judge / High Court Judge, IP High Court of Korea), Hyejin LEE (Chief Research Judge for Intellectual Property, Supreme Court of Korea)
- **Foreign Advisory Board Members:** Edmond E. Chang (United States District Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois), Iris Gunther (Director, International Trademark Association), Anna-Lena Klein (Legally Qualified Judge, Unified Patent Court), MIN Eun-Joo (Director, WIPO Judicial Institute), Makiko TAKABE (Attorney, Nishimura & Asahi, Former Chief Judge of Intellectual Property High Court of Japan)

Judicial Administration Advisory Committee

Since 2012, the IP High Court has operated the Judicial Administration Advisory Committee to hear directly from the diverse stakeholders in the IP ecosystem and reflect their views in judicial administration policies. The Committee recommends improvements to systems and practices relating to IP litigation. Through in-depth assessments and advice on issues facing the Court, it also helps improve the quality of judicial services and build trust among court users in Korea and abroad.

Judicial Administration Advisory Committee			
Attorneys at Law	Dongju KWON (Yoon & Yang LLC) Sang-Wook HAN (Kim & Chang) Taeck Soo KWON (Bae, Kim & Lee LLC) Jeong Yeol CHOE (Yulchon LLC)	Academia	Hae Wan LEE (Professor, Sungkyunkwan University Law School) Dongjun KIM (Professor, Chungnam National University School of Law) Dongman LEE (Professor, School of Computing, KAIST)
Patent Attorneys	Dookyu KIM (Senior IP Counsel, HP Printing Korea Co., Ltd.) Young-Sun JUNG (GURUFIRST Law)	Industry	Bomsu YEH (Senior Vice President, IPR Department, KT Corporation) Bu-seon HONG (IP Director, LG Display Co., Ltd.)
Medical Community	Soo-Kyung BOK (President, Chungnam National University Hospital)	Media	Sung-yeol NOH (President, Korea Intellectual Property Journalists Association)

Advisory Council on Science & Technology

The Advisory Council on Science & Technology was established to enhance adjudicative capacity and promote open communication between the judiciary and the scientific and technological community. Composed primarily of the heads of Korea's government-funded research institutes, the Council advises on the operation of the judicial professional examiner system, training to strengthen adjudicative capacity, and expanded exchanges with research institutions. Through the Judicial Professional Examiner Recommendation Committee, which comprises staff from the respective research institutes, it also plays a practical role in identifying experts suited to the technical issues in individual cases.

Institution	Appointment Date	Name (Position)
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Chungnam National University	2026. 6. 23.	Byoung-Kwan CHO, Dean
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)	2026. 9. 1.	Sung-Yool CHOI, Senior Vice President for Research
Institute for Startup KAIST	2025. 9. 1.	Hyeon-Min BAE, Vice President
Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM)	2025. 9. 1.	Yi Kyun KWON, President
Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS)	2025. 9. 1.	Ho Seong LEE, President
Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials (KIMM)	2025. 9. 1.	Seoghyeon RYU, President
Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI)	2026. 6. 1.	Saewoong BAHK, President
Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology (KRIBB)	2025. 9. 1.	Suk-Yoon KWON, President
Korea Basic Science Institute (KBSI)		Appointment Pending
Institute for Basic Science (IBS)	2025. 6. 23.	Sukbok CHANG, President
Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology (KRICT)	2026. 6. 1.	Seokmin SHIN, President

Mediation Committee

The IP High Court maintains a Mediation Committee composed of IP experts to facilitate the amicable resolution of civil disputes involving intellectual property rights.

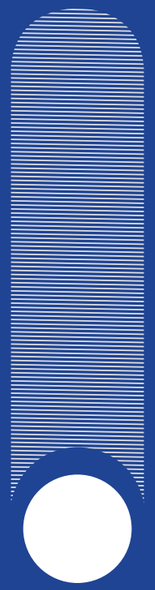
Mediation Committee	
Dong Se KANG, Attorney (ClassHankyul Law Firm)	Youngsoo LEE, Attorney / Patent Attorney (Patent Law Firm IDUS)
Yongku KANG, Researcher (Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology)	Hoodong LEE, Attorney (Bae, Kim & Lee LLC)
Dongju KWON, Attorney (Yoon & Yang LLC)	Jeong Yeol CHOE, Attorney (Yulchon LLC)
Taeck Soo KWON, Attorney (Bae, Kim & Lee LLC)	Sang-Wook HAN, Attorney (Kim & Chang)
Un Ho KIM, Attorney (Lee & Ko)	Buhan KIM, Attorney (Hyemyung Law Firm)
Dong Il SEO, Researcher (Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute)	Jiho KIM, Center Director (Korean Commercial Arbitration Board)
Chang Ik SUNG, Attorney (Jipyong LLC)	Hyun-Jin CHANG, Attorney (Kim & Chang)
Hyun-Do YUN, Professor (Department of Architectural Engineering, Chungnam National University)	Jong Sun CHOI, Attorney (D&A LLC)
Seung Goo LEE, Professor (Department of Organic Materials Engineering, Chungnam National University)	Myun-hun LEE, Head of the Win-Win Cooperation Division (Korea Foundation for Cooperation of Large & Small Business, Rural Affairs)

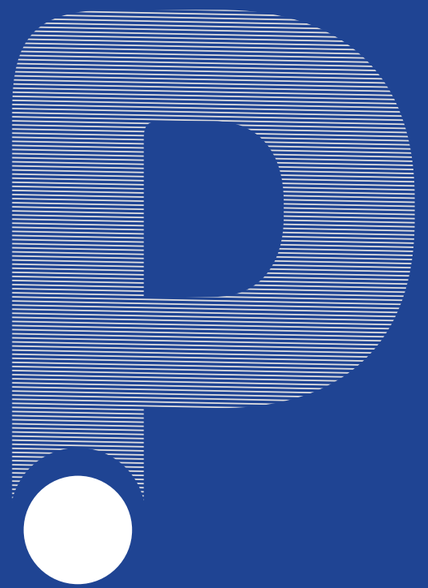
External Mediation Institutions

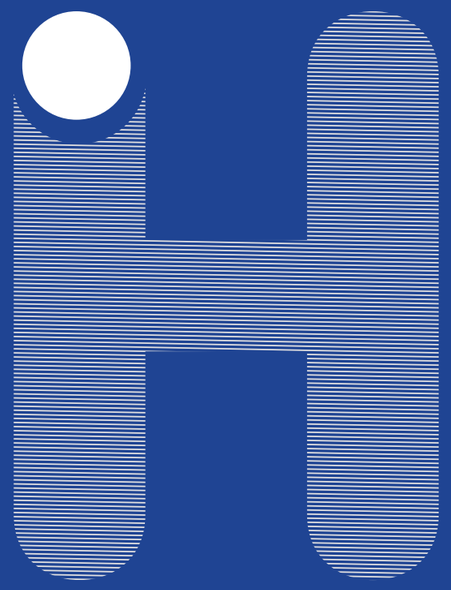
To offer parties prompt and efficient means of resolving disputes, the IP High Court works with external mediation institutions in Korea, including the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board and the SME Technical Dispute Mediation and Arbitration Committee. On August 26, 2026, the Court signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and designated its Arbitration and Mediation Center as an external mediation institution, further advancing its framework for resolving international disputes. Through cooperation with external mediation institutions in Korea and abroad, the Court will continue to develop a dispute resolution framework that responds effectively to international IP disputes.

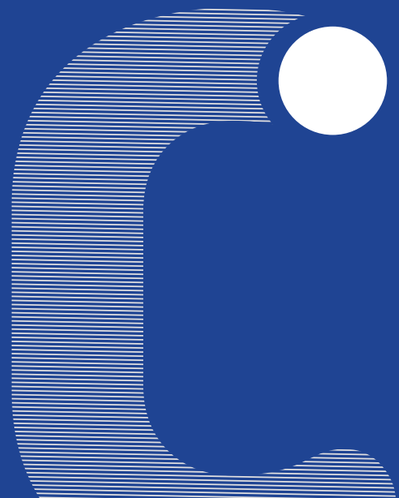
External Mediation Institutions			
	Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)	SME Technical Dispute Mediation and Arbitration Committee	WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center
Location	18th Floor, 511, Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea	7th Floor, 173, Toegye-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea	World Intellectual Property Organization, 34, chemin des Colombettes, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Judicial Proceedings









Intellectual Property Litigation and Hearing Procedures

Judicial Technical Examiners and Judicial Technical Researchers

Judicial Professional Examiners

Expert Witnesses

International Division

AI Pilot Divisions

Intellectual Property Litigation and Hearing Procedures

Intellectual property cases before the IP High Court fall into two categories: actions to revoke IPTAB decisions and civil appeals involving intellectual property rights. By establishing basic rules for oral argument and the examination of cases, the Court seeks to make proceedings predictable for the parties and to conduct them promptly, cost-effectively, and with specialized expertise. To ensure fair proceedings, the Court introduced its *Rules of Practice* in 2025, comprehensively revising and replacing its previous procedural guidelines.



● Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions

Actions to revoke IPTAB decisions refer to lawsuits seeking revocation of administrative decisions rendered by the IPTAB. These include decisions rendered in administrative trials challenging rejections by examiners at the Ministry of Intellectual Property concerning patents, utility models, designs, or trademarks, as well as rejections of applications to register patent term extensions, among others. They also include decisions rendered in administrative trials to invalidate patents, utility models, designs, or trademarks, confirm the scope of these rights, or invalidate registrations of patent term extensions, among others.

Similar proceedings may be brought to seek revocation of administrative decisions rendered by the Plant Variety Protection Tribunal or the Adjudication Committee on Geographical Indications. For the Plant Variety Protection Tribunal, these include decisions rendered in administrative trials challenging rejections concerning plant variety protection rights by examiners of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs or the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and in administrative trials to invalidate plant variety protection rights, among others. For the Adjudication Committee on Geographical Indications, these include decisions rendered in administrative trials challenging rejections concerning geographical indications by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs or the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, and in administrative trials to invalidate or cancel geographical indications, among others.

These actions follow a two-tier judicial system. The IP High Court has exclusive jurisdiction at first instance, and its judgments may be appealed to the Supreme Court solely on grounds of errors of law. In actions seeking revocation of administrative decisions rendered by the IPTAB, parties may be represented by patent attorneys as well as attorneys.

● Rules of Practice for Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions

The *Rules of Practice* establish basic rules for oral argument and the examination of cases in actions to revoke IPTAB decisions concerning Patent Rights, etc., including “international cases” under Article 62-2 of the Court Organization Act. They aim to make proceedings predictable for the parties and ensure fair adjudication by promoting timely and cost-effective proceedings grounded in specialized expertise.

Rules of Practice for Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions

● Civil Litigation Concerning Patent Rights, etc.

Civil litigation concerning Patent Rights, etc. includes claims for injunctions, destruction of infringing goods, credit restoration, and other relief, as well as damages, based on infringement of Patent Rights, etc. It also includes disputes over ownership of these rights, such as actions seeking registration of assignments or cancellation of registrations. Six district courts, including the Seoul Central District Court, hear these cases at first instance. Cases with an amount in controversy of KRW 500 million or less are heard by a single judge, while those exceeding KRW 500 million are heard by a panel of three judges. The IP High Court hears all appeals from these judgments, regardless of the amount in controversy.

As the IP High Court reviews both facts and law, appeals may be based on errors in factual findings as well as errors of law. Its judgments may be appealed to the Supreme Court, the third and final judicial tier, solely on grounds of errors of law. Unlike actions to revoke IPTAB decisions, parties in civil litigation may be represented only by attorneys. An exception applies to first-instance cases heard by a single judge: under certain conditions and with the court’s permission, a relative or a person in an employment relationship with the party may act as the party’s representative. Even in such cases, however, representation on appeal before the IP High Court is limited to attorneys.

● Rules of Practice for Civil Appellate Trial

The *Rules of Practice* establish basic rules for oral argument and the examination of cases in civil appeals concerning Patent Rights, etc. under Article 24(2) and (3) of the Civil Procedure Act, including “international cases” under Article 62-2 of the Court Organization Act. They aim to make proceedings predictable for the parties and ensure fair adjudication by promoting timely and cost-effective proceedings grounded in specialized expertise.

Rules of Practice for Civil Appellate Trial



Procedure for Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions

IPTAB decision

Plaintiff files complaint
(generally within 30 days after service of the IPTAB decision)

Defendant files answer
(usually within three weeks after service of a copy of the complaint)

Presiding judge reviews the record and classifies the case
Designation of a judicial technical examiner (patent/utility model cases)

Cases not referred to pretrial proceedings

Pretrial proceedings
- Identification of issues through the exchange of briefs
- Presiding judge's pretrial order for clarification
- Case management conference by videoconference
- Requests for the examination of evidence

Trial
- Oral arguments and technical presentations by the parties
- Examination of witnesses and other evidence
- Focused examination of each issue
- Conclusion of oral arguments in a single trial session where possible

Pronouncement of judgment and service of an official copy

Whether a notice of appeal to the Supreme Court is filed within two weeks after service

No notice of appeal filed → Judgment becomes final upon expiration of the appeal period

Notice of appeal filed → Case record transmitted to the Supreme Court

Procedure for Civil Appeals

First-instance judgment by one of the six District Courts

Notice of appeal filed within two weeks after service of an official copy of the judgment

Appeal received → Notice of receipt of the appeal record / Pretrial order to the appellant

Appellant files statement of grounds for appeal
(within 40 days after receipt of the notice)

Appellee files answer → Pretrial order to the appellee
(within three weeks after receipt of a copy of the statement of grounds for appeal)

Presiding judge reviews the record and classifies the case
Selection of cases for referral to pretrial proceedings or early mediation

Cases not referred to pretrial proceedings

Cases referred to pretrial proceedings

Pretrial proceedings
- Voluntary case management conference (between the parties)
  Discussion of the number of briefs and filing deadlines, deadlines for submitting arguments and evidence, and the preferred number of trial sessions and their dates and times
- Court-presided case management conference
  Conducted by online videoconference or at a pretrial hearing
- Presiding judge's pretrial order for clarification
- Requests for the examination of evidence

Cases referred to mediation

Referral to mediation → **Settlement reached**

No settlement reached → Cases not referred to pretrial proceedings

Trial
- Oral arguments and technical presentations by the parties
- Examination of witnesses and other evidence
- Focused examination of each issue
- Conclusion of oral arguments in a single trial session where possible

Pronouncement of judgment and service of an official copy

Whether a notice of appeal to the Supreme Court is filed within two weeks after service

No notice of appeal filed → Judgment becomes final upon expiration of the appeal period

Notice of appeal filed → Case record transmitted to the Supreme Court

Judicial Technical Examiners and Judicial Technical Researchers

The IP High Court has a system of judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers to support the examination of intellectual property cases involving Patent Rights, etc. in which technical issues are sharply contested. Under the direction of the judicial division, they investigate and review technical and specialized matters, assess evidence, provide opinions based on their expertise, question persons involved in the proceedings, and offer their views during judicial deliberations.

Judicial technical examiners and judicial technical researchers are highly qualified specialists who combine extensive practical experience across scientific and technological fields—including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, telecommunications, chemistry, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical sciences—with in-depth knowledge of patent law. They bring practical expertise as former examiners or administrative judges at the Ministry of Intellectual Property, holders of master's or doctoral degrees in relevant scientific and technological fields, or patent attorneys.

They prepare and submit review reports to the judicial division, providing detailed analyses of the technical issues in each case. At technical briefing sessions held before trial, they discuss the relevant technology in depth with the judges to aid their understanding. During trial, they may also question the parties directly on technical matters where necessary to help establish the facts more accurately. After the close of oral arguments, they offer expert opinions on the case, which the judges may consider in reaching their decisions but which are not legally binding.

Through this system, the IP High Court resolves complex technical disputes promptly and accurately, further strengthening its expertise in intellectual property adjudication.

Mechanical Engineering	6
Chemistry	4
Electrical Engineering	4
Telecommunications	2
Pharmaceuticals	3
Environment	1
Textiles	1
Civil Engineering	1

Judicial Technical Examiners and Judicial Technical Researchers: 22 Total (as of July 1, 2026)
Judicial Technical Examiners: 17
Judicial Technical Researchers: 5

Judicial Professional Examiners

In cases requiring specialized knowledge and experience in a particular technical field, the judicial division may invite an expert in that field to participate in the proceedings as a judicial professional examiner. The IP High Court maintains a pool of candidates with expertise in fields including mechanical engineering, telecommunications, electrical and electronic engineering, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and forestry, and construction. It also has a Judicial Professional Examiner Recommendation Committee to help identify experts suited to individual cases.

Judicial professional examiners may provide explanations or opinions on technical matters at hearings or in writing and, with the presiding judge's permission, may question the parties, witnesses, and other persons involved in the proceedings. They have a duty to maintain the confidentiality of information obtained in the course of their duties in cases in which they participate and are deemed public officials for purposes of applying provisions of the Criminal Act concerning the receipt of bribes and other related offenses.

The judicial division may hold a pretrial hearing where necessary to help a judicial professional examiner understand the case or for other relevant purposes. It must give the parties an opportunity to comment orally or in writing on any written submissions, explanations, or opinions provided by the judicial professional examiner. If a party needs to provide further responses to the examiner's questions, the party must submit them to the Court in writing by the deadline set by the presiding judge.

Members of the Judicial Professional Examiner Recommendation Committee	
Jun Young HONG (Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources)	Keon Jae LEE (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)
Hong-Weon LEE (Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology)	Seung Bo SHIM (Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science)
Seon-Nyeong KANG (Korea Institute of Machinery & Materials)	Young-Pyo HONG (Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science)
Jun-Bo YOON (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)	Yung Sik KWON (Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute)
Ho Sik PARK (Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology)	Kwan Soo HONG (Korea Basic Science Institute)
Youngseok LEE (Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology)	

Expert Witnesses

The judicial division may examine experts as witnesses to gain an understanding of technical matters. Expert witnesses under Article 340 of the Civil Procedure Act testify to facts they have learned through their specialized knowledge and experience. If special circumstances make it difficult for an expert witness to appear in court in person, or if the witness resides abroad, the Court may, after hearing the parties' views, examine the witness through facilities equipped with video or other transmission systems or via internet videoconferencing.

A party requesting the examination of an expert witness must attach a Basic Statement of Expert Witness that allows the Court to assess the witness's expertise and objectivity. Direct examination must remain within the scope of the submitted expert witness statement. All materials to be shown to or cited before the expert witness during direct examination must be submitted as evidence before the deadline for submitting the expert witness statement and proposed questions for examination.

Expert witnesses have a duty to testify impartially, without favoring either party, on the basis of facts and specialized knowledge. Their testimony must be grounded in objectively verified facts or theories widely accepted in their field of expertise.

International Division

International Divisions were established to ease language barriers for foreign parties and make Korea's specialized courts, including the IP High Court, more attractive forums for international IP litigation, with the ultimate goal of establishing Korean courts as global IP hub courts.



● Requirements for International Cases

A party may request an international trial in a case concerning intellectual property rights or other matters if a party is a foreign national or entity, the examination of key evidence needs to be conducted in a foreign language, or the case has a comparable international connection. The opposing party must also consent. The judicial division may deny the request if it anticipates that conducting an international trial would significantly delay the case.

● Conduct of International Trials

The request and consent for an international trial must be submitted in writing before the first trial session at each instance, both at first instance and on appeal. A request may also be granted where the request and consent are submitted after the first trial session if the Court finds a compelling need for an international trial. The request, consent, and permission are effective only for the relevant instance. Once permission is granted, the parties may present oral arguments in the permitted foreign language and submit briefs and evidence in that language without translations.

* At trial sessions, interpreters provide interpretation from Korean into the foreign language and from the foreign language into Korean. The Court provides interpretation services free of charge, allowing the parties to reduce their translation and interpretation costs.

● Provision of Translated Judgments and Appeals

Judgments are pronounced in Korean, and the calculation of the appeal period and the legal effect of the judgment are based on the Korean-language judgment. A foreign-language translation is sent to the parties after service of an official copy of the judgment. When appealing to a higher court or to the Supreme Court, parties may submit a notice of appeal in the foreign language without a translation.

International Trial Procedures

Before the Trial Date

Submission of briefs and documentary evidence
Briefs and documentary evidence may be submitted in Korean or in a foreign language

▼

Trial Date

Oral arguments and witness examination
Oral arguments may be conducted in Korean or in a foreign language, and the court provides two-way interpretation

▼

Judgment Pronouncement Date

Pronouncement of judgment
A foreign-language translation is provided after the judgment is pronounced in Korean

AI Pilot Divisions

Since March 2026, the IP High Court has operated its 2nd and 5th Divisions as AI pilot divisions. These divisions were introduced to support careful, accurate, and specialized examination of cases by using commercial artificial intelligence within appropriate limits to review case materials with the parties' consent, and to lay the groundwork for research into the judiciary's adoption of AI.













● Requirements for AI Use

The judicial division enters case materials into commercial AI only with the consent of both parties. If either party does not consent, the materials are not entered.

● Procedure for AI Use

The judicial division recommends that parties de-identify personal information, trade secrets, and other sensitive information in briefs and other documents before submitting them. The division inputs the submitted materials into commercial AI and uses the output in examining the case. In doing so, it safeguards the parties' procedural rights by giving them an opportunity to present their views, including where the AI output is persuasive and it is clear that a party has failed to substantiate the relevant matter through oversight or misunderstanding.

● Scope of AI Use

AI is used to summarize records and briefs, identify issues, review and verify materials in specialized fields, search for similar precedents, transcribe oral arguments through speech-to-text (STT), and translate materials. However, the judicial division does not rely on AI to make findings of fact or to interpret or apply the law, and legal information retrieved or generated by AI is always verified.

AI Use Procedure

Submission of Case Materials

- Consent from both parties
- Searchable files submitted after anonymization

▶

AI Use (for reference)

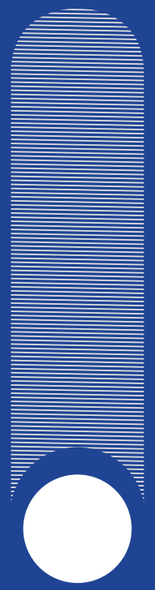
- Summarizing records and briefs; identifying issues
- Reviewing specialized materials; searching for similar precedents
- Trial transcription (STT) and translation

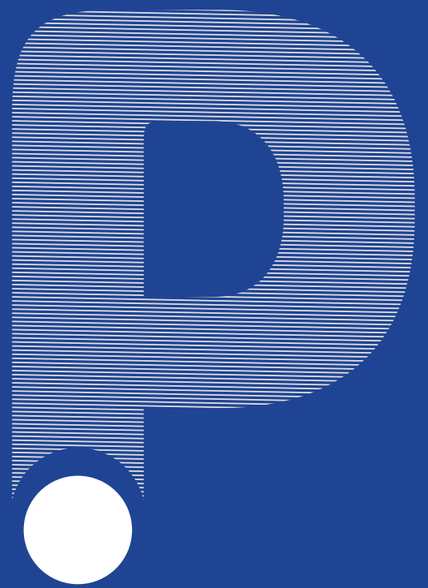
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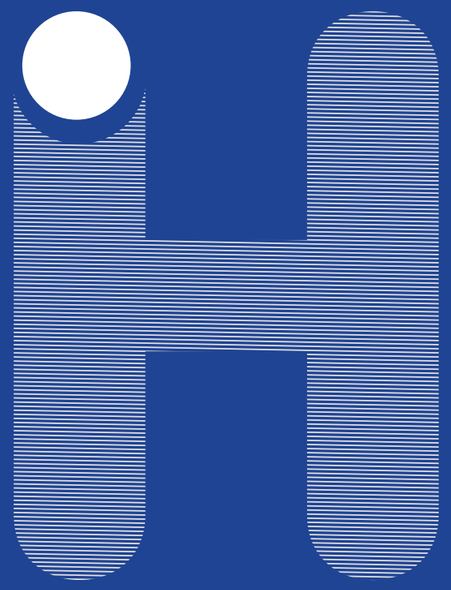
Judicial Determination and Judgment

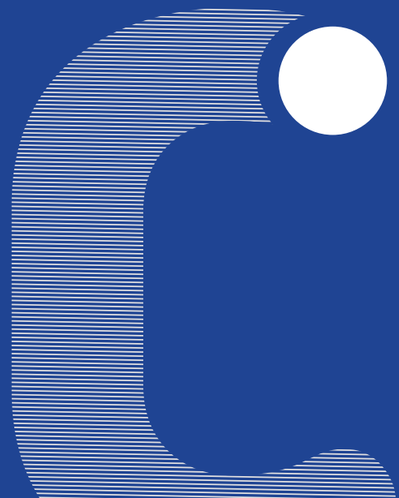
- Fact-finding and legal determinations by judges
- AI output used only as reference material

Main Activities









Leading Decisions in Revocation Cases

Leading Decisions in Civil Appellate Cases

Publications

International IP Court Conference

International Exchange and Cooperation

Leading Decisions in Revocation Cases

Patent

Printing Device for Security Paper Case (5th Division)

Decision 2024Heo14698, Decided Aug. 28, 2025

Main Issues and Holdings

Whether the principle of res judicata under Article 163 of the Patent Act applies where the evidence submitted consists solely of new evidence that was not submitted in the prior administrative trial resulting in a final IPTAB decision (negative).

Patent

Therapeutic Use of Empagliflozin Case (3rd Division)

Decision 2024Heo16038, Decided Jan. 15, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. Criteria for determining whether a medical use invention incorporating a dosage regimen or dose satisfies the disclosure requirements under Article 42(3)(1) of the Patent Act.
2. A case holding that a medical use invention targeting "patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus" and specifying "oral administration of empagliflozin at a total daily dose of 10 mg" to reduce the risk of heart failure requiring hospitalization did not satisfy those disclosure requirements. The invention incorporated a dosage regimen and dose in addition to the target disease or therapeutic effect. The Court found that the pharmacological mechanism underlying the claimed effect was not clearly established; that the specification lacked experimental examples demonstrating the effect or a sufficiently specific substitute description; and that the experimental examples, including pharmacological data, were insufficient to demonstrate the effect in the specified patient population or under the specified dosage regimen and dose.

Patent

Multilayer Coating with Visual Effects Case (5th Division)

Decision 2025Heo10293, Decided Feb. 12, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case holding that the grounds for rejection based on lack of inventive step and the reasoning of the IPTAB decision dismissing the appeal from the examiner's rejection did not align in their essential rationale, even though both relied on the same prior art invention.
2. Whether an IPTAB decision may be regarded as correct in its outcome based on the substantive validity of grounds for the examiner's rejection that were not addressed in that decision, despite a procedural defect arising from a violation of mandatory provisions requiring an opportunity to present opinions (negative).

Trademark

TikTok Case (1st Division)

Decision 2025Heo10379, Decided Jan. 22, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case holding that the prior-used mark was widely recognized among domestic consumers at the time the trademark application at issue was filed, considering the accessibility of the application bearing the prior-used mark; the number of domestic users; whether a culture had developed within the application and the extent of its influence; the application's characteristics as an information and communications platform; and whether its recognition abroad could be taken into account.
2. A case holding that use of the applied-for mark on its designated goods was likely to impair the distinctiveness of the prior-used mark, based on an overall assessment of the similarity between the marks, the likelihood that consumers would associate them, whether the Plaintiff intended to create such an association, and whether consumers had actually been misled.

Trademark

Matchandeul Case (1st Division)

Decision 2025Heo10401, Decided Jan. 26, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case holding that a corporation had been granted an implied non-exclusive license, considering that the trademark owner had operated the corporation as its sole inside director.
2. A case holding that the registered trademark did not fall within Article 119(1)(3) of the Trademark Act, finding that the non-exclusive licensee was the user of the trademark not only on products it manufactured directly but also on products supplied to it under original equipment manufacturing (OEM) arrangements in which it was the ordering party; that the mark as actually used was identical to the registered trademark according to generally accepted trade practices; and that the products were either identical to the designated goods or regarded as identical according to generally accepted trade practices.

Trademark

010PAY Case (3rd Division)

Decision 2025Heo10405, Decided Feb. 12, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

A case addressing whether a trademark displayed in a mobile app was used to identify the source of the app itself—the goods specified as those on which the challenged mark was used—or the source of services provided through the app. Considering the app's functions, how it was used, its revenue structure, whether in-app purchases were permitted, and the app marketplace operator's payment policies, the Court held that the challenged mark was used to identify the source of services provided through the app rather than the app itself.

Trademark

Magikan Continuous Plastic Bags Case (3rd Division)

Decision 2025Heo10434, Decided Apr. 30, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

A case addressing whether the challenged mark, displayed on consumables (continuous plastic bags), was used as a source identifier. Considering how the registered trademark was used and how well known and famous it was, how the challenged mark was used, and the user's intent and the circumstances of that use, the Court held that the mark merely indicated the specific model number of the equipment (trash can) with which the consumables were compatible and could not be regarded as identifying the source of the consumables.

Design

Hair-Holding Headband Case (4th Division)

Decision 2025Heo10530, Decided Apr. 9, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

A case holding that the registered design was not easy to create where, although a designer of ordinary skill in the art could overcome some of the differences between the registered design and the prior designs, the remaining differences produced a substantially different aesthetic impression, such that, viewed as a whole, the registered design could not have been easily created by a designer of ordinary skill in the art based on the prior designs.

Leading Decisions in Civil Appellate Cases

Patent

Alibaba Case (21st Division)

Decision 2023Na10693, Decided May 22, 2025

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case holding that Korean courts had jurisdiction and Korean law was the governing law in a dispute involving a patent registered in Korea and owned by the Plaintiff, a foreign company, where the Defendant, also a foreign company, advertised and sold products on a foreign platform and a website hosted on servers located abroad.
2. A case holding that the Defendant, a Chinese corporation, infringed a patent registered in Korea by listing products for sale on an overseas online platform.

Patent

Employee Invention Compensation Case (25th Division)

Decision 2024Na10591, Decided Jan. 15, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. Whether compensation regulations establishing uniform rules on the methods, criteria, and procedures for compensating employees for employee inventions constitute rules of employment (affirmative).
2. Whether an amendment to compensation regulations deleting compensation categories, including compensation for the disposal of rights, provided for in the previous regulations constitutes an unfavorable amendment to rules of employment (affirmative).
3. A case rejecting the Defendant's statute-of-limitations defense on the premise that the pre-amendment 1995 Compensation Guidelines applied to the Plaintiff because the unfavorable amendment to the compensation regulations was ineffective without compliance with procedures such as obtaining the consent of a majority of employees. The Court held that a legal impediment prevented the Plaintiff from exercising the right to claim compensation until the payment date prescribed in those guidelines.

Patent

Employee Status in an Employee Invention Compensation Case (22nd Division)

Decision 2021Na1015, Decided Jan. 21, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. An employee entitled to compensation for an employee invention under Articles 39(1) and 40(1) of the former Patent Act (before its amendment by Act No. 7869 on Mar. 3, 2006) is a person who performs work for another under an employment contract or other relationship with an employer. This includes not only employees under employment contracts governed by the Civil Act but also persons who provide labor in a de facto working relationship. The employment relationship need not be continuous or planned.
2. A case holding that Plaintiff A qualified as an employee of the Defendant where, after leaving the Defendant and becoming a university professor, Plaintiff A continued to perform work of the same kind as before leaving, consistently received payment from the Defendant for that work over a substantial period, jointly completed inventions relating to that work with other researchers employed by the Defendant, and assigned the right to obtain patents for those inventions to the Defendant.

Patent

Employee Invention Compensation Case (25th Division)

Decision 2023Na10525, Decided Jan. 22, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. The purpose of Article 15(6) of the Invention Promotion Act and the requirements for its application.
2. Whether the proviso to Article 15(6) of the Invention Promotion Act applies solely because an employer, when compensating an employee under its employee invention compensation regulations, considered only benefits already obtained and did not consider future benefits, where those regulations provide for compensation through a review committee's deliberation process when benefits accrue to the employer (negative).
3. A case deeming compensation paid to an employee under employee invention compensation regulations, based on the benefits the employer obtained from the employee invention, to constitute "reasonable compensation" under the main clause of Article 15(6) of the Invention Promotion Act.

Trademark/Copyright

Infringement of Database Producer's Rights (NAVER Real Estate) Case (24th Division)

Decision 2024Na11433, Decided Dec. 24, 2025

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case partially granting a database producer's claims for injunctive relief, destruction, and damages, holding that repeated reproduction and transmission of individual database items, or systematic reproduction and transmission for a specific purpose, amounted to reproduction and transmission of a substantial part of the data, infringing the producer's rights.
2. A case dismissing a trademark owner's damages claim, holding that use of another's registered trademark merely to identify or explain a link to the owner's webpage did not constitute infringement, as it did not identify the source of the user's own webpage or other online content.

Trademark

Entitlement to Prior Use Rights Case (22nd Division)

Decision 2024Na11525, Decided Nov. 19, 2025

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case holding that Article 99(1) of the Trademark Act protects genuine trademark users by incorporating use-based elements to mitigate problems arising from strict application of the first-to-file system. Given this purpose and the provision's wording, a prior user eligible for a right of use must have used a separate mark originating independently of the mark for which registration was sought, or learned of that separate mark from such a user.
2. A case holding that a person using a trademark with the owner's permission cannot acquire prior use rights in relation to that owner's identical or similar registered trademark. Considering the purpose of the prior use provisions and a licensee's ability to agree with the owner on terms of use, the Court found no need to recognize separate prior use rights as a statutory non-exclusive license.

Trademark/Unfair Competition

Seoul Milk Case (21st Division)

Decision 2025Na10205, Decided Jan. 22, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case holding that food and beverage marks in the form "아침에OO" ("In the Morning OO") were not achievements resulting from substantial investment or effort, considering the distinctiveness and industry use of "아침에" ("in the morning").
2. A case holding that the Plaintiff's packaging containers were not "another person's product identifiers widely recognized in Korea," as there was insufficient evidence that their asserted distinguishing features had become sufficiently individualized through prolonged, continuous, exclusive use or otherwise to associate the containers with the Plaintiff's goods.
3. A case holding that the Plaintiff's packaging containers were not achievements resulting from substantial investment or effort, because their asserted distinguishing features belonged to the public domain and were freely available for anyone to use, making it difficult to regard them as "interests worthy of legal protection."

Design

Toe Acupressure Corrector Design Infringement Case (21st Division)

Decision 2025Jaena10010, Decided Jan. 22, 2026

Main Issues and Holdings

1. A case finding a ground for retrial under Article 451(1)(8) of the Civil Procedure Act with respect to the record subject to quasi-retrial. The Defendant had been convicted of infringing some of the Plaintiff's design rights, but a criminal retrial judgment subsequently became final after final IPTAB decisions invalidated those designs. Considering the submission of the original criminal judgment before the decision in lieu of mediation, the validity of the other design rights, and the contents of the mediation decision and criminal retrial judgment, the Court found that the original criminal judgment had formed a basis for the factual findings underlying the mediation decision and that its change could have affected those findings and the resulting determination.
2. A case holding that final IPTAB decisions invalidating the registered designs meant that the design rights were deemed never to have existed. The Plaintiff's infringement claims based on the exclusive licenses and design rights were therefore without merit, without further examination.

Publications

The IP High Court has published comparative legal research reports, including *Comparative Research on the Article Requirement and Design Similarity Tests in Major Jurisdictions* and *Comparative Research on Descriptive Marks and Acquired Distinctiveness.* It has also published the *IP Litigation Practice* Manual and developed the *Rules of Practice for Civil Appellate Trial in the IP High Court of Korea* and the *Rules of Practice for Actions to Revoke IPTAB Decisions in the IP High Court of Korea*, together with English-language versions of each. In addition, the Court continues to publish annual collections, including *IP High Court Decisions* and both Korean and English editions of *Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea*, to introduce its leading decisions to readers in Korea and abroad.

Comparative Legal Research Reports



Research on Methods of Calculating Damages in Patent Infringement Litigation Across Jurisdictions (2017)



Comparative Research on Exclusive Jurisdiction over IP Litigation Practice (2019)



Comparative Research on Enhanced Damages for Patent Litigation Practice (2020)



Comparative Research on Selection Inventions (2020)



Comparative Research on Indirect Patent Infringement (2022)



Comparative Research on Employee Invention System (2022)



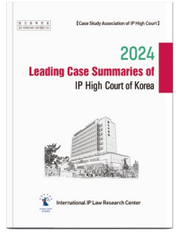
Comparative Research on Descriptive Marks and Acquired Distinctiveness (2024)



Comparative Research on the Article and Similarity Test of Design (2024)

Case Collections

Judgments in English



2015 Patent Court Decisions	2021 Patent Court Decisions
2016 Patent Court Decisions	2022 IP High Court Decisions
2017 Patent Court Decisions	2023 IP High Court Decisions
2018 Patent Court Decisions	2024 IP High Court Decisions
2019 Patent Court Decisions	2023 Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea
2020 Patent Court Decisions	2024 Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea

Judgments in Korean



2023 Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea (Korean Edition)
2024 Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea (Korean Edition)
2025 Leading Case Summaries of IP High Court of Korea (Korean Edition)

Other Publications

English-Language Journal



IP LAW JOURNAL 2014 VOL. 1	IP LAW JOURNAL 2016 VOL. 3
IP LAW JOURNAL 2015 VOL. 2	IP LAW JOURNAL 2017 VOL. 4

Legal Terminology Dictionary & White Paper on International Cases



Publication of the Korean-English/ English-Korean Intellectual Property Law Dictionary	Publication of the White Paper on the First Case of the International Division
Publication of the 2022 Korean-English Intellectual Property Law Dictionary	

International IP Court Conference

Since 2015, the IP High Court has held the International IP Court Conference annually to foster practical discussion of key issues in patent litigation worldwide and present a vision for the role of specialized IP courts in resolving international disputes.

The Conference has established itself as a leading international forum for academic discussion and exchange, recognized by IP legal professionals worldwide. In particular, the 2025 Sejong Conference was regarded as a significant gathering of current and former chief judges and judges of equivalent rank specializing in IP from the IP5 jurisdictions, who came together for in-depth discussions on protecting innovative technologies and the role of the judiciary.

On November 4–5, 2026, the Court will hold an International Conference in collaboration with the Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP), with an even more substantive program. The first day will feature discussions on international disputes involving standard-essential patents (SEPs) and FRAND terms, copyright issues ranging from AI training data to outputs, and new approaches to international IP dispute resolution through arbitration and mediation. The second day will include a judicial practice session attended by IP judges from around the world, as well as wide-ranging discussions on corporate strategies for overseas expansion and litigation in response to changes in the global IP landscape, and best practices for preventing IP risks.

















International IP Court Conference Milestones

1st Conference
court, IP and INNOVATION
October 14–15, 2015

Brought together specialist judges from major IP jurisdictions to exchange views on IP litigation and discuss directions for its development.

2nd Conference
court, IP and FUTURE
September 7–8, 2016

Explored challenges and innovations in patent litigation and the assessment of damages, alongside discussions on international divisions and regional unified courts.

3rd Conference
court, IP and BUSINESS
September 6–7, 2017

Examined emerging issues in pharmaceutical and biotechnology patents, patentability requirements and remedies with a focus on the ICT industry, and harmonization and cooperation among patent courts.

4th Conference
court, IP and PROTECTION
October 17–18, 2018

Explored the protection of inventions through patents, technical and other information through trade secrets, and product configurations through design rights and trade dress, together with the latest trends in IP adjudication worldwide.

5th Conference
court, IP and FAIRNESS
October 16–17, 2019

Discussed quality adjudication and fair patent litigation, and presented a blueprint for the future of dispute resolution through a mock hearing of an international case conducted by an arbitration panel in the Court's e-courtroom using the International Divisions' facilities.

6th Conference
court, IP and GLOBALIZATION
November 11–12, 2020

Addressed international IP adjudication, patent eligibility, cross-border patent infringement, standard-essential patents (SEPs), and FRAND.

7th Conference
court, IP and HARMONIZATION
November 10–11, 2021

Brought together leading IP judges and experts from around the world, online and in person, to discuss compulsory licensing, AI-related inventions, employee inventions, and other key IP issues.

8th Conference
court, IP and New Practice
November 9–10, 2022

Hosted international discussions on the latest IP trends, unfair competition law, trademark law, and damages assessment, and conducted a mock arbitration comparing approaches to damages assessment across jurisdictions.

9th Conference
court, IP and New Perspectives
November 1–2, 2023

Examined the current state of jurisdiction over IP litigation and the operation of specialized IP courts across jurisdictions, the launch and vision of the Unified Patent Court (UPC), and key issues in trade secret infringement litigation and injunctions.

10th Conference
IP Court Conference & Symposium
November 6–7, 2024

Explored preferred forums for international IP disputes; the doctrine of equivalents and national theories and practices for ensuring substantive patent protection; emerging issues in pharmaceutical and biotechnology inventions; national practices for efficient litigation; and IP issues surrounding AI and its use in adjudication.

11th Conference
Supreme Court's Sejong International Conference, Session 4
September 22–23, 2025

Under the theme "Protecting Innovative Technologies and the Role of the Judiciary," introduced judicial systems across jurisdictions for protecting innovative technologies in the first half, followed by discussions on advances in innovative technologies and the future of the judiciary in the second half.

International Exchange and Cooperation

Co-hosting a Masterclass



In 2025, the IP High Court co-hosted a masterclass with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), providing a valuable forum for exchanging views on current international IP issues and sharing practical experience. Through case studies from various jurisdictions, presentations, and in-depth discussions on key IP topics, participants shared their expertise and experience and strengthened international cooperation and communication. Building on this exchange, the Court continues to participate actively in international IP discussions and expand its engagement with courts and IP institutions worldwide.

Exchanges with Singaporean Courts and Institutions

The IP High Court shares experience and expertise in international adjudication through ongoing exchanges with Singaporean courts and institutions involved in IP and international dispute resolution. In 2025, these exchanges focused on key issues and practices in the courts of both countries, including international trials at the IP High Court and international commercial proceedings at the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC), alongside in-depth discussions on directions for the development of international adjudication. At the 2026 International IP Court Conference, the Court plans to continue its exchanges with the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC) and other institutions,



further strengthening international cooperation and networks in IP and international dispute resolution.

Participation in International Conferences

In 2025 and 2026, the IP High Court actively participated in and delivered presentations at international conferences and academic events around the world, including the WIPO Judges Forum, FCBA Global Series, Judicial Symposium on Intellectual Property in Japan, International Symposium in Taiwan, Korea–Japan IP Judicial Symposium, WIPO Workshop in Kazakhstan, and INTA Annual Meeting. By sharing information on IP judicial systems and recent developments across jurisdictions, exchanging views on key issues, and presenting its adjudicative experience and expertise to the international community, the Court continues to expand international exchange and cooperation in IP adjudication.



Establishing K-IP Week

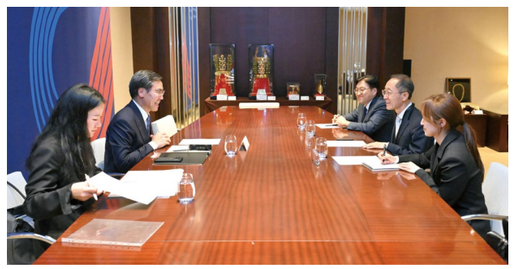
The IP High Court is working to establish "K-IP Week," centered on the International IP Court Conference, by bringing together within a single period various international IP events that the Presidential Council on Intellectual Property, the Ministry of Intellectual Property, the Korea Intellectual Property Association, and other organizations have held separately. The Court aims to develop K-IP Week into a major international IP event organized at the national level where IP experts, legal professionals, and relevant institutions from Korea and abroad can gather to share the latest developments and key issues, while showcasing Korea's capabilities in IP adjudication and policymaking to the international community. As a first step, the Court will hold an international conference in collaboration with the Ministry of Intellectual Property on November 4–5, 2026. Through this event, the Court plans to further expand domestic and international exchange and cooperation in IP and lay the groundwork for the future development of K-IP Week.











Expanding International Training for Overseas Judges

The IP High Court actively develops international training programs to expand exchanges with overseas judges and legal professionals specializing in IP and to share advanced judicial practices and expertise in IP. On February 27, 2026, the Court signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Judicial Training, Research and Information Academy of Mongolia (JTRIA) to strengthen cooperation in education and training, as well as exchanges in IP adjudication. These exchanges continued on July 10, 2026, when the Director of JTRIA visited the Court to participate in its Visiting Scholar program. On September 17, 2026, the Chief Judge of the IP High Court and the Chief Justice of Mongolia held a bilateral meeting and agreed to deepen their mutual understanding of the two countries' judicial systems and continue developing their cooperative relationship.

Hosting International Seminars

The IP High Court hosts a range of international seminars to share global developments in IP and strengthen expertise in judicial practice. On June 18, 2026, the Court held a dialogue with Professor Daryl Lim of Penn State Dickinson Law in the United States on "Current Issues and Litigation Practice in International IP Forums and a Vision for the Future of IP Litigation in Korea." Following its International Summer Seminar on July 23, 2026, the Court plans to hold an International Winter Seminar on December 10.



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2024 IP HIGH COURT

IP HIGH COURT
OF KOREA