

W&B IP Newsletter



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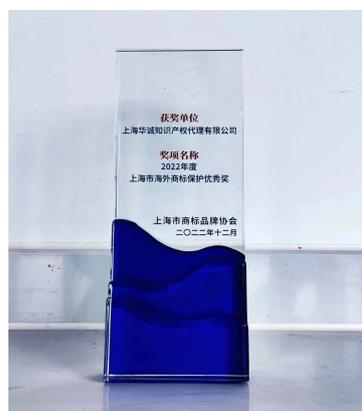
The Latest from Watson & Band

Watson & Band selected into the List of Leading Intellectual Property Service Institutions in Shanghai

On February 6, the Shanghai Intellectual Property Services Association released on its official website the Notice on the Release of the List of Leading Intellectual Property Service Institutions (including cultivating institutions) in Shanghai. Watson & Band Law Offices passed the review for the first batch of “Leading Intellectual Property Service Institutions in Shanghai” and Watson & Band IP Agent Ltd. was selected into the list of the second batch of “Leading Intellectual Property Service Institutions in Shanghai (cultivating institutions)”.

Watson & Band Again selected into WTR1000 - the World’s Leading Trademark Firms of 2023

On February 7, the World Trademark Review, a renowned legal media outlet specializing in trademarks, released the WTR1000 - the World’s Leading Trademark Firms of 2023. Watson & Band once again achieved recognition in the “enforcement and litigation” and “prosecution and strategy” categories, and lawyers Liming Zhang and Yizhou (Joe) Liu, partners of Watson & Band, were ranked highly in the “enforcement and litigation” category, with lawyer Zhang also selected for the first time in the “licensing and transaction” category.



Watson & Band honored with “2022 Excellence Award for Overseas Trademark Protection in Shanghai” and Its Case selected as a “2021-2022 Outstanding Trademark Agency Case in Shanghai”

On February 9, 2023, the Shanghai Trademark Association successfully held the “Meeting for Advancing Standard Satisfaction of Trademark Agents”, during which it released the “Decision on Awarding Excellence Award for Overseas Trademark Protection” and the “Decision on Awarding Top Trademark Agency Cases”. Watson & Band IP Agent Ltd. was honored with the “2022 Excellence Award for Overseas Trademark Protection in Shanghai” for its constant outstanding performance in overseas trademark protection. Meanwhile, the trademark opposition case involving the “钢宝王 STK and device” trademark that Watson & Band Agent Ltd. represented for the client, was selected as one of the “2021-2022 Outstanding Trademark Agency Cases in Shanghai” after submission by the company, material review, online voting evaluation by the judging panel.

Patent

The Number of High-value Invention Patents in China reaches 1.324 Million

By the end of 2022, the number of high-value invention patents in China reached 1.324 million. The number of valid invention patents reached 4.212 million, and the number of high-value invention patents owned by per 10,000 people reached 9.4.

Patent

Types of Rights	Number
High-value invention patents	132,400
High-value invention patents owned by per 10,000 people	9.4
Valid trademark registrations	42,672,000
Geographical indication products approved cumulatively	2,495
Geographical indications approved to be registered as collective trademarks or certification trademarks	7,076
Layout designs of integrated circuits issued cumulatively	61,000

Statistics on Certain IP Rights (by the end of 2022)

As revealed by relevant statistics, China is the first country in the world with the number of over 3 million valid invention patents. By the end of 2022, China's high-value invention patents, has reached 1.324 million at the annual growth rate of 24.2%, accounting for over 40% of the total valid invention patents. Also shown in WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators, China is already the world's Top 1 in terms of the number of valid invention patents.

In terms of different industries, by the end of 2022, valid high-value invention patents relating to strategic emerging industries has reached 952,000 at the annual growth rate of 18.7%, accounting for 71.9% of the total high-value invention patents. In particular, digital technology fields like the information technology management and computer technology have witnessed the most rapid growths in valid invention patents, reaching the annual growth rates of 59.6% and 28.8% respectively for the said two fields. Also, in the digital area that has been a great focus in recent years, the number of invention patents granted in the core industries of digital economy reached 325,000 at the annual growth rate of 17.9%, reflecting an increasingly strong patent reserve.

(Source: China Intellectual Property News)

New Version of China and Other Countries' Patent Examination Information Inquiry System Launched

In order to provide efficient and convenient patent inquiry services for the public, the new version of China and other countries' patent examination information inquiry system (hereinafter the "System") was officially launched at 12:00 on February 1, 2023 and is now undergoing its trial run period.

During the trial run period, new service information will be available through said new-version System at <https://cpquery.cponline.cnipa.gov.cn>. Service information occurring before the launch will still be available through the pervious system at <http://cpquery.cnipa.gov.cn>. For any question you may encounter during the trial run period, please dial 86-10-62356655 for assistance.

(Source: China National Intellectual Property Administration)

Patent

CNIPA will No Longer accept PCT International Application Documents via Facsimile from March 1 and on

From March 1 and on, the China Intellectual Property Administration, as the accepting office, will no longer accept PCT international applications documents or any document or letter in connection therewith submitted thereafter via facsimile. PCT applicants may use the client end of the “Patent Service Handling System” or the web version at <https://cponline.cnipa.gov.cn>, and submit the PCT application documents to the China Office via electronic means or in paper form, as well as complete the related services.

(Source: China National Intellectual Property Administration)

Trademark

CNIPA and Other Four Authorities: China Time-honored Brands should comply with requirements under the Trademark Law and the Advertising Law

On February 1, China’s Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, State Administration for Market Regulation, State Bureau of Cultural Relics and National Intellectual Property Administration jointly formulated and promulgated the *Administrative Measures for the Building of Model China Time-honored Brands* (hereinafter the “*Measures*”).

The *Measures* provide for the use of the “China Time-honored Brand” mark and the related signboard. The “China Time-honored Brand” mark applies to the China time-honored brands and their enterprises recognized by China’s Ministry of Commerce. Any enterprise or individual with no said recognition shall not use the “China Time-honored Brand” mark or the related words.

The *Measures* also provide that the “China Time-honored Brand” mark shall be used only on the products or services that are recognized along with the China time-honored brand, subject to the products or services approved for use of the registered trademark related to the China time-honored brand; also, the name of the recognized enterprise shall also be clearly marked and the scope of use of the trademark shall not be expanded. Further, the “China Time-honored Brand” mark shall comply with the provisions of relevant laws and regulations like the *P.R.C. Trademark Law and the P.R.C. Advertising Law*.

(Source: official website of China’s Ministry of Commerce)

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property Insurance covers over 28,000 Enterprises in China

The Intellectual Property Development and Research Center of the China Intellectual Property Administration and PICC Property and Casualty Company Limited jointly released the White Paper on the Development of Intellectual Property Insurance in China (2022). According to the White Paper, as of the end of 2022, intellectual property insurance in China has provided over 110 billion RMB risk coverage for over 28,000 enterprises for their over 46,000 patents, trademarks, geographical indications and layout designs of integrated circuits.

Since 2011 China has been exploring and promoting patent insurance related business. To this date China's intellectual property insurance covers various types of IP rights including patents, trademarks, copyrights, geographical indications, layout designs of integrated circuits, new varieties of plants and trade secrets and encompasses every link like creation, protection and application of the IP rights. Positive progress has been witnessed on the path of exploration of intellectual property insurance.

(Source: People's Daily)