



2025.07

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

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Cover: Interior of office block where Panawell locates

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Panawell Intellectual Property, consisting of Panawell & Partners, LLC and Panawell & Partners Law Firm, provide full spectrum of services in all fields of intellectual property rights, such as patent, trademark, copyright, computer software, anti-unfair competition, trade secrets, custom protection, domain name, license, assignment, enforcement, administrative and civil litigation, IP consulting and management.

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Chinese Patent Applications to Be Filed in XML Format from October 2025

On May 20, 2025, the CNIPA released the Notice on Further Promoting the Use of Extensible Markup Language (XML) Format in the E-Filing System, which stipulates that "For patent applications with a filing date on or after October 1, 2025, electronic applications shall be filed in XML format if the applicants wish to request for prioritized examination, expedited examination, Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), deferred examination or centralized examination", and informs the public that starting from 2026, the CNIPA's E-filing system will be gradually upgraded to only accept application documents in XML format.

To prompt digitalization of patent examination and improve the efficiency of patent application and examination, the CNIPA has been vigorously promoting the use of XML format since 2024, and the XML filing rate has been greatly increased so far. The CNIPA has also provided a WORD to XML editor on the official E-Filing website (<http://cponline.cnipa.gov.cn>), to facilitate the applicants and agencies to prepare patent applications in XML format.

(Source: official website of CNIPA)

2024 China IP Data

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of the Patent Law in China. Around

the World Intellectual Property Day on April 26, 2025, the relevant authorities released a series of China intellectual property data in 2024, showing the latest progress and enhancement of the intellectual property protection in China.

In April 2025, the CNIPA released a white paper entitled the Status of Intellectual Property Protection in China 2024. On April 21, the Supreme Court released the Status of Judicial Protection of Intellectual Property in Chinese Courts (2024). On April 23, the General Administration of Customs released the Status of Intellectual Property Protection of China Customs 2024. On April 24, the Information Office of the State Council held a press conference briefing the IP system construction in 2024 and the Annual Report on Crackdown on Infringement and Counterfeiting in China (2024). On April 25, the Supreme Procuratorate released the White Paper on Intellectual Property Prosecution for the first time.

1. Data on Intellectual Property Examination and Grant

In 2024, 1.045 million invention patents were granted, with the number of valid invention patents reaching 5.689 million; 4.781 million registered trademarks were approved, with the number of valid registered trademarks reaching 49.777 million. Of them, the number of valid invention patents owned by foreign applicants in China reached 932,600, and the number of valid trademark registrations reached 2,156,200. 10.631 million copyrights were recorded on file, a

year-on-year increase of 19%; 2.827 million computer software copyrights were recorded on file, a year-on-year increase of 13%. 36 geographical indication products have been identified, and a total of 2,544 geographical indication products have been identified; 125 geographical indications were approved for registration as collective trademarks and certification marks. Nearly 15,000 applications for new agricultural plants varieties were accepted, 5,797 were granted; 1,338 applications for new forest and grass plants varieties were accepted, and 878 rights were granted.

China's international patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the Hague System ranked first in the world, and its Madrid international trademark registration applications ranked third. In the 2024 Global Innovation Index Report released by the WIPO, China has risen to 11th place and has 26 of the world's top 100 science and technology clusters, ranking first in the world for two consecutive years.

In 2024, the national customs accepted 29,541 applications for the intellectual property filing for customs protection, with the total number of application filings being close to 30,000 for the first time, and 21,614 application filings were approved. In terms of applications for general guarantee for customs protection of intellectual property rights, 141 applications by right holders for general guarantee were accepted, a year-on-year increase of 12.8%.

2. Data on Intellectual Property Protection

In 2024, courts across the country accepted new first-instance, second-instance, and retrial cases in total of about 529,000, and conclude about 544,000 cases (including old ones, the same below).

Of them, about 450,000 new first-instance IP civil cases were accepted by courts across the country, 457,000 cases were concluded; and 30,000 new second-instance IP civil cases were accepted, 32,000 cases were concluded. Punitive damages were awarded in 460 cases of bad-faith infringement with serious circumstances, a year-on-year increase of 44.2%. During the year, 31 monopoly cases were determined, and about 14,000 unfair competition cases were concluded.

Courts across the country accepted 20,000 new first-instance IP administrative cases and concluded 28,000. About 12,000 new second-instance IP administrative cases were accepted, and concluded 10,874, of which original rulings were upheld in 9,420, rulings were reversed in 1,091, 2 cases were remanded for retrial, 207 cases were withdrawn, 4 cases were mediated or settled, and the other cases amounted to 150.

Courts across the country accepted 9,120 new first-instance criminal cases of IP infringement and concluded 9,003; accepted 1,112 new second-instance IP criminal cases, and concluded 1,068, with a year-on-year increase for both types of cases.

In 2024, procuratorial organs at all levels accepted and reviewed a total of 7,646 cases of IP infringement, with 13,486 arrests, and there were 13,767 cases accepted, examined and indicted, with 4,691 approved arrests and 9,452 indictments, and with a non-approved arrest rate of 44% and a non-indictment rate of 21.7%. Among them, 1,796 were cases of counterfeiting registered trademarks with approved arrests, and 3,520 were cases with indictments; 1,959 were cases involving crimes of selling goods bearing counterfeit registered trademarks with approved arrests and 3,841 were cases with approved indictments for the crime; 279 arrests were approved and 574 indictments were approved for the crime of illegally manufacturing and selling illegally manufactured registered trademark designs or logos; 336 arrests were approved and 860 indictments were approved for copyright infringement; 45 arrests were approved and 94 indictments were approved for the crime of selling infringing copies; 72 arrests were approved and 91 indictments were approved for infringement of trade secrets; there was 1 case of counterfeiting patent with indictment.

A total of 1,764 intellectual property-related civil prosecution cases, 1,559 IP-related administrative prosecution cases, and 896 public interest litigation cases in field of IP were handled by procuratorial organs across the country. Of the cases of IP infringement with indictments, 1,085 attached with civil lawsuits were filed by rights holders, a year-on-year increase of 70.6%.

In 2024, public security organs across the country cracked down on crimes of intellectual property infringement and production and sale of counterfeit and shoddy goods under the law, and a total of 37,000 related criminal cases were filed and investigated.

In 2024, the national customs took a total of 53,200 intellectual property protection measures and actually detain 41,600 batches and 81,605,000 pieces of suspected infringing goods, and a total of rights holders from 58 countries and regions protected their rights and interests through customs protection. 41,200 batches and 80,333,700 pieces of suspected infringing goods were detained in the export stage, and 345 batches and 1,301,500 pieces of suspected infringing goods were detained in the import stage with the export stage still being the main battlefield of the nation's customs enforcement and protection. In 2024, 25,300 batches and 20,273,800 pieces of suspected infringing goods were detained in the cross-border e-commerce channel, which has become the channel with the largest number of detained batches of goods.

In 2024, the intellectual property administrative authorities handled 72,000 administrative cases of patent infringement disputes, guided mediation organizations to accept nearly 140,000 mediation cases of intellectual property disputes, and accepted 68 administrative adjudication cases of the early resolution mechanism of drug patent disputes and concluded 43 cases.

In 2024, market supervision and administrative authorities at all levels across the country investigated and dealt with a total of 2,074 patent violation cases, involving an amount of CNY 6.66 million yuan; 40,400 cases of trademark violations were investigated and dealt with, involving an amount of CNY 1.11 billion, and 1,220 suspected criminal cases were transferred to the judicial authorities under the law. More than 200 varieties of infringing counterfeit products and pirated publications, totaling 3,300 tons and CNY 330 million, were destroyed.

In 2024, the National Copyright Administration inspected and monitored 3,384 websites suspected of committing infringement, and deleted 114,000 infringing text links. Copyright law enforcement authorities nationwide dispatched 1,282,400 law enforcement workers, inspected units in the marketplace 683,800 times, and launched investigation and prosecution in 3,219 cases of infringement and piracy in the marketplace.

In 2024, arbitration institutions across the country handled 6,226 cases of intellectual property dispute, a year-on-year increase of 18%; and the involved amount reached CNY 11.5 billion, a year-on-year increase of 135%.

3. Data on Intellectual Property Use

There were 432 copyright pledge registrations, a year-on-year increase of 5%, with 287 contracts involved, a year-on-year decrease of 25% and the

amount of guarantee involved reaching CNY 4.1 billion yuan, a year-on-year decrease of 58%.

There were more than 15,000 open patent licenses. 613,000 patent transfer licenses were recorded on file, a year-on-year increase of 30%. The industrialization rate of valid invention patents reached 53.3%. The direct annual output value of GI products exceeds CNY 960 billion. The annual import and export volume of intellectual property royalties reached CNY 398.71 billion, a year-on-year increase of 6%.

To conclude, in 2024, China had comprehensively enhanced the intellectual property protection, with authorities at all levels continuing to do their in-depth and solid work to treat all types of business entities equally and provide equal protection under the law, further boosting the top-level design of intellectual property protection, continuously improving judicial and administrative protection, constantly optimizing overseas intellectual property protection mechanisms, effectively safeguarding the international and multilateral intellectual property system, and firmly promoting the development of the global intellectual property governance system in a more fair and reasonable direction.

(Source: official websites of CNIPA, SPC, GACC, SCIO and SPP)

CNIPA Released Draft Amendments to Patent Examination Guidelines

On April 30, 2025, the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) released the Notice regarding Solicitation of Public Opinions on the Draft Amendments to the Guidelines for Patent Examination (for Comments), proposing to amend fourteen chapters in the five parts on preliminary examination, substantive examination, examination of national phase applications of PCT international applications, reexamination and invalidation, and patent application and affairs in the Guidelines for Patent Examination.

1. Amendments Related to Preliminary Examination

It is specified that patent agencies shall be responsible for the authenticity and validity of the inventor identity information, applicant identity information, and contact details in the patent requests they file. Moreover, the requirements for inventor identity information are added. Currently, only the first inventor's nationality and Chinese resident identification card number is required in the request form, but the Draft Amendment extends this requirement from the first inventor to all inventors.

2. Amendments Related to Substantive Examination

① Amendments to the subject matter of plant variety protection. The definition of "plant" has been deleted, and definition of plant variety added, which harmonizes with the requirements related to

plant varieties of the Seed Law of China, making breeding materials that cannot be protected by the plant new variety rights become patentable.

② Amendments regarding the treatment of identical invention-creation. It is clarified that whether one invention application and one utility model application are of the same invention-creation should be considered based on the applicant's statement made in the request forms. The way for processing applications filed on the same day has been changed, requiring the applicant to abandon granted utility model patent in order to obtain the invention patent, and one shall not obtain both the utility model patent and invention patent merely by revising the protection scope of the invention application.

③ Amendments to the novelty examination. It is specified that features in the claims that do not contribute to the solution of the technical problem typically do not endow the claimed invention with novelty, or enhance the level of novelty of the invention. It is highlighted that, in assessing novelty, the entire technical solution defined by the claims shall be considered from the perspective of those skilled in the art, with the essence of the invention accurately understood to ensure that the patented claims truly match the invention's contribution to the prior art.

④ Amendments to the examination in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). Addition has been made of the requirements for examination of the content of application documents, such as whether the

data collection, labeling management, rule setting, recommendation decision-making, and other content presented in the application documents violate the law, social ethics, or harm the public interests, as well as whether they run against fairness and justice or exhibit discriminatory biases. Inventiveness examination standards are clarified with typical cases. And additions have also been made of the requirements and examples for drafting that satisfy the required sufficient disclosure of the description.

⑤ Addition of the examination on invention patent applications that include bit streams. In fields like streaming media, communication systems, and computer systems, various types of data are usually generated, stored, and transmitted in the form of bit streams. This new section aims to provide specific provisions for the examination of the subject matter claimed in invention patent applications that include bit streams, as well as for the drafting of the description and claims.

3. Amendments Related to Examination on National Phase Applications

The rules for calculating additional fees related to sequence listings are revised: 1) for sequence listings in computer-readable form filed in the prescribed format, pages of the sequence listings will not be calculated for excessive specification fee; and 2) the provision on fee calculation for sequence listings exceeding 400 pages has been deleted. However, for regular national applications filed in paper form, the excessive specification

fees are still subject to the number of pages of the sequence listing in paper form.

4. Amendments Related to Reexamination and Invalidation

Requirements on the qualification of petitioners of invalidation requests have been added. Filed invalidation requests that do not reflect the true will of the petitioners will not be accepted. And the principle of “res judicata” has been specified. For example, if only simple adjustments and changes are made to the reasons or evidence for invalidation but the legal facts remain substantially the same, it still falls under the scope regulated by the “res judicata” principle. New formal requirements for submitting amended patent claims in the invalidation proceedings and related procedural rules have also been added.

5. Amendments Related to Patent Application and Affairs

There are significant changes related to patent term compensation. It is clarified that although the patent application documents have not been amended in the reexamination procedure, situations where the revocation of rejection decisions is based on new reasons stated or new evidence provided by the applicant shall be considered as reasonable delays, and no patent term compensation will be granted for such delays. However, if the applicant claims that the substantive examination proceeding violates legal procedures and requests to revoke the rejection

in the reexamination stage, and the panel only revokes the rejection based on such procedural non-compliances, it does not fall under the domain of "reasonable delays".

The CNIPA had released a comparison table and explanations of the amendments in the Draft Amendment to the Patent Examination Guidelines in the notice, and sought public opinions from all sectors of the society. The public were invited to email their well-developed specific suggestions to the CNIPA before June 15, 2025.

(Source: official website of the CNIPA)

China's Regulations on Protection of New Plant Varieties Took Effect on June 1, 2025

According to the State Council Order No. 807, the amended Regulations on Protection of New Plant Varieties of China (hereinafter "the Regulations") came into effect on June 1, 2025, consisting of a total of 49 articles in 8 chapters.

1. Enhanced Protection

To enhance the protection of variety rights and stimulate breeding innovation, the Regulations have improved the relevant systems in four aspects.

First, the content of variety rights has been detailed and expanded, extending the protection scope from the propagation materials of granted varieties to harvested materials. The protection coverage has been expanded from production,

propagation and sales to processing, offering for sale, import, export and storage for propagation. The validity of the variety rights extends to substantially derived varieties of granted varieties, varieties that are not significantly different from the granted varieties, and other varieties that commercially reuse granted varieties for production or propagation.

Second, arrangements are made for the implementation of the substantive derivative variety system, clarifying that China will implement this system in stages. Relevant authorities under the State Council for agriculture, rural affairs, forestry and grassland will determine the specific implementation scope in the form of a catalog, which will be submitted to the State Council for approval and then released for implementation.

Third, it is made clear that agreements on the ownership take priority, stipulating that for breeding completed using the materials and technical conditions of an organization, the rights to apply for the variety rights between the organization and the individual who completed the breeding will follow the agreement they have reached.

Fourth, the term of protection for variety rights will be extended, with the term for woody and climbing plants extended from 20 to 25 years, and for other plants from 15 to 20 years.

2. More Stringent Conditions for Variety Rights Grant

To regulate the application for variety rights and enhance the quality of grants, the Regulations have improved the relevant systems in three aspects.

First, it is stipulated that plant varieties that violate the law and harm the public interests and the ecological environment will not be granted the variety rights.

Second, it is clarified that besides loss of novelty due to sales and promotional activities, varieties that are confirmed to have factually spread based on the sowing regions by the agricultural and rural, forestry and grassland authorities at the provincial level, as well as crop varieties that have been approved or registered for more than two years without applying for the plant variety rights, are deemed to have lost novelty.

Thirdly, the Regulations strengthen the management of the names of granted varieties, adding situations where variety naming is not allowed, and specifying that if the names of granted varieties do not comply with the naming regulations, they will be ordered to be renamed; and failure to do so will result in invalidity of the variety rights.

3. Improved Variety Rights Application and Grant Procedures

To improve the efficiency of variety rights grant and for the convenience of the parties involved, the Regulations have been refined in the three aspects concerning the application and grant procedures.

First, the time for preliminary examination has been shortened from 6 months to 3 months, with an option for a 3-month extension in complex cases.

Second, the restoration system has been added. It is stipulated that if a party loses his right due to force majeure or for other justified reasons that cause a delay in the deadlines prescribed under Regulations or those specified by the agricultural and rural affairs, forestry, and grassland authorities of the State Council, they may explain their reasons to the competent authority and request to restore their rights.

Third, the administration of variety rights applications filed abroad has been strengthened. The authority responsible for registering variety rights applications to overseas markets has been shifted from the agricultural and rural affairs, forestry, and grassland authorities of the provincial governments to those of the State Council.

4. History of Protection of New Plant Varieties in China

China did not provide special protection for new plant varieties when it joined the Paris Convention in 1985. In 1994, China signed the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), committing to establish a system for the protection of new plant varieties. The Regulations on the Protection of New Plant Varieties were officially promulgated and came into effect on October 1, 1997. Subsequent first and second amendments were made on

January 31, 2013, and July 29, 2014, respectively, and now the Regulations have been amended for the third time.

(Source: the official website of the State Council of PRC)

Judicial Interpretations on the Handling of Criminal Cases of IP Infringement Promulgated in China

On April 24, 2025, the Supreme Court (SPC) and the Supreme Procuratorate (SPP) jointly released the Interpretation on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases of Intellectual Property Infringement (hereinafter "the Interpretation"). The Interpretation, effective as of April 26, 2025, consists of 31 articles in five parts shown below:

1. Provisions Related to Trademark Crimes

The Interpretation further specifies the standards for determining these practically more controversial phrases "the same goods or services", "the same trademark" and "registered trademark design". For example, Article 7 of the Interpretation specifically clarifies the concept and method of determination of "two or more registered trademarks" and the "pieces" of registered trademarks in trademark infringement crime. For the determination of "two or more registered trademarks", it is necessary to start from the function of the trademark to identify the source of goods and services, and pay attention to

examination as to whether the relevant trademarks point to the same source of goods, rather than directly determining the number of trademarks with different trademark registration numbers. Regarding the determination of a registered trademark as a "piece", it is generally a sign with a complete trademark design. Where several design patterns are printed on a tangible carrier, and the design pattern cannot be used separately from the tangible carrier, it shall be found to be a single piece of design.

On the basis of absorbing and integrating the current judicial interpretations, the Interpretation lays out the standards for criminalizing counterfeiting registered service trademarks.

2. Provisions Related to Crime of Counterfeiting Patents

The Interpretation defines in detail the circumstances of "counterfeiting another person's patent", stipulating that forging or altering another person's patent certificate, patent document or patent application document, marking another person's patent number on the products and product packaging manufactured or sold by another person without permission, and using another person's patent number in contracts, product manuals or advertising and other promotional materials without permission are all acts of "counterfeiting another person's patent".

Meanwhile, the Interpretation sets forth the standards for criminalization counterfeiting

patents and appropriately lowers the criminalization threshold according to practical situations.

3. Provisions Related to Copyright Crimes

The Interpretation further specifies the standards for determining the practically more controversial phrases "without the permission of the copyright owner" and "reproduction and distribution". For example, on the basis of "without the permission of the copyright owner", additions have been made of "without the permission of the producer of audio and video recordings" and "without the permission of the performer"; it interprets the concept of "communication to the public through information networks", which is clearly distinguished from "reproduction and distribution," and also distinguishes it from broadcasting rights in the sense of copyright law; on top of this, it clarifies that "reproduction and distribution" refers to acts of reproducing and distributing or reproducing for the sake of distribution, rather than distributing separately.

On the basis of integrating the current judicial interpretations, the Interpretation sets out the standards for criminalization of copyright crimes.

4. Provisions Related to Trade Secret Crimes

The Interpretation further clarifies the standards for determining improper means such as "theft" and "electronic intrusion", sets forth specific rules for the "seriousness" of trade secret infringements and clarifies the standards for determining

the amount of losses and illegal gains. For example, Article 17 of the Interpretation spells out the standards for criminalizing "serious circumstances," that is, if the amount of losses or illegal gains caused is "more than CNY 300,000 yuan", and the criminal punishment or administrative punishment for infringing trade secrets is imposed again within two years, the criminalization amount is reduced to "more than CNY 100,000 yuan."

5. Provisions on Common Issues of Intellectual Property Crimes

The Interpretation further provides the applicable standards for joint crimes, heavier and lighter punishments, application of fines, crimes by organizations, confiscation and destruction, as well as specific rules for determining the amount of illegal business, operation, the amount of illegal gains, and the amount of sales.

The Interpretation has been formulated in line with the 11th Amendment to the Criminal Law, which is a new and systematic interpretation of the crime of intellectual property infringements, absorbing and integrating the effective provisions of the previous three relevant judicial interpretations, and repealing the first three judicial interpretations, so as to facilitate judicial practice, effectively standardize the handling of criminal cases, and ensure that the standards for the application of law are harmonized to create a good environment under the rule of law for innovation and creation.

(Source: official website of the Supreme Court)

Application of Principle of Good Faith in Patent Reexamination and Invalidity Proceedings in China as Illustrated in Latest Cases

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The principle of good faith, one of the basic principles under the civil law, is known as the imperial clause, with its self-evident importance. In the fourth amendment to the Patent Law, the principle of good faith was incorporated for the first time. In recent years, although this principle has been cited many times in the substantive examination procedure of patent applications, its application in patent reexamination and invalidation cases is relatively rare. This article will be analyzing the specific application of the principle of good faith in patent reexamination and invalidation proceedings in China from the perspective of the latest cases.

I. Legal Basis

Article 7 of the Civil Code clearly stipulates the principle of good faith, penetrating the entire process of civil legal activities and applicable in the field of intellectual property. Article 20 of the Patent Law provides that "the principle of good faith shall be followed in applying for a patent and in exercising the patent right". Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law, coming into effect on January 20, 2024, stipulates that "the principle of good faith shall be followed in applying for a patent. All types of patent

applications shall be filed on the basis of genuine inventions-creations, and applicants shall not commit fraud." In addition, the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law list the violation of the principle of good faith as one of the grounds for rejecting patent applications and requesting invalidation of patents, which provides a clear legal basis for the application of the principle of good faith in the patent reexamination and invalidation proceedings.

II. Specific Cases

Case 1: Application of the principle of good faith in patent reexamination proceedings

Facts of the case

On February 25, 2025, the Patent Reexamination and Invalidity Department of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) made the Decision No. 1878153 on the reexamination of the request for reexamination, rejecting the reexamination request on the ground that the reexamination requester had acted in violation of the principle of good faith.

The case involved an invention patent application (No. 202211011233.2), entitled "a tinib-like small molecule compound and its preparation method" and filed by a Tianjin-based technology company.

Substantive examination procedure

This application claims a tinib-like small molecule compound and a method for preparing the same. The purpose of its invention is to solve the problem

of toxic side effects of tinib compounds. The technical solution adopted was to prepare a new type of tinib drug by taking imatinib as a reference and incorporating the natural amino acids-L-arginine and 4-methylpiperidin-1-ylbenzenesulfonyl group in the structure, which enhanced the water solubility of the drug and the tolerance of the human body.

The examiner pointed out in the first office action that the description of the present application did not clearly and completely describe the invention, which is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 26, paragraph three, of the Chinese Patent Law on the grounds that the description of the present application only recites the preparation method of the compound, but does not give the characterization data of the compound, nor does it provide the qualitative or quantitative experimental data that the compound of the present application has any pharmacological effect, and the use of such a product is not disclosed in the prior art, so a person skilled in the art is unsure that the compound of the present application has the use and/or effect the applicant alleged based on the contents of the description.

The applicant submitted supplementary experimental data in response to the first office action to prove that the compound of the present application has an inhibitory effect on tumor cells. However, the examiner held that neither the experimental methods nor the results submitted by the applicant in the statement of opinion were

stated in the original claims and description, and did not lie in the technical effects stated in the original application documents, nor could they be implicitly known or inferred from the contents recorded in the description, so they could not be used as sufficient reasons for disclosure of the technical solution claimed in the present application. Accordingly, the present application was rejected.

Reexamination proceedings

When filing a request for reexamination, the requester or applicant amended the claims. That is, the original independent claim 1 of the compound was deleted, and the original claim 2 of the preparation method was upgraded to be new independent claim 1 which was further defined.

During the reexamination proceedings, the reexamination panel pointed out that for a compound invention, the description should completely disclose the confirmation, preparation, use and/or effect of the compound. If a person skilled in the art is unable to predict that the compound can achieve the purpose or effect of use based on the prior art, the description shall also provide qualitative or quantitative experimental data sufficient to prove that the compound can achieve the purpose or the desired effect for those skilled in the art.

In the case of the present application, the description of the present application does not provide confirmation data for the compound,

nor provide specific experiments to prove the effect described, and in view of the obvious structural differences between the compound of the present application and the prior art compound, it is not possible to anticipate what kind of use or effect the compound would have. Sufficient disclosure of the preparation method of the compound is necessary to confirm that the compound of the present application has the claimed effect and can solve its technical problem, that is, it is necessary to fully disclose the compound. Therefore, the compound of the present application and the method for preparing it are not fully disclosed, which is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 26, paragraph three, of the Chinese Patent Law. However, the defect of insufficient disclosure of the technical solution is an inherent one in the original application documents, not rectifiable by supplementing the experimental data after the filing date.

With regard to the supplementary experiment data submitted by the reexamination requester in response to the first office action, the reexamination panel held that, according to Chapter 10 of Part II of the Guidelines for Patent Examination, "the technical effect proved by the supplementary experimental data shall be derivable by a person skilled in the art from the contents disclosed in the patent application," and the present application only describes the technical effect assertively, and lacks qualitative or quantitative experimental data or other

objective basis to corroborate it. It is difficult for a person skilled in the art to reasonably determine the objective existence of the claimed technical effect at the filing date, and the technical effect could not be proved by the experimental data supplemented after the filing date. Therefore, the relevant supplementary experimental data cannot be adopted.

At this point, the reexamination panel was actually able to make a reexamination decision directly to uphold the rejection, but the panel further examined the case.

The reexamination panel also pointed out that whether the present application violates the provisions of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law on the principle of good faith needs to be analyzed from the following two constituent elements: first, whether the patent applicant objectively commits fraud, and second, whether the patent applicant subjectively has an intent to commit fraud. The latter constituent element is to be determined by the objective facts presented in the case.

In this case, the reexamination requester submitted the data of the drug research carried out in human body, i.e., the clinical trial of the drug, when filing the request for reexamination. Article 19 of the Drug Administration Law of the People's Republic of China stipulates that "to carry out drug clinical trials, relevant data, materials and samples, such as development methods, quality standards, pharmacological and toxicological test results

shall be truthfully submitted in accordance with the provisions of the drug regulatory agency of the State Council, and shall be approved by the drug regulatory agency of the State Council". The Measures for the Administration of Drug Registration (2020) also stipulate that drug clinical trials need to be examined and reviewed by the Center for Drug Evaluation, and before carrying out drug clinical trials, it is necessary to register information such as drug clinical trial plans on the drug clinical trial registration and information publicity platform, and the registration information will be publicized on the platform.

After verification, there is no drug clinical trial information described by the reexamination requester on the drug clinical trial registration and information publicity platform. The legality and authenticity of the clinical trials of the drugs described by the reexamination requester are questionable, and the reexamination requester has not provided evidence to clarify this issue. For new compounds, drug clinical trials need to be completed by medical institutions after obtaining approval from the State Food and Drug Administration. Without the relevant proofs, it is not possible for medical institutions to use the compound on patients. This is the most basic ethics that starts from the protection of human life and health. The reexamination panel clearly required the reexamination requester to provide corresponding evidence to prove that the clinical trial data it provides is derived from the real invention-creation, but reexamination requester

had failed to perform the corresponding burden of proof. Under such circumstances, the reexamination panel had the reasonable grounds to suspect that the drug clinical trial data submitted by the reexamination requester was suspected of being fabricated, and the above-mentioned acts of the reexamination requester are subjectively intentional, which violates the principle of good faith and does not comply with the provisions of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law.

Accordingly, the reexamination panel rejected the request for reexamination by the reexamination requester.

Case 2: Application of principle of good faith in patent invalidation proceedings

Facts of the case

On March 7, 2025, the CNIPA Patent Reexamination and Invalidation Department made Decision No. 583749 on the request for invalidation, declaring the patent right invalid on the grounds that it violated the principle of good faith.

The case involves a utility model patent granted on March 5, 2019, with the application number of 201821114751.6 and entitled "an up and down cutting device for automatic soft material cutting equipment". The filing date of this patent is July 14, 2018 and the patentee is a Wuxi-based mechanical technology company. On January 22, 2024, a Shanghai-based company (the requester) filed a request for invalidation of the patent.

The invalidation proceedings

The patent claims an automated cutting equipment for flexible materials. The requester argued that the claims of this patent, plagiarizing the prior art device the requester had made publicly available, did not comply with the provisions of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law, and the provisions of Article 22, paragraph two, of the Patent Law, and the requester also submitted relevant evidence.

Regarding Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law

The reexamination panel held that in order to determine whether the act of applying for a patent in this case constitutes plagiarism of prior art, it is necessary to determine from the following two aspects: first, whether the content of the invention-creation of the patent was the same as or highly similar to that of the prior art, and second, whether the patentee subjectively has an intent to apply for a patent even though it clearly knew it was the prior art when applying for the patent.

The reexamination panel ascertained that, firstly, the evidence of preservation, the evidence of the procurement contract and the evidence of bank transactions provided by the requester, constituting a complete chain of evidence, proved that the preserved machine cutting equipment with a specific model had been publicly available before the filing date of this patent, and that the technical solution embodied in the evidence had been in a

state of accessibility for the public when they wanted to know it before the filing date of this patent, and the structure shown by the evidence could be used as the prior art of the patent.

Secondly, the technical solution claimed in the claims of the present patent had been disclosed by the prior art, so it could be determined that the content of the invention-creation of the patent was the same as the prior art.

Thirdly, the founder of the patentee, a on-site engineer of the requester, used to undertake the work of equipment maintenance and use guidance, was able to get in touch with the equipment and the drawings, and knew about the design data or physical objects of the company's products without evidence to the contrary. As the initial shareholder of the patentee, it was highly likely for him to had participated in the patentee's R&D projects or activities.

Based on the above-mentioned circumstances, it was highly probable that the patentee knew the above-mentioned prior art before the filing date, so there was a subjective intention to him to apply for a patent even though he knew that the invention was prior art.

According to Section 5 of Chapter 1, Part II, of the Guidelines for Patent Examination, the patent has been plagiarized from prior art in the application process, so it was contrary to the provisions of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law.

Regarding the application of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law and Article 22, paragraph two, of the Patent Law

Since the technical solution of this patent has been disclosed by the prior art, the claims of this patent obviously do not comply with the provisions of Article 22, paragraph two, of the Patent Law on novelty. In the case where all the above-mentioned grounds for invalidity are valid, the question arises as to which legal provision should apply when making the examination decision.

In this regard, the reexamination panel believes that in the patent legal system, different provisions have different positions and functions. As far as the legislative purpose is concerned, the novelty as stipulated in Article 22, paragraph two, of the Patent Law requires that the invention-creation must be distinguished from the prior art, so as to stimulate technological innovation and progress. Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law is a concrete embodiment of the principle of good faith in the patent system, aiming to guide patent applicants to exercise self-discipline, regulate dishonest acts in patent applications, curb fraud in the application process, and emphasize that patent applications must be based on real inventions-creations, so as to effectively maintain the normal order of patent work and improve the overall quality of patents.

Specifically, in this case, on the one hand, the technical solution of the patent does not possess

novelty because it belongs to the prior art; on the other hand, when applying for a patent, the patentee subjectively knows that the technology is prior art, but deliberately applies for a patent, which is in line with the situation of plagiarizing the prior art as stipulated in Item 2 of Article 3 of the Provisions on Regulating the Conduct of Patent Applications, and there are problems of not following the principle of good faith and falsification in the patent application, which violates the provisions of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law. In such a case, Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law shall prevail, and the patent right shall be declared invalid in its entirety accordingly.

III. Cases Analysis and Revelations

Case 1 is a typical case in which the principle of good faith is applicable in the reexamination case. During the substantive examination of the present application, the examiner did not point out that the application violated the principle of good faith but only pointed out that the application had the defect of insufficient disclosure of the description due to the lack of confirmation data and effect data of the compound. This defect is an inherent defect in the description itself, which is not remediable and rectifiable by post-submitting additional test data, thus resulting in the rejection of the application.

In the reexamination proceedings, in addition to finding the insufficient disclosure of the description of the application, the reexamination panel also

pointed out that the drug clinical trial data submitted by the reexamination requester violated the relevant provisions of the Drug Administration Law of the People's Republic of China and the Measures for the Administration of Drug Registration (2020), and the clinical trial data was suspected of being fabricated, so it was determined that it violated the principle of good faith. In this case, the reexamination panel could have directly rejected the request for reexamination on the ground that the description of the application was not sufficiently disclosed, but it further pointed out that the application had defects that violated the principle of good faith.

In the reexamination proceedings, the reexamination panel generally only examines the grounds and evidence on which the rejection decision has been made and is not obliged to comprehensively examine the patent application. However, to improve the quality of granted patent and avoid unreasonably prolonging the examination and approval procedure, the reexamination panel may, *ex officio*, examine obvious substantive defects that are not mentioned in the rejection decision. On the one hand, in this case, the principle of *ex officio* reexamination was applied in the reexamination proceedings, which reflects the reexamination panel's comprehensive grasp of this case. On the other hand, this is in line with the current general trend and requirements in connection with the national efforts to improve the quality of granted patents. The Outline of the

National Intellectual Property Strategy released in 2008 states that "in accordance with the conditions for the grant of patent rights, the patent examination procedure shall be improved and the quality of examination shall be heightened, and abnormal patent applications shall be prevented." In the 2025 National Conference of Directors of the Nationwide Intellectual Property Offices (excerpt), the CNIPA Director General mentioned in the intellectual property work arrangement for 2025: "(3) Strive to boost the high-quality creation of intellectual property. The first is to vigorously improve the quality of patent applications. improve the quality of patent applications from the source ...". The purpose of incorporating the principle of good faith in the process of the fourth amendment to the Patent Law is to regulate the acts of applying for patents and exercising patent rights. This case has a certain guiding effect on the application of the principle of good faith in similar cases.

The case has the following revelations:

- 1) Requirements for sufficient disclosure of the description. When drafting a patent application document, it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that the description of the invention in the description should be clear and complete, so that a person skilled in the art can exploit it. This is especially true for patent applications in the field of chemistry as it is an experimental science, and in most cases, it is often difficult to predict whether a chemical invention can be exploited and needs to be confirmed by experimental results. The effects

of such chemical inventions are often illustrated by experimental data. In the present case, the present application claims a new compound and a method for preparing it. This requires that, in addition to the chemical name, structural formula or molecular formula of the compound, the description must also present the chemical and physical performance parameters related to the technical problem to be solved with the invention, such as various qualitative or quantitative data and spectra, so that the claimed compound can be clearly identified. Although in the reexamination proceedings, the reexamination requester deleted the independent claims of the compound and only claimed the preparation method of the compound, because it was a preparation method of a new compound, it was still necessary to disclose the confirmation data of the said compound. In addition, the description only shows the technical effect claimed and does not provide specific test or experimental data to prove it. As a result, the request for reexamination was rejected due to insufficient disclosure of the description.

2) The experimental data provided by the applicant must be derived from real inventive and creative activities. The inventor must keep a good record of the original experiment when he or she makes the experiment. If needed in the future, the original experiment records can be provided for illustration and proof. Once clinical trials need to be conducted, they need to be carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the

Drug Administration Law and the Measures for the Administration of Drug Registration (2020).

3) Regarding the supplementarily submitted experimental data, according to Chapter 10 of Part II of the Guidelines for Patent Examination, the content on which to determine whether a description is sufficiently disclosed should be the content recited in the original description and claims. Although the examiner shall examine the experimental data submitted by the applicant after the filing date to prove or illustrate that the invention has an inventive step or that the description is sufficiently disclosed, the technical effect proved by the experimental data required to be post-submitted should be derivable from the contents of the patent application for a person skilled in the art. Therefore, when drafting the application documents, it is necessary to provide as much experimental data as possible to meet the requirements for sufficient disclosure and inventiveness.

Case 2 is a typical case in which the principle of good faith is applied in invalidation cases. In the course of the examination of the case, the reexamination panel ascertained that the patentee had plagiarized the prior art in the process of applying for a patent, and gave the following criteria: first, whether the content of the patented invention-creation was the same as or highly similar to the content of the prior art; and second, whether the patentee had the subjective intention to apply for a patent despite the fact that he or she knows it was prior art when applying for a patent.

At the same time, the technical solution claimed in the claims of this patent belongs to prior art and does not comply with the provisions of Article 22, paragraph two, of the Patent Law. In the case that the patent involved in the case was contrary to the provisions of Rule 11 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law and Article 22, paragraph two, of the Patent Law at the same time, the reexamination panel of this case comprehensively considered the legislative purpose, institutional function and legal effect of the two legal provisions, and chose to declare the patent invalid on the ground that the patentee violated the principle of good faith when applying for the patent. This reflects the reexamination group's advocacy that patent applications should be filed in a honest and trustworthy manner, based on real inventions-creations, for the purpose to improve the quality of granted patents from the source.

IV. Summary and Trends

As the above cases analysis show, with the enhanced intellectual property protection in China, application of the principle of good faith in patent practice will become more extensive and strict as application of the principle of good faith can not only crack down on dishonest acts such as duplicate filings, misrepresentations, and malicious lawsuits, but also help improve the quality of granted patents and promote the implementation of the innovation-driven development strategies.

Author:

Mr. George Guangxun GUO

Mr. Guo graduated from the department of applied chemistry of Qingdao University in 1993, and obtained his bachelor's degree there. In 1996, he obtained his master's degree in the department of fine chemical engineering of Beijing Technology and Business University and in 2004 obtained his master's degree of laws in law school of the University of Hong Kong. He joined Panawell & Partners, LLC in January 2007.

Mr. Guo's practice includes chemistry, chemical engineering, polymer chemistry, medical science, medical materials and equipments, pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical chemistry, electrochemistry, agrochemicals, detergents, cosmetics, and paper-making technology. Mr. Guo has extensive experience in patent drafting, prosecution, reexamination and invalidation proceeding. During his work, Mr. Guo handled dozens of cases of invalidation and administrative litigation for famous international corporations like Du Pont, Eli Lilly, Praxair, and Genentech.

Mr. Guo received training in European patent law and practice in Germany in 2003 and U.S. patent prosecution and litigation in an American law firm in 2005. Mr. Guo was qualified as a patent attorney and attorney-at-law in 2000 and is a member of the All-China Patent Attorneys Association (ACPAA), Sub-Committee of Chemistry and Biotechnology of ACPAA and LES China.

CNIPA Released Typical Trademark Opposition and Review Cases 2024 (Part One)

To boost the intellectual property protection at the very source, improve the quality and efficiency of trademark examination, and create a clean and upright trademark registration environment and a fair competition market order, the CNIPA released, on April 26, 2025, the top 10 typical trademark opposition and review cases of 2024.

1. "L'OIE DES LANDES" Trademark Opposition Case No. 70283061.

【Basic Facts】

The opponent: French National Agency for Product Origin and Quality

The opposed: A Commerce (Shanghai) Co., Ltd

The main reason of the opponent: the registration of the opposed trademark violates the provisions of Article 10.1(7) and Article 16.1(1) of the Trademark Law.

Upon examination, the Trademark Office concluded that the opposed trademark was to be used in respect of goods such as meat, fish (non-live), cooked meat can. The evidence from the opponent proves that "VOLAILLES DES LAN-DES" (LANDE poultry is a geographical indication for French meat and poultry products. "LANDES" is the French place name Landes, which is a world-famous producer of duck and foie gras. The

Langde goose is a world-famous breed of high-quality meat goose, which has been widely publicized by many domestic media and has been known to the relevant sector of the public in China. The French meaning of the opposed trademark is "Landese", which is similar to the above-mentioned French geographical indication in meaning. The opposed party is not from the above-mentioned region, and the registered use of the opposed trademark on meat and other goods is easy to mislead the public, and when used on other designated goods, it is easy for consumers to misidentify the product variety and place of origin. Under Articles 10.1(7) and 16.1(1) of the Trademark Law, the opposed trademark shall not be registered.

【Significance】

This is a typical case of applying Article 16.1(1) of the Trademark Law to provide equal protection to a foreign geographical indication, demonstrating the firm resolve of the trademark authority to create a sound business environment, crack down on malicious clinging to the reputation or good will of foreign geographical indications and misleading the public, and maintain an honest, healthy and orderly trademark registration order.

2. "Apollo" Trademark Opposition Case No. 59554235

【Basic Facts】

The opponent: A smart technology company

The opposed: A technology company

The main reason of the opponent was the opposed trademark and the opponent's prior registered trademark constitute similar trademarks used in respect of similar goods, which violates the provisions of Article 30 of the Trademark Law.

Upon examination, the Trademark Office concluded that the opposed trademark "Apollo" was to be used in respect of cartoons and semiconductor goods in Class 9. The opponent cited the previously registered trademark "APOLLO AIR" No. 56097092 and other trademarks approved to use in respect of goods such as cartoons, semiconductors and electronic chips in Class 9. The "AIR" in the cited trademark is a word commonly used to describe the characteristics of projects in related industries, with weak distinctiveness. The opposed trademark has a similar pronunciation and corresponding meaning to the English "APOLLO" in the main part of the cited trademark, and the relevant goods are basically the same in terms of function, use, sales place and sales channel, which constitute similar trademarks used in respect of similar goods. The registration and use of the opposed trademark is likely to cause confusion and misidentification among consumers. The opposed trademark shall not be registered.

【Significance】

In the protection of intellectual property in the field of emerging technologies, trademark examination

work is closely integrated with the trends of development of the industry, not only with focus on the standards for determining trademark similarity in the traditional sense, but also with full consideration taken of the special technical connotation and market influence of trademarks in the field of emerging technologies, so as to build a solid legal barrier for the sake of enterprises in their innovation efforts and help industries of new quality productivity to deliver high-quality and sustainable developments.

3. "Taihang Quancheng" Trademark Opposition Case No. 71344960

【Basic Facts】

The Opponent: A daily newspaper

The Opposed: An agricultural company

The main reason of the opponent was the application for registration of the opposed trademark violates the provisions of Article 10.1(7) of the Trademark Law. The objected party fails to make a reply within the prescribed time limit.

Upon examination, the Trademark Office concluded that the opposed trademark was to be used in respect of goods such as mineral water (beverages). "Taihang Quancheng" (meaning "spring city in the Taihang Mountain in Chinese) is a city brand created by Xingtai City based on its unique history, culture and natural resources. After extensive publicity and promotion by the Xingtai municipal government and the opponent,

it acquired certain popularity. The opposed trademark is identical with the words of the brand of the city, and the opposed party is also based in Xingtai City, and the opposed trademark is likely to mislead the relevant sector of the public into believing that the trademark has been authorized by the Xingtai municipal government, and then misidentify the quality, reputation and other characteristics of the goods, which violates Article 10.1(7) of the Trademark Law. The opposed trademark shall not be registered.

【Significance】

This is a typical case accurately applying the "deceptive" clauses to effectively protect the city's brand. Article 10.1(7) of the Trademark Law is an absolute cause clause, and the application for registration that is deceptive in terms of the characteristics of the goods or services and the place of origin falls within the scope of regulation under the provision. A city brand possesses distinctive quality characteristics. The case is analyzed from the perspective of quality characteristics, and correctly applies Article 10.1(7) of the Trademark Law, which effectively regulates the bad faith registration of city brands and the harm to the public interests, and provides a solid legal guarantee for the construction of city brands.

To Be Continued ...

(Source: originally published on the official websites of Chinese Trademark Office and China IP News)

What Are the New Trends in Chinese Trademark Examination Practice?

Recently, the trademark examinations have undergone a series of adjustments and brought in some new requirements. These changes are closely related to applicants' rights and interests and the application prosecution. To facilitate smooth progress of your trademark work and to avoid delays or obstacles in your applications due to document issues, we have specifically sorted out and detailed the following key information, hoping it would provide practical assistance to you in your trademark application and management efforts!

1. Updated Signing Requirements for Power of Attorney by Natural Persons from Taiwan

In the past trademark process, it was quite common for a natural person from Taiwan to submit a power of attorney affixed with a personal seal. Nowadays, the power of attorney must be personally signed by the individual himself, and it is possible that the examination department will require corrections for power of attorney that only carries a personal seal.

2. Requirements for Stamping Qualification Documents from Hong Kong Enterprises

In the past trademark application process, Hong Kong enterprises were not required to affix their corporate seal on qualification documents like the enterprises registration certificates and business registration certificates. Nowadays, it is possible

that the examination department will require corrections for the abovementioned documents that are not stamped with their official seal.

3. Standards for Signing Power of Attorney for Trademark Agency by Foreign Enterprises

When foreign enterprises handle trademark matters, they will find new changes in the standards for signing their power of attorney prepared for their trademark agencies. In the past, some foreign enterprises could confirm the validity of their power of attorney only by sealing it, but from now on, this method no longer meets the examination requirements. A foreign enterprise's power of attorney for trademark agency cannot rely solely on a seal to confirm its legal validity; it must be signed by the relevant person responsible. In actual cases, there have already been instances where the power of attorney was only sealed without the responsible person's signature, resulting in the examination department requiring corrections. To avoid such issues, foreign enterprises should clearly designate the relevant person responsible to sign when they prepare their power of attorney.

4. New Requirements for Materials for Applications for Cancellation of Registered Trademark Not Used for Three Consecutive Years (applications for canceling registered trademark not used for three consecutive years)

In the past cancellation proceedings, applicants were only required to submit preliminary materials like webpage screenshots to initiate the proceedings,

with the main burden of proof placed on the trademark registrant. This "light burden of proof" model has, in practice, led to frequent malicious or bad faith cancellation actions, increasing the burden of administrative review and disrupting the normal order of trademark administration. To establish a more equitable burden of proof system, there have been, starting in 2025, significant changes in the material or document requirements for cancellation applications and applicants will gradually receive correction notices of several specific contents for applications for canceling registered trademark not used for three consecutive years, specifically as follows:

Declaration and Commitment regarding Related Matters: the applicant needs to submit new trademark registration application and rejection review matters related to the cancellation case. Without the related matters, the applicant and agency must submit a letter of commitment affixed with a seal (signature). The content of the letter of commitment must clearly state that no important facts, such as the actual identity of the cancellation applicant and other important facts, have been concealed from the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), and that the matters submitted and materials provided are true, accurate, and complete.

Evidence Supplementation and Commitment: The applicant must further explain the situation regarding the non-use of the disputed trademark for three consecutive years, and further supplement

evidence of a search that clearly displays the registrant name, trademark name, the approved product/service name, and other keywords, as well as search evidence of the trademark's designs on general online platforms and industry-specific websites for the approved use of products/services (if the applicant's address and the disputed trademark registrant's address are in the same region, on-site investigation evidence should be provided), and submit a letter of commitment affixed with a seal (signature), assuring the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness of the situation explanations and provided materials.

Information Supplementation: The applicant needs to provide additional explanations regarding the situation of the disputed trademark not in use for three consecutive years, including the basic information about the trademark registrant the cancellation application targeted, such as the scope of business or operation, operational status or continuation status, trademark registration status, and the like.

These changes indicate that the CNIPA has adjusted the burden of proof for cancellation applications, fundamentally breaking the traditional model in which trademark registrants bore the major burden of proof. According to the latest regulations, cancellation applicants must proactively provide preliminary investigation evidence covering multiple dimensions and channels to adequately and thoroughly demonstrate the objective state of the trademark of which cancellation is requested as it

has not been used “for three consecutive years”. If there are issues such as missing, vague, or insufficiently relevant evidence, the applicant will be notified to make corrections.

This reform raises the evidential threshold for cancellation applicants, accurately targeting malicious cancellation actions taken on the three-year non-use basis and fully maintains the market order and fair competition environment in the field of trademark registration and use. For cancellation applicants, the new regulations mean that they need to adopt a more rigorous attitude in material preparation, strictly comply with the new requirements, comprehensively and systematically collect and sort out evidence, so as to make the evidence chain complete and logically sound and in line with the legal standards, avoid procedural risks arising from defects in the materials, and help to deliver a smooth cancellation application prosecution.

Exploring Ancient Melody and Enjoying Natural Beauty in Spring

- Narrations on Panawell's Spring Outing

The spring, with enchanting scenery and revitalizing nature, is truly the perfect season for outings. In mid-April, Panawell firm meticulously organized a unique spring outing from April 18 to 20, making it possible for us to temporarily step away from our busy schedules and embark on a joyful journey to embrace the natural beauty and experience the ancient charm.

April 18: Arriving in Tai'an, starting the journey into ancient charm.

Early in the morning, sunlight was shining on Beijing South Station, where we gathered enthusiastically, filled with excitement and anticipation. The train for Tai'an slowly started, with the coach filled with laughter and all of us sharing our expectations about the trip. The two-hour train journey quietly ended in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

After arriving in Tai'an and taking a short rest, we couldn't wait to visit Dai Temple, a famous spot of tourist attraction, a sacred place and an important symbol of Mount Tai culture where ancient emperors worshipped the gods of Mount Tai. Stepping into the Temple, we were instantly transported back into the long river of history by the ancient elegant architecture. There, every

brick and tile exhibits profound historical significance, and every beam and pillar tells the tale of glorious pasts. We followed the tour guide, admiring the exquisite architecture and precious stone inscriptions while enjoying the timeless stories which gave us a deeper understanding of the historical origins and cultural connotations of the gorgeous Dai Temple, as if experiencing the sacredness and solemnity of Mount Tai alongside the ancient emperors.



April 19: Climbing Mount Tai, appreciating the magnificent peaks.

Mount Tai, known as the head of the five mountains, is famous for its majestic natural landscapes and profound cultural heritage. On this day, we gathered at the foot of the Mountain and then embarked on a tiring and yet happy journey uphill.



We, as a group, arrived at Zhongtian Gate by bus, where the majestic and magnificent Mount Tai was already clearly in sight. After a brief rest at the Gate, we were divided into two teams: one, brave and fearless, chose to challenge themselves by climbing to Nantian Gate; the other opted to take the cable car, enjoying the beauty of Mount Tai from a different perspective.



The climbing team steadily made their way along the winding steep stone steps. Despite the difficult

journey and sweating climbing, we encouraged each other and moved forward together, sharing laughter and joy along the way. The steep steps and rugged mountain terrain could not dampen our determination to ascend. After relentless effort, we finally succeeded in reaching the Nantian Gate. Standing at the top and overlooking the undulating peaks, an unprecedented sense of accomplishment and pride arose within. Meanwhile, those who took the cable car were equally amazed by the grandeur of Mount Tai, marveling at the magnificent works of nature in the air.



After a short rest at the Nantian Gate, the two teams reunited and moved on towards the Jade Emperor Peak. Standing atop the Peak and gazing into the distance, the magnificent mountain scenery came into view, and all our fatigue vanished in an instant. “How mighty is Mount Tai, yet the green of Qilu remains unresolved...” as a

line of poem tells. At this moment, everyone seemed to touch the pulse of history, deeply feeling the thousands of years of culture and spirit, that Mount Tai embodies and experiencing the ancient people's awe and admiration for Mount Tai.

April 20: Qufu Three Sacred Places, experiencing and absorbing Confucian culture.

Qufu, an ancient city filled with ancient cultural atmosphere, is the hometown of Confucius and the birthplace of Confucian culture. Here are situated the world-renowned three sacred places: Confucius Temple, Confucius Mansion, and Confucius Forested Tombs.

The Confucius Temple, a sacred place for worshipping Confucius, is an outstanding representative of ancient Chinese architectural art. Upon entering the Temple, the towering red walls and magnificent ancient buildings immediately come into view, solemn and dignified. We visited one after another the famous sites such as the Great Accomplishment Hall and Apricot Altar, where each structure embodies the wisdom and hard work of ancient craftsmen, and every artifact witnesses the changes of history. The Confucius Mansion is where Confucius' descendants lived, preserving a vast collection of precious artifacts and historical relics, from exquisite furniture to ancient paintings and books, all showcasing the magnificent history and profound cultural heritage of the Confucius family. The Confucius Forested Tombs, the burial site of Confucius and his

descendants and some of his students, feature towering ancient trees and a tranquil environment. Strolling through them, we can almost feel the enduring essence of Confucian culture. This scene allows us not only to appreciate the charm of the ancient architecture and funerary art, but also to deeply understand the important position and far-reaching influence of Confucian culture in the development of the Chinese history.



After our visit to Qufu ended, we went to Qufu East Station and boarded the high-speed train heading for Beijing South Station. On the train, we reminisced about the wonderful trip over the past few days, sharing our feelings and experiences. Despite the fatigue from the journey, we all wore satisfied and happy smiles on our faces.

This spring outing has not only given us a chance to relax in nature and relieve work pressure, but also

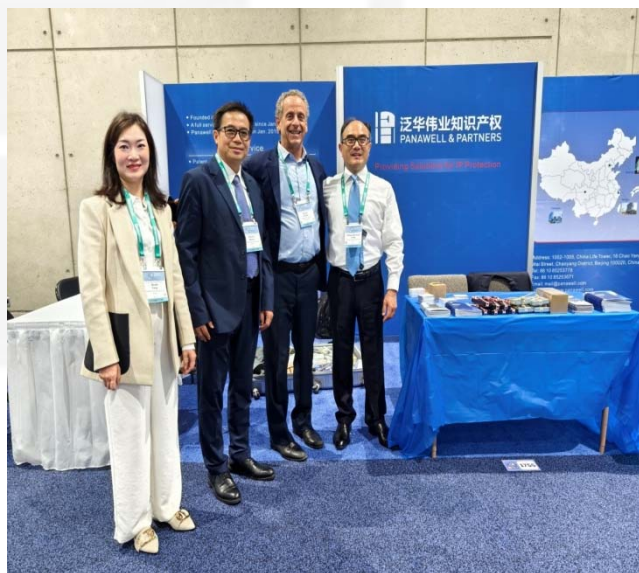
enabled us to draw wisdom and strength from the long history of the Chinese culture. In the exploration of the ancient charm, the bond among our team members further consolidated, and the cohesion and centripetal force strengthened. It is our shared belief that in our future work, we will remain more enthusiastic and diligent, working creatively together to make our legal service provision more satisfying and appealing to our clients and our Panawll IP firm stronger and more prosperous.

Panawell Attended AIPLA Spring Meeting & INTA 2025

From May 13 to 15, 2025, the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) held its 2025 Spring Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Our firm's partners William Yang and Richard Wang attended the conference and, following the event, visited our local partners and clients in the area.



From May 17 to 21, 2025, the International Trademark Association (INTA) Annual Meeting took place in San Diego, California, USA, bringing together over 10,000 top intellectual property professionals, including business leaders, government officials, judicial representatives, and NGOs. Partners William Yang, Richard Wang and George Guo participated in the conference, engaging in in-depth discussions with industry peers from around the world on the latest developments and future collaborations. After the event, they also met with local partners and clients to further strengthen relationships and explore cooperation opportunities.



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