

UPDATES FROM IPOS

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Dear readers

Welcome to our latest update on developments relating to IP & tech dispute resolution in Singapore – including our recently concluded IP Week@SG, the premier IP event for the world, hosted in Asia.

Singapore International Commercial Court decision

[*Novo Nordisk A/S v \(1\) KBP Biosciences Pte. Ltd. & \(2\) Huang Zhenhua*](#) [2025] SGHC(I) 22

On the pharma front, a new decision by the Singapore International Commercial Court (“SICC”) illustrates the court’s expertise in arbitration issues and its pro-arbitration stance.

The claimant, a Danish pharma, alleged fraud by the defendants, a biotech R&D company and its founder, in relation to the sale of a drug that was claimed to control blood pressure and provide kidney protection. The claimant intended to commence a New York-seated International Chamber of Commerce arbitration (in accordance with the dispute resolution clause in the parties’ asset purchase agreement). To prevent the defendants from removing their assets in Singapore up to the value of US\$730m, the claimant sought and obtained a worldwide freezing order from the SICC against the defendants.

The defendants applied to set aside the worldwide freezing order on the grounds, among others, that there was no good arguable case nor a real risk of dissipation. The SICC dismissed the application after considering the law and facts.

High Court decision

[*Park Hotel Management Pte Ltd \(in liquidation\) and others v Law Ching Hung and others*](#) [2025] SGHC 149

The High Court found that a company’s sole director and shareholder had breached his fiduciary duty by selling company assets to himself “at a gross undervalue”. Among these assets were intellectual property (“IP”) such as trade marks, trade dress and registered designs. The parties relied on IP experts to give expert evidence on the market value of the IP assets.

The High Court found that the IP had inherent value; and that this was valued at more than S\$1.8m, well above the S\$1 at which the trademarks were assigned.

State Courts decision



When a rogue employee steals his employer's confidential information and trade secrets in the form of digital data, can he be held criminally liable? The answer is yes.

Zhang Changjie ("Zhang") was convicted under section 3(1) of the then-Computer Misuse and Cybersecurity Act ("CMCA") for knowingly causing his work computer to perform a function for the purpose of securing access without authority to data held in the said work computer. One day before resigning, Zhang sent thousands of files containing proprietary data and confidential information belonging to his then-employer, Genk Capital Pte Ltd ("Genk"), to his personal Google Mail and Google Drive accounts.

Zhang tried and failed to argue that he did not access the data "without authority" as no restrictions were placed on his authority to access files on his work computer. The Court held that the true legal test under section 2(5) of the CMCA is whether or not Zhang had the authority to secure the actual kind of access that he did, namely to copy the data from his work computer to his personal accounts. Zhang did not.

The Court also found that Zhang had actual knowledge that he had exceeded his authority by copying Genk's data from his work computer to his personal accounts. Zhang had signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Genk which required him to safeguard Genk's confidential information, and was thus put on notice that he was not allowed to copy Genk's data to himself.

Zhang was sentenced to the maximum fine of \$5,000 (in default 2 weeks' imprisonment).

This decision illustrates the applicability of using the Computer Misuse Act ("CMA") to address digital data theft.

It is also the first reported successful private criminal prosecution under the CMA for misappropriation of commercially sensitive information.

Media coverage on cryptocurrency-related mediation

Singapore is handling more complex commercial disputes as businesses choose Singapore International Mediation Centre's ("SIMC") services for cross-border conflicts, [The Business Times](#) reported on 12 August 2025. Cryptocurrency-related disputes represent a growing category of complex cases which pose challenges because legal frameworks across jurisdictions have struggles to keep pace with rapid technological developments. The volatile nature of cryptocurrency also introduces additional urgency.

SIMC Chief Executive, Chuan Wee Meng, said, "For crypto owners, it is very important for them to have a very quick resolution ... so that they can realise the asset" – this time sensitivity makes mediation especially appealing to asset holders, as disputes are usually resolved far more quickly than through arbitration or litigation.

Mediation case study under the WIPO-ASEAN Mediation Programme



This is the second case under the WIPO-ASEAN Mediation Programme (AMP+), and the first case primarily concerning a patent dispute. The parties had worked with each other on commercial projects for many years. One party, the exclusive licensee of a patent, alleged that the other infringed its licensor's patent by its structure deployed for the Singapore Grand Prix. The mediator skilfully focused parties on commercially feasible solutions rather than complex patent-related questions, and they were able to settle amicably within a day. Read more [here](#).

Mediation case study under IPOS' Revised Enhanced Mediation Promotion Scheme

In the first case under the refreshed Revised Enhanced Mediation Promotion Scheme (REMPS), two parties from very different domains: theatre and media/entertainment, had a trade mark dispute. The mediator adeptly bridged the distance between parties with the use of Mandarin, which one party's representatives were much more comfortable with, and they were able to settle with a co-existence agreement. Read more [here](#).

Mediation case studies now accessible individually

Each case study (such as the ones above) is now available as a standalone document at [Mediation Cases | Intellectual Property Office of Singapore](#) – this makes it convenient for users looking for a specific case. This is in addition to all case studies being compiled in a compendium at <https://go.gov.sg/ipmediationcases>, which users can browse for a good overview of the mediated cases under the various funding schemes.

IP article

Tony Yeo and Yuen Kit Kuan, [Trademarks that are Well Known to the Public at Large in Singapore: A Review of the Evidentiary Landscape](#) published as [2025] SAL Prac 23 on 20 August 2025. This article examines how recent cases appear to show an evidentiary shift in the determination of whether a trademark is “well known to the public at large in Singapore” and suggests practical takeaways for trademark owners.

Featured events

Paving the Way for Effective IP Commercialisation

The Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) initiative, facilitates the training of government officers from various countries. This is one of its training initiatives curated by IPOS International.

IPOS speaker, Gabriel Ong, spoke on 1 August 2025 on “*Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): When IP Commercialisation Goes South*”, with an overview of ADR options, with a focus on IP arbitration, and on Singapore's journey in facilitating the resolution of commercial disputes relating to IP.

Access to Justice in the Creative Economy

The National University of Singapore organised this symposium on 6 August 2025 to explore initiatives directed at achieving just, cost-effective, efficient and fair resolution of disputes about rights in creative works and products. Speakers analysed the different contributions that public



initiatives and private strategies can make to enhance access to justice in the global creative economies.

IPOS speaker, Gabriel Ong, co-presented “*Bridging Borders: Singapore’s Approach to Cross-Border IP and Tech Dispute Resolution*” with Adriana Uson from Singapore International Arbitration Centre.

Global Forum on Intellectual Property (GFIP) Ideas to Assets: Innovating in Times of Change

Into its fourteenth edition, [IP Week@SG](#) took place on 26 and 27 August 2025 at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore. We were delighted to bring our stakeholders the following IP and Tech Dispute Resolution highlights in the programme:

1. Panel 2B *Through the Looking Glass with IP: From Court to Court*
 - Judges from Australia, Europe, Singapore, UK and USA share insights on emerging legal trends
2. Panel 3B *Beyond Battlegrounds: From Territorial Considerations to Strategic Forum Selection*
 - Live enactment of client consultations
 - Strategic factors influencing forum selection; role of third party funding and claims insurance
3. Panel 4B *Beyond the Courtroom: From Litigation to Appropriate Dispute Resolution*
 - Arbitration: Live enactment of a procedural conference and an application for an interim injunction
 - Panel reflection on roleplay

Did you catch it?

Contentious Trade Mark Proceedings at IPOS: Best Practices and Other Practical Tips (Re-run)

Have you [registered](#)?

In this practice-oriented [seminar](#) in the afternoon of 21 October 2025, the Hearings and Mediation Department of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore will address practical issues in navigating contentious proceedings at IPOS. Take the opportunity to ask your questions during the panel session!

Guest speakers are Aaron Thng from Amica Law LLC and Caleb Goh from the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center. This seminar is an accredited CPD activity (3.5 points).

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to this mailing list (which deals primarily with IP/IT dispute resolution in Singapore), please drop us a note at ipos_hmd@ipos.gov.sg. IPOS also separately maintains another mailing list for circulars, legislative amendments and other related matters which you can join by contacting news@ipos.gov.sg. For any comments or feedback (or to draw our attention to any interesting news we might have missed), please email see_tho_sok_yee@ipos.gov.sg. Archived copies of our previous updates are available at the following [link](#).

