

## UPDATES FROM IPOS

January 2026

Dear readers

From us at IPOS to you — best wishes for a Fulfilling New Year, and welcome to our latest updates on developments relating to IP & tech dispute resolution in Singapore.

### Successful Private Prosecution at Singapore State Court

According to a [news report by CNA](#), the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS) successfully mounted an uncommon private prosecution against Slim Entertainment, the owner of a karaoke lounge. It was found to have caused the musical and literary works in songs, including songs by well known Asian singers Jay Chou and JJ Lin, to be performed in public for its private profit. Despite multiple approaches by COMPASS, Slim Entertainment refused to obtain licences. Slim Entertainment was fined S\$20,000 (US\$16,000). A separate private prosecution against Slim Entertainment's director is still pending.

### IPOS decision

[Cosmetic Warriors Limited v Genpulse Pte Ltd](#) [2026] SGIPOS 1



LUSHAIR

The Principal Assistant Registrar found that the Application Mark “ ” and the Opponent's “LUSH” trade mark were not similar, even if both marks claimed beauty care and skin care services in Class 44. They were distinguishable as wholes visually, aurally and conceptually. Even if the marks were found similar, the nature of the services were such that the consumer would be unlikely to be confused under the usual circumstances of selection and purchase, as an above average degree of attention would be paid thereto. Consequently, the opposition failed on various grounds with the requisite element of confusing similarity and misrepresentation.

### IPOS Decisions 2025: Year-in-Review

For a quick summary of the legal decisions issued by the IPOS Registrar in 2025, check out our “[IPOS Decisions 2025: Year-in-Review](#)” detailing selected issues, holdings and comments of interest. This is available on our website under [Home](#) > [Manage IP – Resolve IP Disputes](#) > [Guides](#).



## **Renewal of WIPO-ASEAN Mediation Programme (AMP+) in 2026**

ASEAN enterprises and individuals with IP/technology disputes, or with outstanding terms to be agreed in IP/technology deals under negotiation, can benefit from funding for mediation to reach win-win outcomes. Read some real-life cases [here](#).

The [WIPO-ASEAN Mediation Programme](#) (AMP+) is an initiative between the WIPO Singapore Office and ASEAN. We are happy to announce that AMP+ has been renewed and is available until **31 December 2026** or until the AMP+ fund is drawn down, whichever is earlier. View the [information sheet and frequently asked questions](#).

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center will provide [mediation services](#) under AMP+. Each mediation case involving at least one ASEAN party may be funded up to SGD 5000. The [Intellectual Property Office of Singapore](#) (IPOS) adds its support where parties appoint a Singapore-based mediator. Parties will receive up to a maximum of an additional SGD 2000 (making total funding at a maximum of **SGD 7000**).

ASEAN parties with IP/technology disputes or negotiations are welcome to apply for WIPO mediation and AMP+ funding.

## **Mediation case under WIPO-ASEAN Mediation Programme (AMP+)**

[Babas Nadi \(M\) Sdn Bhd & Glory Trading & Minimart Pte Ltd](#) [2026] AMP+ MED 1

A Malaysian company specialising in manufacturing and distribution of spice powders and a Singapore wholesale trading company successfully resolved their dispute well within a working day. This case is testament to the benefits of mediation's efficiency and focus on commercial objectives rather than legal technicalities, enabling the preservation of business relationships.

You also can find other mediation case write-ups in this handy [compilation](#).

## **Media coverage on pioneer lawyer in cryptocurrency disputes appointed senior counsel**

At the Opening of the Legal Year on 12 January 2026, the Chief Justice announced the appointment of Singapore lawyer Danny Ong Tun Wei as Senior Counsel, in recognition of excellence in advocacy and legal knowledge. Ong led the first successful cryptocurrency claim in 2019 before the Singapore International Commercial Court, as reported by [The Business Times](#) and [The Straits Times](#). The landmark decision was upheld by the Singapore Court of Appeal in [Quoine Pte Ltd v B2C2](#) [2020] SGCA(I) 02.

## **Featured events**

### **Society of Mediation Law Professionals (SMP) Law Series: Intellectual Property**

The SMP convened this webinar on 29 January 2026 as part of a series to equip mediator members with basis subject-matter knowledge.



Singapore IP lawyer and mediator Zechariah Chan gave a clear and practical overview of Singapore IP law. Out of his rich expertise and experience, Zech shared key legal and practical issues commonly found in IP disputes.

### **International Tech & IP Disputes Exchange (I-TIDE) 2026 — AI and Cross-Border Tech Disputes**

Join us for complimentary half-day seminars on emerging legal and procedural issues in IP & tech disputes where AI plays a central role. View the detailed program in this [seminar brochure](#) and find the latest updates on the [seminar webpage](#).

Speakers from Singapore include representatives from the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Singapore International Commercial Court, and the Asian Business Law Institute. Other speakers include Daren Tang, Director General, World Intellectual Property Organisation (keynote for the seminar in New York), US IP lawyers and academics, and in-house counsel from Microsoft, OpenAI and Qualcomm.

*Gain a 360-degree view of the topic by registering now for both seminars to hear from different experts and gain access to post-event recordings.*

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. EST ([Find your local time](#))

WilmerHale (New York, USA)

[Register to join in person or online](#)

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 2.00 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. PST ([Find your local time](#))

Morrison Foerster (San Francisco, USA)

[Register to join in person](#)

[Register to join online](#)

These seminars are jointly presented by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore, Penn State Dickinson Law and the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:see_tho_sok_yee@ipos.gov.sg). Archived copies of our previous updates are available at the following [link](#).

