

Recent Changes in Chinese Design Patent

Mr. Charles S. Ho

U.S. and PRC Patent Attorney of Barron & Young Intellectual Property Limited;

Council Member of HKIPA

In March, 2014, the State Intellectual Property Office of China announced an amendment to its current Guidelines for Patent Examination for design patent protection for graphic user interfaces (GUIs). The amendment includes regulations for both patent prosecution and invalidation and has effected since May 1, 2014. As a result, many companies will file GUI design applications in China, especially in the field of smart phones, tablets and car navigation systems, which will potentially lead to an increase in patent litigation for previously un-protectable designs.