

**MICHAEL C M
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PRACTICE AREAS
Intellectual Property
Information Technology
Licensing

Profile Summary

Michael Soo is the current Deputy Managing Partner of Shook Lin & Bok and is the Head of the firm's Intellectual Property and Information Technology & Licensing department. He has practised exclusively in all areas of IP law, with emphasis on enforcement and civil litigation, for over 30 years. He has appeared as lead counsel or co-counsel in a number of infringement and passing-off actions before the High Court, Court of Appeal and Federal Court (formerly known as Supreme Court).

In addition to advisory and litigation work in all areas of intellectual property law, he has initiated, conducted and concluded settlement negotiations involving intellectual IP rights leading to amicable resolution of disputes before litigation as well as cases pending before the courts. He has on many occasions been asked by potential litigants or their legal counsel in cases where he was not representing either party to give non-binding opinions, as an informal guideline or basis for settlement negotiations. He appeared as lead counsel in a trial involving alleged copyright infringement of several well-known brands of software before the Kuching Sessions Court pursuant to an ad hoc licence granted by the Rt Honourable Chief Judge of the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak. The trial was probably one of the few fully contested infringement actions involving software instituted in Malaysia in recent years. The alleged offender was one of the largest civil engineering firms in Malaysia. The Court acquitted the alleged offender of all the charges. The Public Prosecutor's appeal was dismissed by the appeal courts. In addition to this, he frequently handles advisory and contentious cases involving domain names dispute and "cyber squatting".

Michael is a panellist for domain name dispute resolution administered by Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration and had adjudicated on a number of domain name dispute cases. He was named as a Leading Lawyer in the area of Intellectual Property by Legal500 Asia Pacific for the years 2014 to 2017, and his exceptional work has been consistently recognised over the years by established research houses such as Chambers & Partners and Legal500.

Michael has presented papers on intellectual property law in seminars and conferences organised by the Bar Council of Malaysia, and at several international, regional and local conferences including the 12th Commonwealth Law Association Conference and several seminars and conferences organised by World Intellectual Property Organization ("WIPO"). He lectures on copyright and design law for the Patent Agent Examination since its inception in 1997, and on intellectual property law at the Institute of Judicial and Legal Training (ILKAP), of the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia. Michael also regularly contributes articles and updates on IP in leading magazines.

List of Notable Published Cases Handled

2017

BRG Brilliant Rubber Goods (M) Sdn Bhd v Santa Barbara Polo & Racquet Club Management Inc (Pendaftar Cap Dagangan Malaysia, interested party) and another case [2017] 7 MLJ 244, High Court

2016

Syarikat Faiza Sdn Bhd & Anor v Faiz Sdn Bhd & Anor [2016] MLJU 1046, High Court

2013

Cadware Sdn Bhd v Ronic Corp [2013] 6 MLJ 19, Court of Appeal

2013

F&N Dairies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd v Tropicana Products, Inc and other appeals [2013] MLJU 1591, Court of Appeal

2012

Yong Teng Hing (t/a Hong Kong Trading Co) v Walton International Ltd [2012] 10 MLJ 244, High Court

2011

Walton International Ltd v Yong Teng Hing (b/s Hong Kong Trading Co) [2011] 5 MLJ 397, Court of Appeal

2011

Lam Soon Edible Sdn Bhd v Hup Seng Perusahaan Makanan (M) Sdn Bhd [2011] 7 MLJ 366, High Court

2010

D. G. KOM Sendirian Berhad v Pendaftar Syarikat & Digi. Com Berhad [2010] MLJU 153, High Court

2009

Nguang Chan aka Nguang Chan Liquor Trader & Ors v Hai-O Enterprise Bhd & Ors [2009] 5 MLJ 40, Court of Appeal

2009

UBS AG v UBS Corporation Sdn Bhd [2009] 4 MLJ 93, Court of Appeal

2008

Sanbos (M) Sdn Bhd v Tiong Mak Liquor Trading (M) Sdn Bhd [2008] 3 MLJ 100, High Court

2006

PT Indofood Interna Corp & Ors v Fat East Food Industries Sdn Bhd (in liquidation) & Ors [2006] 7 MLJ 410, High Court

2005

Societe Jas Hennessy & Co & Anor v Nguang Chan (M) Sdn Bhd [2005] 4 MLJ 348, High Court

2004

Thrifty Rent-A-Car System Inc v Thrifty Rent-A-Car Sdn Bhd & Anor [2004] 7 MLJ 567, High Court

1993

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co & Anor v Silverstone Tire & Rubber Co Sdn Bhd [1994] 1 MLJ 348, High Court

Professional Memberships

- Member of the Malaysian Bar
- Past President of the Malaysian Intellectual Property Association (MIPA)
- President of the Asian Patent Attorneys Association, Malaysia Country Group
- Councilor for the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (APAA)
- Member of the Copyright Law Review Ad-Hoc Committee under the auspices of the Malaysian Attorney-General's Chambers
- Member of the Malaysian Bar Council's IP Committee
- Member of the International Trade Mark Association (INTA)
- Overseas Member of the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, UK
- Member of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)
- Member of the Law Association of Asian Countries (LawAsia)
- Member of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI)

Accolades

"Michael Soo has an excellent reputation, with peers describing him as "a very big name in the local IP scene." His work highlights include acting for Johnson Suisse in a trade mark infringement dispute. He draws on a wealth of experience to advise on a range of contentious and non-contentious IP matters, including franchising and licensing, patent and trade mark prosecution, and IP litigation."
– Chambers Asia Pacific 2017

"Shook Lin & Bok's practice is led by Michael Soo. His work includes representing high-profile Malaysian and international clients in patent, trade mark and design rights disputes. Clients include Johnson Suisse."
– Legal500 Asia Pacific 2017

"Michael Soo is the head of the IP and IT department of Shook Lin & Bok and is highly regarded for his advice on all areas of IP law, with a focus on enforcement and civil litigation. He also advises domain name disputes and copyright infringement."
– Asialaw Profiles 2017

“Contentious champion Shook Lin & Bok has deep roots in the Malaysian IP arena. With strong ties to the Singaporean market through its regional network, the Kuala Lumpur office is a firm favourite among international brand owners seeking ironclad coverage across Southeast Asia. Head of the IP and IT department and consummate litigator Michael Soo draws effusive praise for his unparalleled breadth of knowledge on all things intellectual property. His standing in the industry was reinforced by a previous stint as president of the Malaysia Intellectual Property Association.”

– World Trademark Review 2017

“Michael Soo is widely regarded as one of the most prominent IP litigators in Malaysia and heads this firm’s practice. He led the team in defending Fraser & Neave in the case brought by Tropicana Products.”

– Chambers Asia Pacific 2013

“Shook Lin & Bok is another of Malaysia’s traditionally dominant IP players, with department head Michael Soo being one of Kuala Lumpur’s foremost practitioners, particularly in the IP litigation environment.”

– Legal500 Asia Pacific 2011

Firm’s Overview

Shook Lin & Bok is an award-winning full service firm and one of most well-established in Malaysia, offering a comprehensive range of legal services spanning the globe. Such services range from civil and commercial practice, banking and finance, international arbitration, litigation disputes and intellectual property.

Ranked in 2017 as a Top Tier firm by famed research houses *Legal500* and *Chambers & Partners*, the firm’s intellectual property practice has continuously thrived as an experienced and well-respected IP outfit with expertise across licensing, franchising as well as patent and trademark execution apart from its commended advisory offering.

The integral aspect of the services provided for this practice is in the establishment and recognition of intellectual and industrial property rights which are complemented by the team’s experience in the enforcement of such rights. This encompasses, amongst others, administrative and legal proceedings concerning anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy measures, legal proceedings involving urgent interlocutory applications for injunctions, Anton Piller orders and criminal seizure actions.

Over the years, the IP team has acted for clients across industries, including governmental bodies, corporate organisations and private individuals and has garnered the recognition as a “firm favourite among international brand owners seeking ironclad coverage across Southeast Asia” by the World Trademark Review (2017).