

LEHMAN, LEE & XU

雷曼律师事务所



PRESS RELEASE

“EDWARD LEHMAN RECOGNIZED AS INTERNATIONAL IP EXPERT BY WORLD’S LARGEST ASSOCIATION OF PRACTICING ATTORNEYS”

Beijing, China – Friday 10 October, 2008 –

Edward Lehman, Chicago native and long time Chinese resident has been recognized as an international expert on Intellectual Property Law by the American Bar Association.

“This is really a fantastic honor; I have been in China a long time and have really witnessed the incredible development of China’s IP laws from an embryonic state to the comprehensive system of laws we see today” relays Ed. “I got my start in the IP field in 1970 when I attended the International Trademark Association meeting with my father, one the of his era’s top IP professionals”

It’s been quite a journey for Ed, who originally arrived in China in 1987, two years before all foreign law firms pulled out leaving Ed as the only foreigner working for a state run Chinese law firm. “This certainly gives me a unique perspective on how the Chinese legal system operates”. The decision to stay in China while others enabled Ed to establish his own law firm, Lehman, Lee & Xu with two colleagues. The small three man firm has since developed into one of China’s largest and most professional law firms. “While we offer a full range of legal services, IP has always been the closest to my heart”

China’s IP field is a dynamic one, characterized by ever creative infringers and an increasingly vigilant government. “In the West there is this view that China’s IP enforcement is a joke. In fact this couldn’t be further from the truth; the powers of a company to enforce its IP rights through litigation, raids and court orders makes doing business in China easier than many think”. In spite of this though many firms still refuse to register their marks in China, believing it to be futile in the face of massive infringement. “The biggest mistake and company can make is to neglect to register its marks here; we have seen numerous cases where companies have failed to register their IP rights here just to see the rights register by another who then produces goods under the relevant mark, requiring lengthy litigation to force the Chinese holder of the mark to cease their activities.

“This year much of what we were involved in was related to the Olympic Games. Some of it directly (for example representing the United States Olympic Committee) and some of it indirectly (pursuing

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actions against licensees of the Olympic Mark for infringement of other well known marks)”

Although one of China’s leading IP experts Ed acknowledges that receiving such recognition from one of the world’s most prestigious organizations is a definite boost. “Being U.S. qualified attorney and being involved with the ABA for almost two decades I am really honoured to be considered an expert”