

LEHMAN, LEE & XU

雷曼律师事务所



## PRESS RELEASE

### LEHMAN, LEE & XU NAMED TIER 1 LAW FIRM WITH IP PRACTICE

**Beijing – April 14, 2009** –Most lawyers in China will openly recognize that there is presently a growing importance in the intellectual property sector of China. In a recent article by Asia IP, Lehman, Lee & Xu was named one of two top general practice firms with leading IP practices. Due to the growing competition of the market, only the most capable law firms are able to provide adequate service.

While the IP market is growing, the number of IP practitioners is not able to compensate for the growing demand. The nation needs more IP practitioners to accompany this growing trend. Our attorneys are fully prepared to handle any trademark or patent issues, which is made clearly evident in Asia IP's ranking. Ed Lehman, Managing Director of Lehman, Lee and Xu, commented that "businesses in China are only just now realizing the importance of registering and protecting their trademarks, creating a high demand on an already sparse collection of qualified IP lawyers." Lehman, Lee and Xu assists numerous clients, from large international companies to small local businesses alike, "providing wide-ranged protection based on the preferences and unique situation of the client".

Ed noted that the strength of Lehman, Lee Xu is that "our attorneys draw on the full knowledge of the firm to anticipate and resolve issues that might occur in the process of negotiations. Being a Chinese certified law firm, Lehman, Lee & Xu is able to protect the rights of its clients due to its extensive knowledge of practice in China."

Lehman, Lee & Xu is at the forefront of general practice firms offering IP services. In this transitional period, general practice IP service providers offer some of the best quality service at the most reasonable rates, due to the fact that their broad concentration allows them to draw income from a variety of other cases. The Firm represents clients in numerous proceedings before the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), the Trademark Review and Adjudication Board (TRAB), the State Administration of Industry and Commerce (SAIC), and other regulatory bodies. Providing clients with the most effective and feasible solutions has earned the Firm the confidence and trust from some of this region's most well known businesses.

To learn more about Lehman, Lee and Xu, visit our website at [www.lehmanlaw.com](http://www.lehmanlaw.com).

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## State of the IP Market Mixed, Say Lawyers

The IP market has evolved quickly in China. Most lawyers who spoke to *Asia IP* believe the country is on the right path to improving its IP regime, and that IP practices around the country are rapidly improving. That's not to say there isn't room for improvement, they say.

"Market competition is fairly fierce presently and only those which can provide high quality services can survive in the market," says Lian. "In the past few years, especially in trademark matters, the threshold of market entry of IPR legal services [has been] lowered, and disorder, chaos and malignant competition with unreasonably low prices and inferior quality are rampant in the market."

Lian says that under the global recession, smaller IP service-providers will find it increasingly difficult to do business. "Clients want to spend every penny effectively and efficiently, which will result in the promotion of service quality of the whole market," Lian says. "It's a trend that will see high-quality IP agencies and law firms occupy the dominant position in the market. We believe, after fierce competition, only the most competent law firms and trademark agencies will become the backbone of the IPR legal services of China in the future."

Xu, the Shanghai Haworth & Lexon partner, says law firms with IP groups are realising increased income as more rights-holders recognise the importance of protecting their intellectual property – but that few lawyers are able to specialise in IP and make a decent living.

"The numbers IP practitioners are increasing as more companies are becoming aware of the importance of IP, especially to

to foreign-invested companies," says Xu. "However, it is still very hard for lawyers to focus only on IP if he or she wants enough income. The amount of money involved in IP cases is often not much, so generally clients are not willing to pay lots of fees on that."

Chang, of Chang Tsi & exams and approval procedures for trademark

agencies and lawyers as one reason trademark lawyers are increasing in number. Despite the fact that patent lawyers still have to pass the Patent Practitioners Exam to act as a patent agent, Chang sees their numbers increasing, too.

Even so, Chang says China needs to develop more IP lawyers. "I think there is still not an adequate number of qualified lawyers in China," Chang says. "We need more."

Yuyang's Yu says the general condition of IP practices in China is improving rapidly but agrees that the country needs more home-grown IP lawyers.

"The government gives the enterprises strong incentive to apply for registering their trademarks, the state revises many laws to ensure popular application and convenient procedure for the applicants, and more and more people have realised the importance of trademark protection," Yu says. "However, there are still too few qualified IP lawyers to fit for the developing IP realities in China."

### General Practice firms with Leading IP Practices

Tier 1	King & Wood Lehman, Lee & Xu
	Chang Tsi & Partners Fangda Partners
Tier 2	Hylands Law Firm Jun He Law Offices MWE China Law Offices
	Boss & Young Deheng Law Offices
Tier 3	Run Ming Law Offices Watson & Band Zhongzi Law Office

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**No wonder the world's leading corporations turn to us.**

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Intellectual Property Law

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