

W&B IP Newsletter

April. of 2021, Vol. 48

Contents

The Latest from Watson & Band

Watson & Band Wins Nomination for Shanghai Firm of the Year in the 2021 ALB China Law Awards	2
China IP New Year Forum: Watson & Band Awarded an “Outstanding China IP Services Team for the Year 2020”	2

Patent

EPO: Patent Applications from China reach a Record High in 2020	2
CNIPA clarifies Five Types of “Invention Patents with High Values”	3

Copyright

Total Number of Copyright Registrations in China exceeds 5 Million in 2020	3
Beijing Internet Court reports on the Trial of Internet-related Copyright Cases in 2020	4

Intellectual Property

Special IP Rights Enforcement Actions handled over 316,000 Cases in 2020	5
State Administration for Market Regulation: Five IP-related Legislation Projects are Underway in 2021	5



Website: www.watsonband.com

E-mail: mailip@watsonband.com | mail@watsonband.com

The Latest from Watson & Band

Watson & Band Wins Nomination for Shanghai Firm of the Year in the 2021 ALB China Law Awards

On April 16, Asian Legal Business officially published the name of finalists for the 2021 ALB China Law Awards, in which Watson & Band won nomination for the award “Shanghai Firm of the Year”.

It is said that the ALB China Law Awards aim to present the pioneering law firms, excellent in-house teams and outstanding legal professionals, as well as big deals in the preceding year, with the ultimate goal to encourage more legal teams and practitioners to make greater contributions to their respective areas.

As a Shanghai-based full-service firm, Watson & Band has been making its dedication to the urban construction of Shanghai. Our legal service escorted significant projects such as the “East Bank Public Space Connection Project” and the “10th China Flower EXPO Project” throughout the process and witnessed each page of Shanghai’s new achievements and glories.

China IP New Year Forum: Watson & Band Awarded an “Outstanding China IP Services Team for the Year 2020”

On the evening of April 17, the 11th China IP New Year Forum, also the 2021 China IP Managers Annual Meeting and Award Ceremony, was grandly hosted in St Regis Hotel, Beijing. At the ceremony, Watson & Band IP Services Team was again awarded “Outstanding China IP Services Team for the Year 2020”.

The annual evaluation of “Outstanding China IP Services Teams” is hosted by the *journal China Intellectual Property*. This year’s evaluation starts from the service scopes and specializations of the candidate IP services teams, and adopts the evaluation method combining special indicator rankings and comprehensive interviews and reports, so as to provide comments on the comprehensive capabilities of the candidate teams on a broader basis.

Patent

EPO: Patent Applications from China reach a Record High in 2020

According to the patents data of 2020 released by the European Patent Office (the “EPO”) on March 16, the EPO received a total of 13,432 patent applications from China, accomplishing the highest annual growth rate of 9.9% among the major countries filing patent applications with the EPO.

As revealed by the said data, the EPO received a total of 180,250 patent applications in 2020, encountering a slight drop with respect to the figure 181,532 in 2019. Nevertheless, patent applications from China presented a pace forward against the overall decrease. The top 3 technical fields of the Chinese patent applications are: digital communications, computer technology and electrical machinery, instruments and energy. Patent applications from China that related to digital communications accounted for 26.5% of the corresponding total number accepted by the EPO. Applications filed by Chinese enterprises in the bio-tech, organic fine chemistry and medical technology welcomed the quickest growths.

(Source: people.cn)

Patent

CNIPA clarifies Five Types of “Invention Patents with High Values”

Recently, Director of CNIPA’s Strategic Planning Division, Mr. Shu Ge, said in an interview with Xinhua News Agency that China had included the following five types of valid invention patents into the scope of statistics when calculating the average number of high-value invention patents owned by every 10,000 people: (1) invention patents of strategic importance within emerging industries; (2) invention patents with patent families overseas; (3) invention patents remaining valid for over 10 years; (4) invention patents realizing relatively high amounts in pledge financing; and (5) invention patents winning the State Science and Technology Awards or the China Patent Award.

According to Mr. Ge, valid invention patents of strategic importance within emerging industries are an important resource that meets the nation’s great development needs and promotes innovation and development within the industries, while the other four types of valid invention patents are featured by strong patentability and high values.

(Source: xinhuanet.com)

Copyright

Total Number of Copyright Registrations in China exceeds 5 Million in 2020

On March 18, China National Copyright Administration released a statistical report of copyright registrations across the nation in 2020. According to the report, in 2020 the total number of copyright registrations in China reached 5,039,543, at the annual growth rate of 20.37%.

In terms of copyright registrations for works and for computer software, according to the statistical data from China Copyright Protection Centers at provincial, autonomous region and municipality levels, and taking into account the foregoing national data, a chart is summarized as follows:

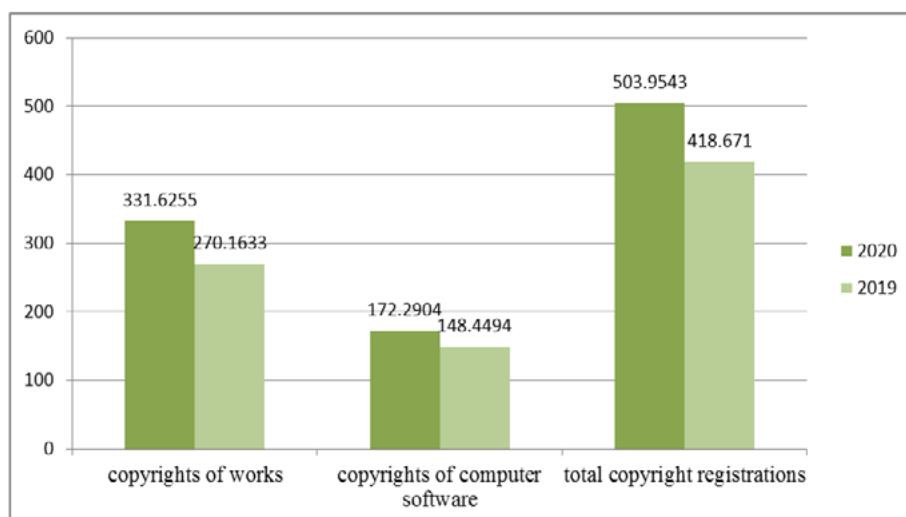


Chart 1: Copyright Registrations in China in 2019 and 2020 (Note: figures to be multiplied by 10,000)

Copyright

In terms of the types of works, photography works accounted for the largest proportion by 45.56%, with the total number being 1,510,914.

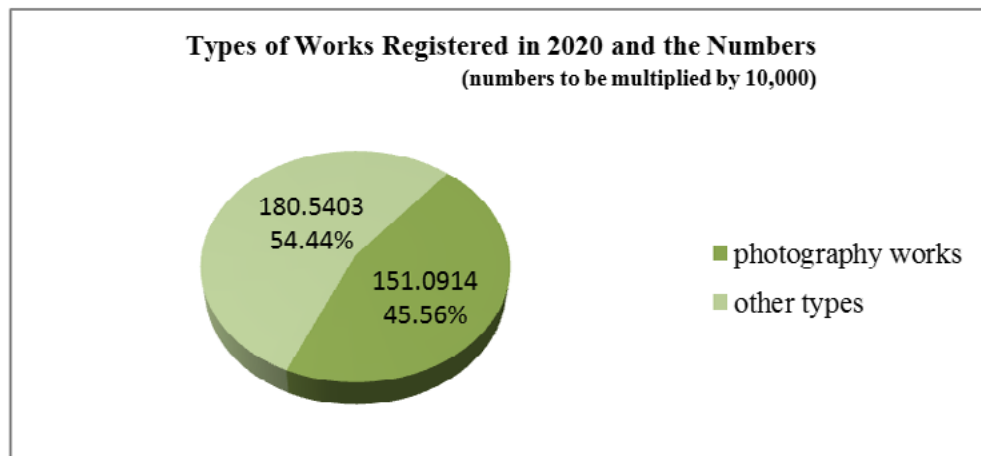


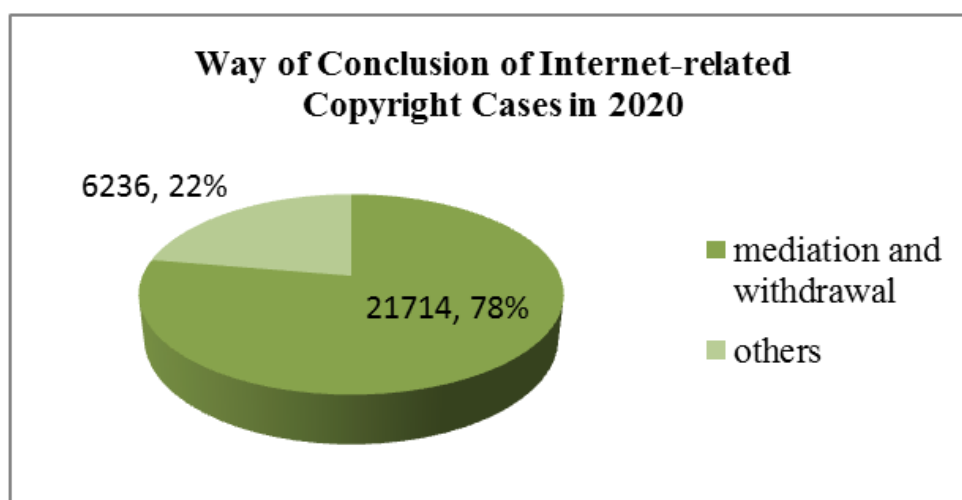
Chart 2: Types of Works Registered in 2020 and the Numbers

(Source: China Intellectual Property News / www.nipso.cn)

Beijing Internet Court reports on the Trial of Internet-related Copyright Cases in 2020

On April 20, Beijing Internet Court reported on the trial of Internet-related copyright cases in 2020 and published some typical cases.

According to the Report, the Court accepted a total of 28,946 Internet-related copyright cases in 2020 and concluded 27,925 such cases, accomplishing a conclusion/acceptation proportion of 96%. In terms of the way of conclusion, the numbers and percentages of cases concluded through mediation or withdrawal and through other means are shown in the chart below, which figures indicate an obvious effect of dispute resolution.



In terms of the trial period, the time that IP rights holders spent on their enforcement actions was greatly shortened to the average trial period of 51 days.

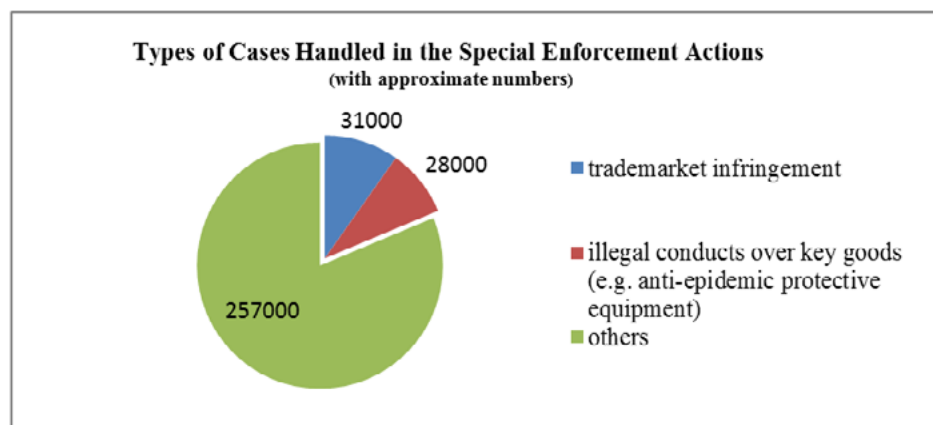
(Source: Beijing Internet Court)

Intellectual Property

Special IP Rights Enforcement Actions handled over 316,000 Cases in 2020

It is learned from the National Administration for Market Regulation that in 2020 Administrations for Market Regulation across the nation organized various special IP rights enforcement actions to further strengthen the regulation of key areas, goods and markets, to actively exert the deterrent power of administrative enforcement, to effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of rights owners and consumers, to maintain a healthy market economy order and to create a sound business environment.

Throughout 2020, the special enforcement actions handled over 316,000 cases, among which cases involving trademark infringement accounted for over 31,000, and cases involving illegal conducts over key goods and trademarks in the areas of anti-epidemic protective equipment, food, household supplies and electronic products exceeded 28,000. Over 12,000 enforcement actions were taken in key substantive markets with high frequencies of counterfeiting activities.



(Source: people.cn – People’s Daily)

State Administration for Market Regulation: Five IP-related Legislation Projects are Underway in 2021

Recently, State Administration for Market Regulation published the *Legislation Work Plan for the Year 2021*, in which a total of 67 legislation projects are released, including six drafts of laws or administrative regulations to be submitted for approval, and 61 regulations at ministry / administration level to be formulated or amended. In order to strengthen the protection for IP rights, work plans for five IP-related legislation projects were submitted to the State Council, namely, *the Implementing Rules for the P.R.C. Patent Law*, *the Measures for the Administration of Trademark Agency*, *the Several Provisions on Regulating Patent Applications*, *the Provisions for Identification and Protection of Well-known Trademarks*, and *the Measures for Registration and Administration of Collective Marks and Certification Marks*.

(Source: State Administration for Market Regulation)