



TAKAO SAITO
CONSULTING COUNSEL

tsaito@wiggin.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Law, Kyoto University

Diploma in Intellectual Capital Management, Göteborg University (Sweden)

LL.B., Doshisha University

Diploma, Bass Professional, Berklee College of Music

ADMISSIONS

Japan Patent Attorney

State Bar of California

COURT ADMISSIONS

US District Court (Central District of California)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

IAM Strategy 300 - The World's Leading IP Strategists (2017-2025)

IAM Strategy 300 Global Leader (2025)

Takao Saito is a Consulting Counsel at Wiggin and Dana, LLP and is also the sole proprietor of Saito International IP Firm, Squall IP LLC, and Sanko Asset Management Co., Ltd. With over 18 years of experience at Panasonic Corporation, Takao specializes in high-stakes patent licensing, intellectual property strategy, and complex patent infringement litigation. He provides strategic counsel on patent portfolio management, monetization, and IP due diligence for cross-border M&A and technology alliances across high-tech sectors including semiconductors, consumer electronics, and medical devices.

Experience

- **Strategic Resolution of Cross-Border Patent Disputes (2025-2026):** Represented a major automotive component manufacturer in a multi-jurisdictional dispute against a global semiconductor company involving parallel proceedings in Japan (Osaka District Court and JPO) and the U.S. (C.D. Cal.). Leveraged 28 U.S.C. § 1782 discovery procedures and managed multiple invalidation proceedings to reach a favorable global settlement.
- ***Therasense, Inc. v. Becton, Dickinson & Co. (649 F.3d 1276)*:** Served as a lead negotiator and strategic advisor. His leadership contributed to the landmark CAFC *en banc* decision that redefined the "inequitable conduct" standard in U.S. patent law.
- **Major Divestitures and Joint Ventures:** Managed the IP aspects of a major semiconductor business divestiture, reviewing approximately 300 license agreements. Spearheaded IP due diligence and restructured licensing frameworks for joint venture renewal with a prominent international foundry.
- **Defense Against NPE and Employment Litigation:** Developed successful claim construction and royalty arguments in multiple NPE lawsuits, leading to summary judgments and favorable dismissals. Acted as lead negotiator in mediation for high-stakes litigation filed by a former employee, securing a successful settlement.
- **Patent Arbitrations:** Managed three successful patent arbitrations across the semiconductor, electronics, and medical device sectors, ensuring outcomes aligned with strategic commercial goals.

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CONTINUED

Academic & Lecturer

Lecturer: Since 2016, Takao has served as a Lecturer at Kwansai Gakuin University, where he teaches courses on international IP licensing and agreements, bridging the gap between legal theory and hands-on business practice.

Author: He is a prolific author on intellectual property law. His recent works include *"License Subspecies and Intellectual Property Trust: Evaluation of Patents Through IP Due Diligence"* (Seibundo, 2024), along with numerous articles in leading legal journals.

Interests

Music & Arts: Beyond his legal career, Takao is an accomplished Jazz bassist and contrabass player. His deep involvement in the arts provides him with a unique, creative perspective that enriches his professional approach to complex problem-solving in business.

Publications and Seminars

- Evaluation Methods for FRAND rates in British Cases - Focusing on 3 FRAND British Cases, Chizai Prism, April 10, 2025.
- "License Subspecies" and Intellectual Property Trust - Evaluation of Patents Through IP Due Diligence, Seibundo, December 10, 2024.
- Study on Intellectual Property Trust in Japan - Focusing on Patent Trust, Chizai Prism, May 1, 2024.
- "License Subspecies" and Intellectual Property in the Web 3.0 Era - Tension between Contract Law and Intellectual Property Law, Kyoto University, Dissertation Kou-24368 March 23, 2023.
- Standstill in Intellectual Property Licensing -Considering Japanese Contract Law Reform, Law & Technology (L&T) Vol.91, 58-64, 2021-04.
- IP Strategy for New Technology Era, EU-Japan Technology Transfer Helpdesk December 2019.
- Evaluation of Patents for Transfer-Patent Evaluation Through IP Due Diligence, Patent, Vol.72 No.2, 49-55. 2019-02.
- IPBC Asia 2017 -Study on "Springing License"-Does it bring a peace to IP Monetization? Law & Technology (L&T) Vol. 78, 33-38. (2018).
- A Beginner's Guide to IP Commercialization-From patent gazette to commercial products, Patent, Vol 70, 40-53, 2017-07.
- Legal Protection for LINE Stamps -For Creator's Business Planning, Patent, Vol.69, 95-106, 2016-03.
- Overview and Practical Notes Regarding Patent Assignment Agreements Based on US Patent Case Law, Intellectual Property Management 65(7), 873-887, 2015-07.
- Analysis of "Non-assertion" Clause in the Patent Law: Focusing on legal nature of non-assertion clause and protection of licensee in case of patent assignment, Intellectual Property Management 64(6), 916-935, 2014-06.