

Minchun Li
Patent Attorney
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Minchun Li is a Patent Attorney who has been dedicated to intellectual property services since 2013, serving both Chinese and international clients. She is highly proficient in a wide range of patent-related activities, including reviewing and finalizing patent application documents, prosecuting patent applications, advising clients on patent matters, responding to Office Actions issued by the CNIPA and conducting patent reexamination and invalidation affairs. In pharmaceutical cases she is familiar with the use of dosage regimen claims to define medical use and with the corresponding inventive-step arguments, and in biotechnology cases with the drafting and formality requirements specific to the field, including ST.26 sequence listings and the deposit of biological material. She also handles plant variety protection. Her professional expertise covers a broad array of technical fields, including biochemistry, pharmaceuticals, and bioagriculture, as well as chemistry and materials science, environment and energy, and agriculture and food technology. Over her career she has handled more than 1,000 patent applications, acting for global pharmaceutical companies such as MacroGenics, Takeda Pharmaceutical, Mylan Ireland and Kolon TissueGene, for leading universities such as ETH Zurich, Aarhus University and Queensland University of Technology, and for other biotechnology and agricultural technology companies.

Technical Field

- Pharmaceutical Research and Development
- Medical Devices
- Genetic Technology
- Biotechnology
- Organic Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Polymer Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry

- Energy-Saving Technology
- Environmental Protection
- Water Treatment Technology
- Agricultural Machinery
- Bioagriculture
- Food Science
- Aquaculture

Years with IP Matters

- 2013 until now

Professional Experience

- Patent Attorney, Chang Tsi & Partners, 2026 – Present
- Patent Attorney, Spruson & Ferguson (Beijing), 2023 – 2026
- Patent Attorney, AFD China, 2013 – 2023

Representative Matters

- [2022] | Biotechnology patent reexamination: The examiner held that the generic concept was not supported by the description and accepted only the specific strains and gene pathways verified in the examples. On reexamination Li relied on the comprehensive and thorough disclosure within the description and common general knowledge to show that the skilled person could construct the claimed solution and reasonably expect the same effect. The panel accepted the argument, reversed the rejection, and the application was granted with the generic concept.
- [2023] | Pharmaceutical patent reexamination: A well-known pharmaceutical client's application was rejected because the description did not record the specific parameter relied on in the post-filing data. Li argued that the effect shown by the data was already recorded in the description and that the parameter was merely a means of proof, so the data should be admitted and could establish an unexpected technical effect. The argument was accepted at the pre-examination stage and the application was granted.
- [2024] | Office Action response: The examiner held the claims to be overly broad and unsupported. Rather than limiting the scope strictly to the specific working example, Li skillfully leveraged the general statements regarding technical effects within the description. Li advised narrowing the claims reasonably within the scope recorded in the description and filing supplementary experimental data proving precisely the effect derivable from the description. The examiner accepted both the amendment and the data, and the application was granted.
- [2024] | Gene editing patent application: A biotechnology company's gene editing application was rejected for insufficient disclosure. Li thoroughly analyzed the technical solution and mechanism recorded in the description, showed that disclosure was sufficient even without direct experimental data, and advised filing for reexamination. The examiner accepted the argument at the pre-examination stage and reversed the rejection.

- [2025] | Subject matter eligibility: During preliminary examination, the term “Cannabis sativa” was challenged by the Examiner. By accurately grasping the essence of the technical solution, Li successfully dispelled the Examiner's concerns purely through arguments without deleting the term, keeping the application on track.

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy in Developmental Biology, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (2013)
- Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, Nanjing Agricultural University (2008)

Bar Admission

- China Patent Bar (2015)

Languages

- Chinese
- English