

Joyce Yan
Patent Attorney
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Joyce Yan is a Patent Attorney and has been practicing in intellectual property since 2006. She has extensive experience in responding to Office Actions issued by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), including those involving Markush claims, and handles reexamination and invalidation proceedings before the CNIPA. Her practice also covers advisory work, due diligence and patent transactions, and she handles freedom-to-operate analyses and prior art searches before pharmaceutical and chemical products are launched, as well as PCT and Paris Convention filings.
She serves Chinese and foreign clients in chemistry and materials science, biomedicine and health, environment and energy technology, agriculture and food technology, mechanical engineering and manufacturing, and electronics and electrical engineering. Over her career she has handled more than 1,000 patent applications for global pharmaceutical companies and leading chemical enterprises.

Technical Field

- Semiconductor Technology
- Power Systems
- Mechanical Design
- Manufacturing Processes
- Automotive Engineering
- Aerospace
- Pharmaceutical Research and Development
- Medical Devices
- Genetic Technology
- Biotechnology
- Organic Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Polymer Chemistry
- Environmental Chemistry

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

Years with IP Matters

- 2006 until now

Professional Experience

- Patent Attorney, Chang Tsi & Partners, Beijing, China
- Patent Attorney, Jeekai & Partners, Beijing, China

Representative Clients

- XYLECO, INC.
- CEMPRA PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
- COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE ET AUX ENERGIES ALTERNATIVES
- TOTAL MARKETING SERVICES
- THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
- JW PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATIO
- EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORP
- AVERY DENNISON CORP
- RICOH ELEMEX CORP
- BEOING CO.

Representative Matters

- [2023] | Chemical materials patent invalidation：Based on the strength of her long-standing work on the same multinational adhesives company's applications, the client instructed the team on a patent invalidation analysis; the work was well received.
- [2023] | Divisional application for a medical device：For a US hospital, Yan handled a divisional application for a fat-reduction device. Earlier divisional applications had all failed. She overcame objections on new matter, novelty and inventive step, and the patent was granted at substantive examination alone.
- [2023] | Crystal form applications under prioritized examination：For a Spanish pharmaceutical company, Yan handled three related crystal form applications, all granted quickly through China's prioritized examination procedure. The three were also granted in Taiwan, completing the client's global filing

strategy for that crystal form.

- [2024] | Chemical patent reexamination：For a multinational adhesives company, an application was rejected for lack of inventive step on the ground of “conventional technical means”. Yan compared the claimed solution with the references feature by feature and showed the means were not conventional for the skilled person. The rejection was reversed at the pre-examination stage without amending the claims, and the patent was granted.
- [2024] | Patentability of diagnostic methods：An application was identified to be a diagnostic method excluded from patentability under Article 25 of the Patent Law. Applying the 2023 Patent Examination Guidelines, Yan recast the claims as an information processing method performed entirely by a computer or similar apparatus, overcoming the objection of unpatentable subject matter and obtaining grant.
- [2025] | Compound patent　For a US pharmaceutical company, Yan handled a compound application for CNS disease. The application as filed contained no experimental data. Relying on the Patent Examination Guidelines, the description and common general knowledge, she argued that the therapeutic effect was predictable, and supported this with post-filing data; the　objection of insufficient disclosure was overcome in the first response. The support objection was resolved after two rounds of telephone interviews with the examiner on claim amendment strategy, and the application was granted.
- [2025] | Pharmaceutical patent reexamination：During substantive examination, Yan established from a detailed record in the drawings that an alternating dosage regimen significantly improved patient survival, overcoming the inventive step objection. After rejection on support, she relied on the mechanism and data originally recorded, supplemented by post-filing data and the inventors’ paper, to generalize the scope of protection; the rejection was reversed on reexamination and the application was granted in February 2025.
- [2026] | Examiner interview：Yan held a telephone interview with the examiner on an Office Action and issued a written report to the client setting out the course of the interview, the key points of the examiner’s position and the strategy for the response. The client endorsed both the outcome and her technical grasp of the case.
- [2026] | Divisional application with Markush claims：The parent application for an estrogen-receptor-targeted anti-tumor compound was maintained as rejected on reexamination. Yan handled the divisional: for unity she elected the compounds of formula (III) and preserved the right to file a further divisional application; for inventive step she showed that the prior art did not teach the boron-containing substituent or the specific side chain, supported the unexpected effect with experimental data, and narrowed the general formula appropriately. The divisional was granted, preserving protection for the core compounds after the parent had failed.
- [2026] | Biotechnology FTO analysis：Yan participated in issuing an FTO report for a domestic biotechnology company, assessing patent infringement risk in China for its plant cell culture and extraction processes. The team screened the 48 most relevant patents and compared them one by one; the risk was assessed as low.

Education

- Master of Membrane Science and Technology, Tianjin University（2007）
- Bachelor of Chemical Engineering & Technology, Shandong University of Technology（2005）

Bar Admission

- China Patent Bar

Languages

- Chinese
- English