

Sam Hong

Partner

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Sam structures patent portfolios and intellectual property strategies that turn technology investments into competitive assets for startups and established companies alike.

Sam brings a combination of real-world engineering experience and legal expertise to patent prosecution and IP strategy, helping clients build patent portfolios that are focused on both client's current technology and upcoming business objectives as well as industry trends. Whether advising a seed-stage startup or a mature technology company, Sam tailors his approach to where a client is in its growth cycle and objectives.

For startups, Sam has counseled multiple companies on developing intellectual property strategies that target rapid portfolio growth while maintaining cost efficiencies. For more established companies, Sam helps identify and leverage existing IP assets while strategically developing new ones — positioning portfolios to support licensing, partnerships, or enforcement as business needs evolve.

Sam's counsel goes well beyond patent filings, often serving as outside counsel to anticipate and prevent potential problems. He advises clients on open-source software considerations, product roadmaps, competitive analysis, and enforcement of IP rights. He also works with bioinformatics clients on IP matters, privacy, and government regulatory compliance — an area that sits at the intersection of life sciences and data-driven technology.

Sam works with technologies involving hardware and software in equal measure. On the hardware side, his experience covers robotics, semiconductor wafer and packaging, memory devices, system-on-chip, system-in-package, consumer devices, telecommunication systems, and medical devices. On the software side, he has worked with artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), robotics control, autonomous maneuvering/driving, bioinformatics platforms, operating systems, user interfaces, signal processing, web-based applications, mobile applications, and network management

Education

- Santa Clara University School of Law (J.D., 2011)
- University of Washington (B.S., Electrical Engineering, 2001)

Bar Admissions

- Washington

systems.

Before entering law, Sam spent more than nine years as a senior electronics engineer, giving him firsthand fluency in the technologies his clients build and protect. That engineering foundation shapes how he reads a specification, evaluates claim scope, and anticipates examiner objections — translating into stronger, more defensible patents for clients.

Court Admissions

- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Accolades

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*, Patent Law; Intellectual Property Law, 2023-2025

Languages

- Korean