



Han-Sik Hwang

Managing Partner

hshwang@snlplaw.com

Summary

Mr. Han-Sik Hwang is a Managing Partner of S&L Partners. He started his legal career with an appointment on September 1, 1986 as a Suwon District Court judge. He served as a Presiding Judge of district courts, Presiding Judge of appellate courts, including the Seoul High Court, Deputy Chief Judge of the Seoul High Court, and Chief Judge of the Gwangju District Court, the Seoul Eastern District Court, and the Busan High Court. After serving as a judge for 37 years and 5 months, he retired on January 31, 2024.

While serving as a research examiner for the Court Library, he was involved in the development of the legal search system for Supreme Court cases, reference literature, and statutes. Such legal search system has become today's Law and Information System.

Furthermore, as the first presiding judge in charge of warrants at the Seoul District Court, he contributed to the establishment of the warrant investigation system.

He studied intellectual property at Georgetown University Law School in the United States and earned an LL.M. degree.

Through his interest in intellectual property matters at various levels of courts, he has been recognized as an expert in the field of intellectual property law and has been appointed as a presiding judge of the Patent Court and the Intellectual Property Division of the Seoul High Court.

"He handled the Hello Kitty case, which recognized for the first time that "intellectual property infringement can be subject to general civil tort liability." He also heard a copyright infringement case brought by the Korean Music Copyright Association against Starbucks Coffee Korea. In the case, he overruled the decision of the court of first instance and decided that Starbucks Coffee Korea could not play music registered by the Association.

He also built his expertise in criminal matters, while serving two terms as a Presiding Judge of a criminal division of the Seoul High Court.

He submitted an unconstitutional law review to the Constitutional Court regarding Article 216(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act, which resulted in a unanimous ruling of unconstitutionality by all judges, and handled a case of sexual harassment of a medical student of Korea University and recognized the driver as a co-conspirator in a case of sexual assault by a backseat passenger. He also acquitted a Korean Japanese student in a retrial of the espionage case.

Practice Areas

Civil, Criminal, Administrative, Intellectual Property

Education

2011	Hanyang University School of Law, completed JSD Program
1992	Georgetown University Law School (LL.M.)
1981	Hanyang University School of Law (B.L.)

Professional Career

1981	Passed the 23rd National Bar Examination
1983	Completed 13th Judicial Research and Training Institute
1983 - 1986	Army Judge Advocate
1986-1988	Judge, Suwon District Court
1988- 1990	Judge, Seoul Southern District Court
1990- 1991	Judge, Chuncheon District Court, Wonju Branch
1991-1992	Law School (LL.M.), Georgetown University
1992- 1994	Judge, Chuncheon District Court, Wonju Branch
1994-1995	Judge, Seoul Civil Court
1995	Judge, Seoul High Court
1995- 1997	Court Library Research Examiner
1997-1999	Judge, Seoul High Court
1999- 2000	Presiding Judge, Jeju District Court
2000- 2002	Presiding Judge, Incheon District Court
2002- 2005	Presiding Judge, Seoul Central District Court
2005- 2006	Presiding Judge, Seoul Northern District Court
2006- 2007	Presiding Judge, Patent Court
2007-2009	Presiding Judge, Daegu High Court
2009- 2012	Presiding Judge, Seoul High Court
2012- 2013	Deputy Chief Judge, Seoul High Court
2013- 2014	Chief Judge of Gwangju District Court

2014- 2015	Chief Judge of Seoul Eastern District Court
2015- 2017	Presiding Judge, Seoul High Court
2017- 2019	Chief Judge of the Busan High Court
2019- 2024	Senior Judge, Seoul Central District Court
2024 - Present	Managing Partner, S&L Partners

Publications

- "Jurisdiction of civilians by courts-martial" Journal of Military Law Vol. 3, 256, 1985.
- "The Legal Nature of Finance Lease," Justice Data, Vol. 63 (Part 1), p. 55, 1994.
- "The Law Clerk System of the United States Supreme Court," Justice Data, Vol. 65, p. 615, 1994.
- "The Scope of Adjudication in Patent Revocation Lawsuits," Law Journal, Vol. 46, No. 6, p. 37, 1997.
- "Administrative Litigation Practice Research: Right to Demand Seniority Scale Adjustment and Scope of Application of Note 3 of the Civil Servants' Remuneration Regulations [Appendix 22]," Administrative Litigation Practice Research, p. 311, 1998.
- "Distribution and Gift Tax of Property Jointly Owned by Jongjung (families of the same clan)," Administrative Litigation Practice Research, p. 299, 1998.
- "Preservation Measures under the Corporate Reorganization Act," Justice Data, Vol. 86, p. 25, 2000.
- "Utilization of Written Precedence Method and Early First Hearing Method," Justice Data, Vol. 96 (Part 1), p. 365, 2002.
- "Direction of Systematizing Grounds and Standards for Detention from the Perspective of a Warrant Judge," Court Seminar Materials, p. 49, 2003.
- "Magna Carta," Law Journal, Issue 733, p. 7, 2019.

Membership

Seoul Bar Association (admitted in 2024)

Languages

Korean, English, Japanese, German