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finance and
legal news**

Featured Reviews

Walkers Ireland
Sadis Goldberg
Walkers Cayman Islands
Carroll, Burdick & McDonough LLP
Cervantes Sainz
Hausfeld & Co LLP

**Special Issue Featuring:
Global Awards 2011**

Award winning companies
from across the globe

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ranked by their own peers

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eye out

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Hong Kong based Wright Counsel was founded by Colin Wright, a practising barrister based in Hong Kong

Colin Wright has acted in many significant liquidations in Hong Kong, including the New China Hong Kong Group liquidation and the Akai liquidation. He represents liquidators responsible for recovering the assets of insolvent companies and also other parties facing claims in insolvencies.

According to Wright, Hong Kong remains a popular jurisdiction for companies doing business in China and Asia generally to have their headquarters. As a consequence of the international nature of business in Hong Kong, Wright says insolvencies in the Special Administrative Region generally involve cross-border issues.

“Until 1997, Hong Kong was a British Colony and its legal system is based on that in force in England & Wales,” Wright says. In 1997, Hong Kong was reunified with the People’s Republic of China in a historic deal under which the common law is guaranteed to be applicable for at least 50 years. The continuation of the common law tradition has allowed Hong Kong to maintain its unique place as a commercial centre. Hong Kong has a highly developed legal system presided over by professional impartial judges who treat local and foreign litigants equally.

Wright says Hong Kong’s common law heritage is reflected in the structure of its legal profession.

Referring to its colonial past and the thus acquired heritage, Wright says: “Hong Kong’s company and insolvency legislation was a product of the colonial era and is at present being rewritten in order to bring it up to date with developments elsewhere in the world. As a result of these reforms there will be expanded procedures for companies experiencing financial difficulties to be restructured rather than simply being wound up.”

Wright says the many advantages of doing business in Hong Kong far outstrip the important but limited drawbacks.

“One of the most significant advantages is Hong Kong’s legal system which ensures that commercial disputes are judged fairly in accordance with the rule of law. When companies face financial difficulties, Hong Kong’s legal system ensures an efficient and fair determination of the rights of the creditors. The proposed reforms to Hong Kong’s company and insolvency legislation will further increase the flexibility of the remedies available in the case of corporate insolvencies which should be in the interests of all parties.” ●

Top IP Management Firm UK

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Oxford-based Coller IP combines patent attorney and commercial expertise to deliver intellectual property (IP) management and valuation

Formed in 2006 as a spin-out company from a background of providing in-house services in a large technology corporate, Coller IP

specialises in the commercial management of IP, which ranges from IP analysis and commercialisation services through IP case management – drafting filing and prosecuting patents, trademarks and registered designs – to brokering IP deals, and formal IP opinion and IP valuation services.

Founding Partners and CEO and COO of Coller IP respectively, Dr Jackie Maguire and Dr Jim Asher form the senior management team that brings deals to the table.

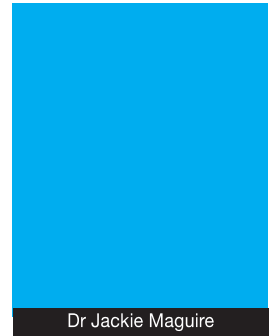
Dr Maguire advises organisations at board level on how to realise value from intangible assets. Using appropriate models and techniques, she helps clients turn intellectual capital into strategic and valuable assets as well as implement plans and processes to develop robust IP portfolios and structure deals.

Dr Asher, a physicist by background, is actively involved in client work on IP analysis, landscaping and commercial evaluation. He also leads the IP Valuation practice at Coller IP, working for a wide range of clients and requirements.

“Coller IP brings together an unusual combination of technological, legal and commercial experience, which we refer to as our ‘TLC for IP’ approach,” says Dr Maguire. “The Coller IP team includes patent and trade mark attorneys, IP analysts, licensing executives and business development expertise. Having all of these skills in one team provides a unique perspective on the value of the intangible assets that underpin a deal.”

Coller IP has recently successfully acted for a number of investors and entrepreneurs including WHEB Partners with whom they have built a good relationship. “We believe that our advice and conclusions give clarity to the IP position of the investment and the confidence to close the deal, knowing that key commercial IP issues had been investigated and clarified,” states Dr Maguire.

“Our experience is particularly suited to investments in technology businesses in physical sciences, bio-sciences and engineering; we also have extensive experience of green- and clean-tech, communications and software sectors. We find that our input works best when we are consulted at an early stage in formation of a deal. We can handle back-end due diligence, but it does not always allow room to manoeuvre if difficult issues arise near to a deal closure,” she adds. ●



Dr Jackie Maguire