

Lee C. Cheng

Orange County, California
Los Angeles, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Trade Secrets & Employee Mobility; Corporate Law; Intellectual Property Law; Litigation; Franchise Law



Lee C. Cheng is a Shareholder based in the firm's Orange County office, a member of the Corporate, Intellectual Property and Litigation Practice Groups, and the Chair of the Greater China Practice Group. Mr. Cheng's practice spans a broad array of disciplines, from corporate transactional work, M&A, finance, governance to intellectual property, licensing and litigation management and strategy. He is regarded as a national expert on defending companies cost effectively against frivolous assertions of intellectual property rights and other types of extortionary litigation, and he prides himself on having a deep understanding of what clients need from outside counsel.

Mr. Cheng's insights on client service comes from more than 20 years at top law firms, including almost 15 as a C-level legal and operations executive. His business experience includes ranking-level executive positions at venture funded startups like LightCross, Inc. (VP of Administration and Legal Affairs) and GeneFluidics, Inc. (General Counsel), to global, multi-billion dollar revenue companies like Newegg.com (Chief Legal Officer, SVP Corporate Development, SVP Human Resources, Corporate Secretary) and Gibson Brands, the owner of Gibson Guitars (Chief Operating Officer).

Mr. Cheng has been recognized a number of times for his thought leadership in the legal profession. He is a two-time winner (2014 and 2016) of the *National Law Journal's* America's 50 Outstanding General Counsel, and numerous other awards for innovation and excellence in the practice of law. He was named an "Intellectual Property Trailblazer & Pioneer" (2014)—also by the *National Law Journal*, and received the IP Vanguard Award (2013) from the IP Section of the State Bar of California. In 2018, he became the recipient of the inaugural Champion of Equal Opportunity Education Rights Award of the Asian American Coalition for Education.

Awards and Recognitions

- 2018 Champion of Equal Opportunity in Education Rights, Asian American Coalition for Education (2018)
- Corporate Leadership Award, Asian American Bar Association of New York (2017)
- America's 50 Outstanding General Counsel, National Law Journal (2016, 2014)
- In-House Impact Award, The Recorder(2015)
- Top 50 IP Trailblazer and Pioneer, National Law Journal (2014)
- Vanguard Award, State Bar of California IP Section (2013)
- In-House Counsel of the Year, Daily Journal (2013)
- Innovation Award, NYU-Polytechnic (2011)
- Top 10 Law Department Innovation Award, InsideCounsel Magazine (2011)
- Institute for Civil Justice Southern California Leadership Counsel of the top 50 lawyers in Southern

California, RAND Institute

- Best Lawyers under 40, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2009)

Representative Matters

Litigation

Mr. Cheng has managed dozens of complex litigation matters to successful conclusion for clients, including the following:

- [Newegg fought its way through two appeals to win fees from this patent-holder](#)
- [Encryption patent that roiled Newegg is dead on appeal](#)
- [Wait... we sued who?! Patent troll drops case one day after Newegg's lawyer calls](#)
- [Newegg nukes "corporate troll" Alcatel in third patent appeal win this year](#)
- [Judge Sides With eCommerce Merchants in Patent Dispute](#)
- [Newegg and friends crush a patent troll](#)
- ["Shopping cart" patent troll tries to save itself, gets pounded by Newegg](#)

Intellectual Property

- Provided advice re: prosecution, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Corporate and Transactional

- Represented issuers, investors and lenders in private equity and debt transactions.
- Represented partners, sellers and purchasers in the purchase and sale of entities, assets and businesses, and the creation of partnerships and joint ventures.
- Represented issuers, underwriters and lenders in public equity and debt transactions.
- Represented various parties in strategic agreements, including intellectual property licenses.
- Advised Boards of Directors and executive management teams on corporate governance issues.

Employment Matters

- Represented executives in negotiating employment and severance agreements, and employers in negotiating the same.
- Provided counseling to clients re: equity and other long term incentives.

Real Estate

- Represented purchaser of commercial buildings.
- Represented tenants in numerous leases and buildouts.

Education

Mr. Cheng earned his J.D. from University of California, Berkeley School of Law and received his A.B. from Harvard University in History & Science, *magna cum laude*.

Bar Admissions

- California

Community

- Serves on the Board of Industry Leaders of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), the largest technology focused trade association in the world and the operator of the Consumer Electronics Show.
- Member, Board of Trustees of the CTA Foundation
- Board of Directors, Asian American Legal Foundation

- Board of Directors, Lowell High School Alumni Association
- Formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Corporate Counsel-Southern California Chapter, the Harvard Club of San Francisco, the Asian American Coalition for Education, and the Organization of Chinese Americans-San Francisco Chapter.
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association-Member, Founder and Chair emeritus of the Prospective Partners Program.

Languages

- Mandarin