



Artificial Intelligence

2025



PROFILED:

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Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates



Skadden



Artificial Intelligence



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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Ken Kumayama is a partner in the intellectual property and technology group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He concentrates his practice on transactional matters in intellectual property, technology, data, privacy, cyber security and artificial intelligence. He represents clients in a range of technology and commercial transactions relating to the ownership, protection and exploitation of intellectual property.

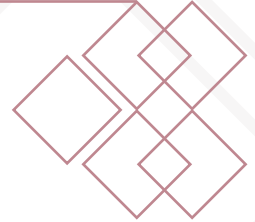
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Q&A WITH KEN D. KUMAYAMA

**Could you describe your approach to tackling complex legal challenges? What principles or philosophies guide your work?**

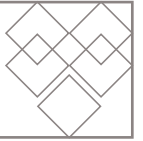
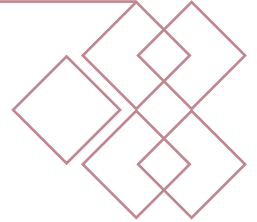
◆ Complex legal challenges require a team effort. The law can be very complicated, making even issue spotting quite tricky. I will do my best to deeply understand the facts and the issues to the best of my ability, and then I will reach out to others for help. Sometimes all it takes is a quick conversation to sanity check my approach. Other times, it turns out that there is an entire body of case law or regulations with which I may only have a passing familiarity. While reaching out to local counsel is a requirement when dealing with laws in foreign jurisdictions, the same logic, and ethical obligations, applies for areas of law where we lack expertise.

Could you discuss a particularly rewarding project or case you have worked on? What made it stand out for you?

◆ As a second-year associate, I had the opportunity to work closely with a client on a complicated M&A transaction involving a lot of patents in the semiconductor space. My boss and the client allowed me to lead a portion of the negotiations regarding some complicated intellectual property (IP)-related provisions and licence agreements in the transaction. My counterparts in these negotiations were two seasoned IP partners at a well-known firm in the Bay Area. This was my first real 'stretch assignment', and I was grateful for the opportunity. After we wrapped up that transaction, I decided to study for the patent bar, as there were a lot of details regarding US patent law that I felt insecure about, as compared to the more experienced attorneys in the room.

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**What are your predictions for the future of your legal specialty? How do you see your vocation evolving over the next few years?**

◆ For lawyers generally, I think tools powered by generative artificial intelligence (AI) features will soon become the norm. As a result, lawyers will need to become familiar with how AI systems work and the ethical implications of using such technologies. Specifically for IP lawyers, tools are already becoming available to deal with highly structured data, such as patents. As the technology continues to improve, we will see IP attorneys being able to provide useful insights to clients to guide their business decisions, where such insights have in the past been out of reach due to the practical challenges of sifting through large amounts of data. I am hopeful that AI will also help improve the quality and efficiency of the patent system as a whole. ■

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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Advising Intel in its \$15.3bn acquisition of Mobileye.
- ◆ Advising Juniper Networks in its pending \$14bn acquisition by Hewlett Packard Enterprise.
- ◆ Advising an electric vehicle (EV) company in its negotiations with a company with expertise in developing autonomous driving AI models to jointly develop a customised advanced driver assistance system for the EV company's vehicles.
- ◆ Advising a family office in the development of an AI-powered proprietary trading platform.
- ◆ Advising Scopely in its pending \$3.5bn acquisition of Niantic's games business, which includes Pokémon GO.
- ◆ Advising Bytedance in multiple transactions, including its acquisition of Musical.ly, the predecessor to TikTok.
- ◆ Advising Didi Chuxing (Hangzhou Kuaizhi Technology Co., Ltd.) (China) in its acquisition of UberChina from Uber Technologies Inc.

