

Yifan Mao

Partner

1302 El Camino Real
Suite 175, Menlo Park, CA USA 94025
t 650.324.6311 | f 650.618.8645
ymao@ktslaw.com



Services

Asset Creation - Prosecution &
Counseling
Intellectual Property
Licensing, Transactions &
Monetization
Market Protection - Opinions &
Dispute Avoidance
Patents
Post-Grant Proceedings

Industries

Agribusiness & Food
Technology
Health & Life Sciences

Yifan Mao focuses her practice on patent counseling, prosecution, and due diligence matters in the agriculture, chemistry, and life sciences industries, focusing on areas relating to diagnostics, large molecule therapeutics, devices, sequencing, and bioinformatics.

Yifan was a senior patent agent at an agriculture biotechnology company where she developed the company's patent portfolio on genomics, bioenergy and trait improvement technologies before joining the firm. She held research positions at Genentech and Genencor International (now DuPont Industrial Biosciences) prior to her legal career.

Yifan is the Co-President of the Fremont Union High Schools Foundation, which supports the education of over 10,000 high school students. She previously served as the Foundation's Grant Chair and Outreach Co-Chair.

Yifan was recognized in 2025 and 2026 as one of the "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" for Patent Law by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. She was recognized as a Northern California "Rising Star" in 2024 and the six years immediately preceding for Intellectual Property by *Super Lawyers* magazine. Yifan's native language is Mandarin Chinese.

Yifan is a frequently invited speaker on topics related to various intellectual property issues and has lectured continuing legal education courses with organizations including TRTCLE and the Practicing Law Institute.

Experience

Represent a leading clinical laboratory services provider in intellectual property-related services, including the freedom to operate analyses, patent prosecution and litigation services and due diligence and pre-litigation counseling. Technologies include clinical diagnostic, bioinformatics, and genetic testing and devices.

Represent a chemical company and patentee in asserting patent infringement claims and defending its patents against invalidity contentions.

Counseled a patentee and an international company in a Post Grant Review (PGR) proceeding and defeated the challenger's patent invalidity challenge before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Represent an international biopharmaceutical company developing its immunology and oncology patent portfolio including its lead drug that has been commercialized in China and approved by the US FDA.

Represent a large international company in patent procurement, diligence, prelitigation counseling, and transactional matters for its sequencing technologies and devices.

Represent an emerging company developing its global patent portfolio for digital diagnostics and devices.

Represent clients in the US, China, Singapore, and Korea at various stages in developing their global patent portfolios and counseling on freedom to operate and patentability issues on technologies relating to diagnostics and therapeutics, immunology, oncology, infectious diseases, and agriculture.

Education

Santa Clara University School of Law J.D. (2014) *magna cum laude*, *Dean's List*, *Best Oral Advocate Award*, *Witkin/CALI Awards*, *Emery Law Scholarship*

Michigan State University M.S. Biochemistry

Wuhan University, PR. China B.S. Microbiology

Admissions

California (2015)

Court Admissions

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2007)

Clerkships

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Professional & Community Activities

Fremont Union High Schools Foundation, Board Member and Ex Co-President

MEMO|Medicine & Molecules, *The Kilpatrick Biopharma Industry Blog*, Co-Editor-in-Chief

Business and Entrepreneurship and Encouragement Program, Advisor

Santa Clara University, School of Law, Tech Edge JD program, Mentor

Asian Law Alliance, Advisory Board Member

Insights

Perspectives

5 Key Takeaways | Navigating the New U.S. Horizon: Managing Regulatory Friction and De-Risking with Strategic IP

June 29, 2026

News Releases

Over 100 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

November 25, 2025

News Releases

Kilpatrick Elects 2026 Class of Partners

November 11, 2025

Alert

COVID-19 Vaccine Patent War: Moderna's Claims Invalidated by PTAB

March 7, 2025

News Releases

126 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2024 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

November 11, 2024