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TOP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS 2025



SABING LEE

KNOBBE MARTENS

IRVINE

For nearly 30 years, Sabing Lee has practiced intellectual property law at Knobbe Martens, specializing in medical device innovations. With a background in materials engineering, he found IP law to be the intersection of his technical expertise and passion for writing and advocacy.

"I was drawn to IP law because I wanted a career where I could use my technical background, which is in materials engineering, while being exposed to cutting-edge technologies," said Lee, who's co-chair of Knobbe Martens' medical device group.

His career trajectory was shaped by early experiences with venture-backed medical device companies. One of his first clients needed an attorney who understood the super elastic properties of catheter materials, setting him on a path representing numerous medical device startups.

Lee credits mentors Bill Bunker and Gerard von Hoffmann with teaching him a fundamental principle of his practice.

"They taught me the importance of being a strategic advisor to my clients, which requires an understanding of a client's business objectives and the industry in which they operate," Lee said.

This philosophy drives Lee to attend industry and investor conferences regularly, gathering insights about market opportunities and obstacles his clients face.

Among his recent work, Lee represented Paragonix Technologies during its \$477 million acquisition by Getinge. His team initially conducted IP due diligence for Signet Healthcare Partners' Series B investment in Paragonix before handling all their intellectual property work through the acquisition.

Lee also serves early-stage companies from inception through fundraising. His team represented Venova Medical dur-

ing its \$30 million Series B funding round, securing the company's first U.S. patent in under two years and developing a worldwide patent portfolio for their hemodialysis access technology.

For inQB8 Medical Technologies and its spin-out Relief Cardiovascular, Lee's team supported IP strategy through a \$12 million Series A financing round for their transcatheter implant treating congestive heart failure.

"I enjoy working with early-stage companies like Relief, where we have the opportunity to interface directly with the inventors during their invention creation process," Lee said.

The practice brings challenges, particularly when managing multiple simultaneous deals. Lee recalled periods juggling eight IP due diligence matters concurrently, crediting preparation and team support for successfully navigating these pressures.

IP portfolio management has grown increasingly complex due to legal changes, USPTO procedure updates and evolving innovation types. Ownership questions arise more frequently as employee mobility increases, while USPTO changes have made it more expensive to pursue patent protection based on older priority dates.