

## Rising Star: Fish & Richardson's Christian Chu

By Jonathan Randles

*Law360, New York (April 21, 2014, 9:35 PM ET)* -- Fish & Richardson PC attorney Christian Chu in the last year has helped LG Electronics Inc. defeat a pair of patent lawsuits in high-stakes U.S. International Trade Commission litigation, earning him a spot on Law360's list of top international trade lawyers under 40.

The 38-year-old University of California, Berkeley, School of Law graduate is one of five international trade attorneys recognized as a 2014 Rising Star. A principal in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, Chu has quickly established himself as a top ITC patent attorney.

Chu was instrumental in defending LG in ITC complaints brought by InterDigital Communications LLC and Technology Properties Ltd. LLC, with LG ultimately prevailing in both cases earlier this year.

The fast-paced nature of ITC litigation, where cases regularly go to trial within months rather than years, has allowed Chu to rack up a wealth of experience at a relatively young age. Chu has already helped present six different ITC cases at trial and racked up an impressive list of wins — including the two LG cases.

“To me, the speed of the ITC was very attractive,” Chu said. “It allows me to focus on a few big and important cases, where I can bring to bear my experience in order to serve the needs of our clients.”

“There's intense pressure to get everything done quickly in the ITC given its speed,” Chu said. “But if you manage to deliver great work-product under this level of pressure, you know you're going to get a good reception from the judges who expect a high level of advocacy from us.”

InterDigital sued LG — along with competitors Nokia Corp., Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. and ZTE Corp. — in 2011 alleging the companies violated eight of its standard-essential patents. Chu helped formulate Fish & Richardson's legal strategy, arguing that LG's licensing rights survived an earlier patent agreement with InterDigital. Chu also argued that the patent dispute should be handled in arbitration, not the ITC.

In June 2012, an ITC administrative law judge granted LG's motion to terminate the investigation — a decision that ITC commissioners later affirmed on review. However, InterDigital appealed to the Federal Circuit, which asserted jurisdiction over the case.

In a split decision, the federal appeals court overturned the ITC's determination and remanded the case for further proceedings. In response, Chu filed a petition urging the U.S. Supreme Court to review the

case. Ultimately, in the face of LG's various legal challenges, the ITC granted InterDigital's motion to withdraw its case in February.

Then on Monday, the Supreme Court granted LG's petition, vacated the Federal Circuit's decision and instructed the appeals court to dismiss InterDigital's case as moot. Chu described the Supreme Court's decision as a "double win" for LG.

Chu found similar success in defending LG in the ITC patent case brought by Technology Properties, which claimed the company and a host of others including Amazon.com Inc., Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and Nintendo Co. Ltd. produced consumer electronics that violated a microprocessor patent.

Crucially, Chu — who served as co-lead counsel — presented the accused companies' joint noninfringement expert at trial. An ALJ ruled in September 2013 that LG and the other companies did not violate the patent-in-suit, a decision that was affirmed earlier this year by ITC commissioners.

"That's the great thing about the ITC practice: If you know you have a good case on the merits, you'll have a good chance to present your facts at trial, to be heard by the judges, and to win," Chu said.

That Chu has found top-level success in the legal profession at such a young age is perhaps even more remarkable considering the challenges he overcame as a child. His father, a pilot for the South Vietnamese air force, was placed in a communist internment camp days before he was born.

Chu's father was released after four years, at which time his family moved to France. When Chu was 14, his mother died of cancer, and he moved to California to live with his aunt. His father passed away the following year.

Throughout high school, Chu worked in a sewing factory and a furniture store to help support himself. He said he learned much of his English from watching the television series "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Chu attended Harvard University through a mix of scholarships, grants and work-study, he said, graduating magna cum laude with a degree in biochemistry. He later attended the UC Berkeley School of Law. While in law school, he began working as a summer associate at Fish & Richardson.

Chu said his experiences have helped him in his legal career.

"My personal experience has taught me resilience, and resilience goes a long way in the ITC because you never have enough time to do all of the things that you want to do," Chu said.

--Editing by Edrienne Su.