

Kowit Somwaiya



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Biography

Kowit holds an LL.M. from the University of Illinois, and an LL.B. from Thammasat University. He worked with Domnern Somgiat & Boonma for seven and a half years, with Chandler & Thong-ek Law Offices for four and a half years, and for four years as a partner of George & Kowit. Before founding LawPlus Ltd. in 2003, he was the Managing Partner of the Bangkok Office of a leading UK law firm (Herbert Smith Freehills). Kowit has over 30 years' experiences in laws on banking, corporate, foreign direct investment, merger and acquisition, intellectual property, IT, telecoms, dispute resolution and litigation.

Kowit is a registered patent attorney and trademark attorney. He is a member of the Lawyers Council of Thailand, the Thai Bar Association, the Intellectual Property Association of Thailand (Vice President 2017-2019), the ASEAN Intellectual Property Association, the Asian Patent Attorneys Association (Co-Chair of the Emerging IP Rights Committee 2013-2015), the International Trademark Association (Director 2018-2020, Chair of the Harmonization of Trademark Law and Practice Committee 2016-2017, Co-Chair of the Advisory Council-Asia Pacific 2016-2017 and Chair of the Anti-Counterfeiting Committee East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee 2014-2015), the International Bar Association, the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition, the Intellectual Property Owners Association and the World Customs Association.

Kowit was identified as a leading lawyer for banking and finance transactions by the Asia Pacific Legal 500 from 2003 to 2017, as an on-point, precise advice to a global clientele by WTR 1000, 2013, as a knowledgeable and decisive partner by the Asia Pacific Legal 500, 2012, as a hardworking and commercial by the Asia Pacific Legal 500, 2011, as an intelligent lawyer, who engages with his clients by the Asia Pacific Legal 500, 2010. The PLC Which Lawyers? Yearbook 2008 recommended him for corporate and M&A transactions. He was "highly

recommended” for corporate/M&A by the PLC Cross-border Merger and Acquisitions Handbook 2007. The AsiaLaw Leading Lawyers 2009 listed him as a leading lawyer for M&A. The IP Profiles 2006 and 2007 picked him as a well-known IP practitioner. The AsiaLaw Profiles 2006 and 2007 named Kowit as having notable expertise on banking, intellectual property, M&A, restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy. The AsiaLaw Leading Lawyers 2005 named Kowit as a leading lawyer for banking, general corporate practice, corporate governance, restructuring and insolvency. He was highly recommended company and corporate transaction practitioner by the 2003/2004 Global Counsel 3000 and named as an “IP Star” by the World IP Survey 2017 of the Managing Intellectual Property IP Stars 2017. The 2017 Asia IP Experts named Kowit as a leading lawyer for Trademarks and IT & Telecoms.

Practices

- Banking and Finance
- Commercial Transactions
- Corporate / M&A
- Employment
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Insolvency & Restructuring
- Intellectual Property
- Trademark
- Patent
- Copyright
- Other IPRs
- Litigation and Dispute Resolutions
- Real Property and Construction
- Startups & SMEs
- Tax
- Telecommunications, Media & Technology

Offices

- Bangkok, Thailand
- Yangon, Myanmar

Languages

- Thai
- English

Professional Qualification

- Thai Lawyer License
- Registered Patent Attorney
- Notarial Services Attorney

Professional Membership

- Lawyers Council of Thailand Thai Bar Association
- Thai Bar Association
- International Bar Association
- INTA-ACEC East Asia & Pacific Subcommittee, 2004-2005 and 2008-2009
- INTA-FTA Analysis Committee, 2006-2007
- Intellectual Property Association of Thailand (2013-2015 Vice President)
- ASEAN Intellectual Property Association
- Asian Patent Attorneys Association (Emerging IP Rights Committee Co-Chair 2013-2015)
- International Trademark Association (Anti-Counterfeiting Committee East Asia and Pacific Sub-Committee Chair 2014-2015)
- International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition
- Intellectual Property Owners Association
- World Customs Association

Education

- Certificate of Instruction for Lawyers, Harvard Law School, USA
- LL.M., University of Illinois, USA
- LL.B., Thammasat University, Thailand

Publication

- THAILAND TWO NEW EMERGENCY DECREES ON DIGITAL ASSETS
- Amendment to Emergency Decree on Foreign Employee Management
- New Official Fees for Company Registration
- ICO and Cryptocurrencies: a Thai Law Perspective
- Amendment No. 10 to Bankruptcy Act