Medicine, Wine, Art, Traditional Skills and Cultural Appropriation: Intellectual Property or Intangible Cultural Heritage?

by
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Steven Gallagher was awarded a first class LL.B. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2006. Steven has taught Equity and Trusts, Land Law and Company Law to undergraduates and International Corporate Liquidation and International Corporate Governance to postgraduates in England and Hong Kong. Steven teaches the Equity and Trusts courses for undergraduate students, the Principles of Equity and Trusts course for the LLM programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Steven has presented continuing professional development courses for solicitors in Hong Kong on many topics associated with equity. Steven’s research interests include equity and the law of trusts, cultural heritage law and legal history.

This 3-hour seminar will provide an introduction to the interplay between intellectual property (IP) and intangible cultural heritage (ICH). UNESCO’s 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage identified intangible cultural heritage as, “the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills... that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.” China, as a party, and Hong Kong, through China, have embraced the ideals of the Convention, in particular the “safeguarding” obligation of membership, which includes “the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission... as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.”

However, included in the identification of the intangible cultural heritage, among much else, may be works of art in any form, the skills of the artist, foods and drinks, and the recipes and manufacturing skills behind these foods and drinks, traditional remedies, cosmetics, and the style, design, pattern and skills used in the making of clothes. Many of these forms of intangible cultural heritage may also be recognised as forms of intellectual property.

This seminar considers the problems that have arisen when those asserting the need for a jurisdiction to safeguard intangible culture heritage, under one of the newest international and domestic legal frameworks, have met when this identification threatens intellectual property rights, under a very well established international and domestic framework.
Some of the topics considered in this seminar will be:

- What is intellectual property?
- What is intangible cultural heritage?
- The relationship between IP and ICH;
- Why is ICH so popular?
- Why is IP so important?
- Traditional remedies and medical practices;
- Indigenous knowledge and big business;
- World Heritage status for Prosecco, but who cares about Prošek?
- Works of art as cultural heritage and artists’ rights;
- Appreciating artists’ work while infringing their rights;
- Language, sharks’ fins and ivory carving;
- Cultural appreciation and/or cultural appropriation.

Code: EVT000000289
Level: Intermediate
Date: 26 September 2019 (Thursday)
Time: 14:30 - 17:45 (Reception starts at 14:00)
Venue: Kornerstone Institute
15/F, Hip Shing Hong Centre
55 Des Voeux Road Central
Central, Hong Kong
Language: English
Accreditation(s): LSHK 3.0 CPD Points
Request for Rerun: Please Contact Us for Details