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## John Marshall opens center for Chinese IP law

By Jerry Crimmins  
Law Bulletin staff writer

Dignitaries from China along with faculty and alumni from The John Marshall Law School cut a red ribbon Tuesday at the grand opening of the school's Chinese Intellectual Property Resource Center.

"We're very proud we have the first Chinese Intellectual Property Resource Center in the United States," said Dorothy In-Lan Wang Li, co-director of the Asian Alliance Program at John Marshall.

"It's about time Americans learn about Chinese IP law," Li said.

She said John Marshall has already "trained so many Chinese IP specialists" in American law.

For 17 years, John Marshall has trained patent agents and patent attorneys from the Chinese State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) in American legal principles in the field of intellectual property.

In those years, 170 Chinese attorneys have earned LL.M.s in IP at John Marshall, and hundreds of Chinese attorneys and patent agents have studied there for shorter periods, she said.

Now, according to John Marshall, the focus of the new center will be on making Chinese IP law available to lawyers, especially to Americans.

China is new to the field of intellectual property, according to various histories of IP law in China. China enacted its first patent law in 1984 and it had limited application. Several amendments since then have extended patent protection to more areas.

China's first copyright law was passed in 1989.

The new center has already posted descriptions of some cases on copyright infringement decided in the People's Court of Haidian District in Beijing on the center's website at [chineseip.jmls.edu/sites/en](http://chineseip.jmls.edu/sites/en).

The descriptions are in English. They were translated for the website by a visiting scholar at John Marshall, Li Dongtao, who is a judge in the Haidian District Court, Dorothy Li said.

These cases are "testing the water" for what the center plans to do, Dorothy Li said.



Marina Makropoulos

Leonard F. Amari (center), president of The John Marshall Law School Board of Trustees, and John Marshall Dean John E. Corkery (right) thanked professor Dorothy In-Lan Wang Li for her work in bringing the school's new Chinese Intellectual Property Resource Center to life during the center's ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday.

Professor Benjamin P. Liu is the director of the new Chinese Intellectual Property Resource Center, and Adjunct Professor Arthur Yuan is executive director.

Liu said although there have been frequent complaints by American companies that the Chinese have infringed on U.S. patents, "it would be a mistake to treat China as a monolithic whole. I believe there is an overall drive toward better respect for IP simply because (the Chinese) need IP protections themselves, and because it is increasingly difficult to define what is foreign and what is domestic" with international companies.

Yuan said he and Liu will be translating some cases and judgments in IP matters from Chinese courts and will make them available online through the new center.

Physically, the new resource center has a small classroom and several small offices.

The center was jammed Tuesday with about 70 guests for the ribbon cutting. "We expected to have 12 to 14 people. We're oversubscribed," said John E. Corkery, The John Marshall Law School dean.

Corkery said the opening was a "dream come true" made possible by the longtime cooperation between China and John Marshall. Corkery and Leonard F. Amari, president of the school's board of trustees, also said it couldn't have happened without Dorothy Li.

The speakers from China included Gan Shaoning, deputy commissioner of China's State Intellectual Property Office; Lu Kun, deputy consul general of the Chinese consulate here; and Ma Hao, president of the Patent and Trademark Law Office of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

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Another man from China who spoke was attorney Yufeng Ma. Ma, a shareholder at McAndrews, Held & Malloy Ltd. in Chicago.

“McAndrews is the only American law firm to keep their word” about contributing financial support to the opening of the new center for Chinese IP law at John Marshall, Dorothy Li said.

She said other American law firms stated they would contribute, but changed

their minds after the economic turndown. She challenged more American law firms to contribute.

For the new center, John Marshall hopes to get abstracts written in English of numerous publications of the State Intellectual Property Office in China and make them available through the center, Dorothy Li said.

She said many of those books are in John Marshall’s law library, but are in Chinese.

The new Chinese Intellectual Property Resource Center has worked with Chinese IP officials, leading judges and practitioners to identify important, Chinese IP standards, issues and practices to be made available online through the center, according to John Marshall.

The center will also provide a stage for Chinese and American IP specialists “to exchange views and to better understand each other,” Dorothy Li said.