

Press Release

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McCracken & Frank's Thomas Stiebel Named a Panel Member (Arbitrator) for the International Arbitration Court of Wuhan, China



CHICAGO – Thomas R. Stiebel, a partner at McCracken & Frank LLP, a law firm specializing in intellectual property law, was recently appointed an Arbitrator of the International Arbitration Court of the Wuhan Arbitration Commission (“WIAC”) in Wuhan, China.

Wuhan is the capital of Hubei province and the center of commerce for the 60 million people of this region of China. Factories that manufacture products in major industries such as high-tech commodities, automobiles, machinery, and metallurgy are located and continue to be built there. It is the most populous city in central China and is located at the confluence of the Yangtze and Han Rivers.

WIAC was established in Wuhan for Hubei Province in 2005 to improve the investment environment, promote reform, and advance the opening of commercial opportunities internationally. WIAC accepts and hears international commercial arbitration cases and cooperates with other international arbitration institutions including the Beijing Arbitration Commission, the Shanghai Arbitration Commission, the Singapore International Arbitration Center, the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Center, and the Sino-France Industrial & Commercial Association of France. WIAC provides independent, impartial, and efficient arbitration service for domestic Chinese and foreign parties engaged in international commerce.

China is one of over 150 signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. This Convention, along with the Arbitration Law of the People’s Republic of China, provides the foundation for the WIAC’s written rules and procedures. Accordingly, protocols for preserving property and evidence are established. Importantly for foreign parties, arbitration awards decided by an arbitration tribunal acting in accordance with the Convention from any signatory country are properly accepted and implemented by the courts of any other signatory country.

Currently, the WIAC has at least 97 international arbitrators, including McCracken & Frank LLP's Thomas Stiebel. These arbitrators come from mainland China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Arbitration Secretaries employed by the WIAC to provide smooth running of any arbitration proceeding each has a Master of Law qualification and is proficient in English. More information regarding the WIAC and its procedures can be found at <http://www.wiac.org.cn/en/Index.asp>.

Mr. Stiebel focuses his practice on counseling clients on all aspects of intellectual property matters and has over ten years of experience in acquiring, protecting, and leveraging intellectual property assets. His areas of technical expertise include the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and chemical areas. Mr. Stiebel received his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law and holds a Master's degree in biology from Saint Louis University. Following law school, Mr. Stiebel was in-house counsel at Pharmacia (formerly G. D. Searle), and prior to joining McCracken and Frank LLP, worked for a large Chicago area law firm. Prior to law school, Mr. Stiebel was a researcher at G. D. Searle, where he conducted *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies in the area of infectious disease and diabetes.

McCracken & Frank LLP is based in Chicago, from where it serves the intellectual property needs of clients from around the world. The firm has experienced attorneys, patent agents, and technical advisors who specialize in all aspects of patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, unfair competition, intellectual asset management, and technology and licensing agreements. McCracken & Frank LLP routinely handles legal questions in diverse fields of today's commerce for clients that range from the Fortune 100 to start ups. The firm's collective technical expertise is frequently employed to address questions of biotechnology; nanotechnology; computer technology; electrical, mechanical, chemical, and pharmaceutical technologies; as well as trademarks and brand names for a wide variety of products and services. Inquiries are welcome: (312) 263-4700; www.pattm.com.

