



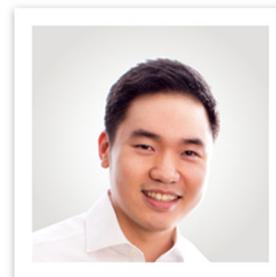
# KONNECT

THE NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY KAIPO

VOLUME 4 | MARCH 6, 2023

## Message from KAIPO's President

Welcome to our fourth volume of *Konnect*! About three years ago when KAIPO was preparing to publish our very first newsletter, we reached out to our members for ideas to name our newsletter. Among the eighteen names that were submitted, we came to a consensus on *Konnect* (a.k.a. "Connecting via KAIPO") because we all recognized the importance of connecting with each other and staying engaged with the community especially during the time of our transition to full-time telework. The meaning behind *Konnect* still resonates with us today as we enter our fourth year since the launch of KAIPO and reflect on 2022 that was filled with mission-driven events that allowed us to connect with our community and beyond.



During the month of May, we collaborated with APANET and UMA to celebrate the AANHPI month and shared stories of our three distinguished Asian American supervisors on how their heritage shaped their lives and career development journeys. We continued to welcome the newly hired examiners at the USPTO through KAIPO's First Year Examiner Program where we provided platform for small group discussions and panel events to support the new examiners' tough journey. Our first cohort of eight examiners successfully passed their first year in 2022 and we have rebooted the program with our second cohort in 2023 with nine new examiners. In spring and fall respectively, we held our annual golf tournament and annual picnic where our members and friends got together in person and enjoyed each other's presence.

It was a special year for KAIPO as we had numerous opportunities to push our boundaries to engage with external stakeholders in the greater IP community. We hosted welcoming events and tours of the Alexandria campus to the President and in-house counsel from *Korea Electronics Association (KEA)* and Vice President and Directors of International Affairs Committee from *Korean Patent Attorneys Association (KPAA)*. We appreciate their visits and look forward to our future collaborations. KAIPO also participated in the very first *Korea-US Intellectual Property Forum and PCT Roundtable* at the National Harbor during the AIPLA conference week in October. More than 50 participants from nine Korean IP organizations across U.S. gathered at the forum to promote their initiatives and to seek opportunities for cooperation.

My sincere appreciation goes out to our Board of Directors and Officers for their tireless work in planning and executing these events over the past year. I also want to thank our dear members, executive advisor, and diversity team for their continued support for growth of our organization. We welcome your feedback and more importantly your active involvement with KAIPO. Should you wish to serve our community or support any of our initiatives please reach out to me or any of our Officers. Thank you and I look forward to connecting with you throughout the year.

Best regards,

James Lee  
President '22 & '23

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Topic	Page
Detailing with the Regional Offices' Outreach Teams	2
KAIPO Annual Golf Tournament 2022	4
Summer Happy Hour	5
Korea-US IP Forum & PCT Round Table	6
KAIPO Annual Picnic 2022	7
KAIPO International Outreach	8
KAIPO First Year Examiner Discussions	10
Board of Directors & Officers	11

# Detailing with the Regional Offices' Outreach Teams

By, Sarah Alawadi, Jeffrey Palenik, and Monica Shin

The following article was co-written by three Primary Patent Examiners from TC 1600 about the work and their experiences as Outreach Advisor detailees for the Rocky Mountain Regional Office and the Western Regional Office.

---

As many of us unswervingly do, we start the day by sifting through the emails that came in through the night: new training opportunities, art unit meeting invite, another AIR Request, and – what's this – a new Detail Announcement? As an examiner, have you ever wondered what experiences are offered beyond the world of patent examining here at the USPTO?

With the signing of the America Invents Act back in 2011, four satellite (regional) USPTO offices were established:

- Midwest Regional Office (Detroit, MI),
- Rocky Mountain Regional Office (Denver, CO),
- Texas Regional Office (Dallas, TX), and
- Western Regional Office (Silicon Valley Regional Office) (San Jose, CA).

Each of these regional offices, including headquarters, performs outreach work for their respective regions. The outreach work includes, among other things, providing IP education, STEM engagement, and updates on USPTO initiatives and resources. The regional offices provide a more equitable distribution of the agency's resources geographically, and

they serve as a bridge of communication between the regional stakeholders and headquarters. Each detailee's experience will be unique depending on factors such as the regional office you're accepted to, and whether or not you wish to perform the detail in-person.

A major component of the detail is stakeholder interaction. As an Outreach Advisor detailee, you'll play a pivotal role in building connections with stakeholders including: individual inventors, entrepreneurs, small business owners, universities, non-profit organizations and large corporations. The detailee engages these stakeholders and coordinates meetings with the Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director with the purpose of obtaining invaluable feedback from stakeholders regarding their experiences with the USPTO, feedback on USPTO policies, and to learn about resources including various programs and trainings the USPTO offers.

During these meetings, we often learn about the stakeholder's background including their technology field, the effects of their IP portfolio on their businesses, and how certain USPTO policies, practices, and initiatives either help or hinder their businesses. From these meetings, we've encountered success stories, including how an issued patent played a crucial role in a small startup company's growth, how a 9 year old was able to obtain a design patent and sell her patented product, and how an entrepreneur made it onto Shark Tank with her patented invention. We have also listened to accounts of how a small business was being shut out of

their technology's marketplace by large corporations' predatory practices using their massive patent portfolios, and of a business going bankrupt after their patent was invalidated in an IPR proceeding. Sitting in on these meetings provides a more human context to our jobs as patent examiners. The office actions we send out are more than just the counts and DM credit we accrue to meet quarterly numbers.

Another aspect of the stakeholder interaction component is providing one-on-one consultations. Usually the consultations are with individual inventors, students, and small business owners, who are just starting on their patent journeys and reached out to the USPTO with questions and request for guidance on how to get started. We answer questions they have about what the patent prosecution process entails, what patent examiners do, and direct them to relevant USPTO resources (e.g., USPTO's patent pro bono program and law school clinics, Pro Se Assistance Center, Inventors Assistance Center, Path to a Patent presentation series etc.). The consultations provide a new application of the knowledge and skills we developed as examiners, and gave us new appreciation for how complex and financially involved the patent prosecution process is.

*Continued on page 3.*

# Detailing with the Regional Offices' Outreach Teams

*Continued from page 2.*

The outreach detail also offers many opportunities to showcase your presentation skills. The detailees from each of the regional offices rotate to present various parts of the USPTO's quarterly Path to a Patent series, which gives a general overview of IP, patent prosecution, and patent filing basics. Detailees are granted the opportunity to sit on panels for various state bar associations to present and answer questions regarding examiner interview best practices, and career discussion panels for students.

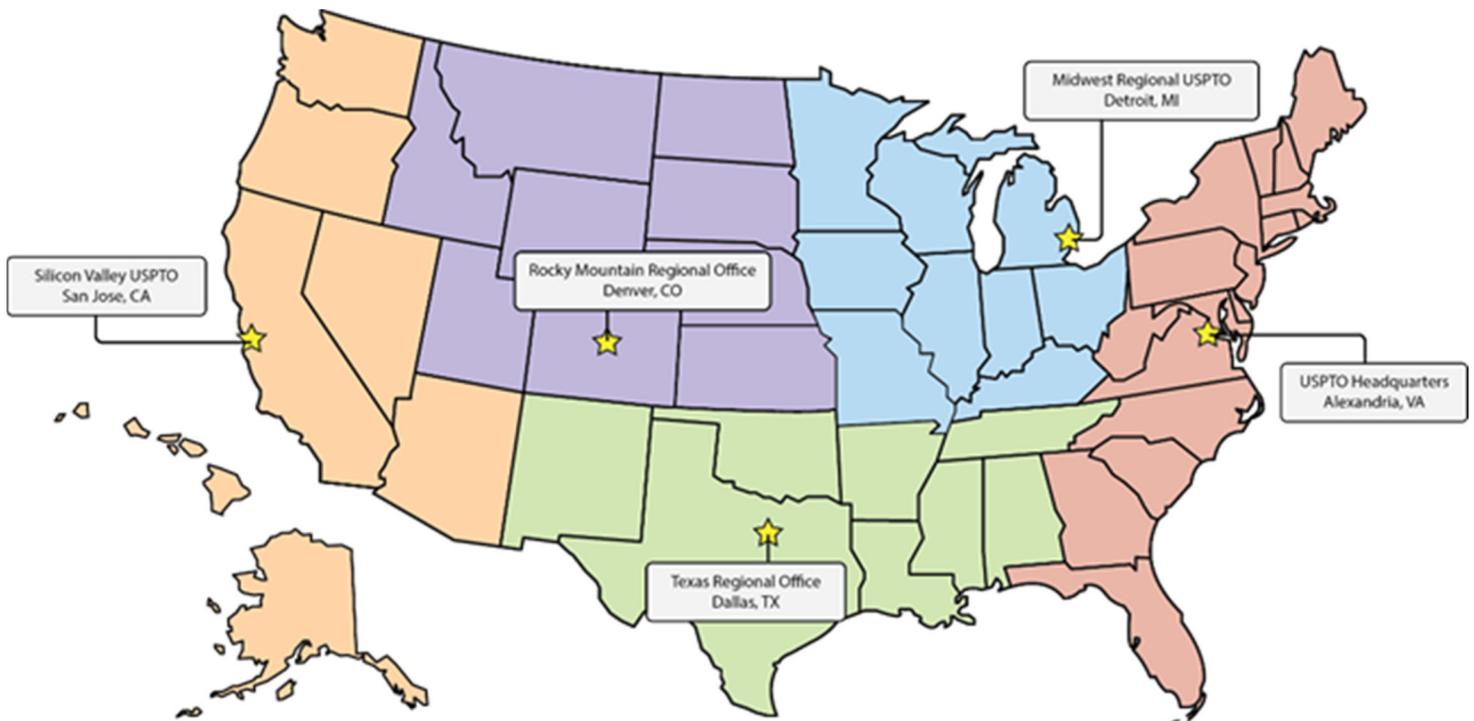
One of the most rewarding aspects of this outreach detail is the opportunity to work in teams with amazing, talented people who support and build each other up. As detailees, we get to observe and learn how to brief and provide support to upper management and Senior Executive Service leadership for their presentations and speaking engagements, and we collaborate with other business units within the USPTO as well as outside attorneys, Small Business Development Centers, and other businesses and associations to develop training and educational presentations. This detail has allowed us to tap into our creative side as we work collaboratively to develop proposals for speaking engagements, design educational presentations, and

strategize ways to optimize messaging and program delivery.

The outreach detail has allowed us to immerse ourselves in new experiences here at the USPTO, and to develop new skills along the way. We are learning about policies, programs, and initiatives the office has in place to assist pro se and small business applicants, are gaining a broader perspective and deeper appreciation for the importance of intellectual property to entrepreneurs and businesses, and are engaging in discussions about the importance of continuing the work on making the American innovation system equitable and accessible to all. If you enjoy interactive team work, are itching for a creative outlet, and want to experience the outreach efforts of the USPTO, we highly recommend you give the outreach detail with one of the regional offices or headquarters a try!

---

If you had a detail opportunity that you enjoyed and learned a lot from and would like to share your experience and be featured in our newsletter, please feel free to email us at [KAIPO@uspto.gov](mailto:KAIPO@uspto.gov). We would love to learn more about and get the inside scoop on all of the exciting detail opportunities offered here at the USPTO!



# KAIPO ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2022

May 2022

On May 24th, KAIPPO hosted its Annual Golf Tournament at the Stonewall Golf Club in Gainesville. Total of 31 players participated in the tournament with many in attendance from USPTO, KAIPBA (Korean American Intellectual Property Bar Organization), and the general Korean community.

After the initial gathering and Dr. Wansik You's explanation of the play rules (scramble, best of four) at 8:30AM, the players trudged to the initial shotgun starting positions. For the next 5 hours, the players enjoyed the beautiful course despite the misty weather conditions dogging the players throughout the day. Fortunately, no one suffered any water related injuries except the many golf balls that decided to take a swim into the various and the oh so numerous water hazards placed strategically throughout the course.

After completion of the play at around 2PM, the group gathered at the dining hall and enjoyed a luncheon of pulled pork, sausages, potato salad and coleslaw. Of the 8 participating teams, the first place, the second place, and the lucky 3 teams were awarded prizes.

Overall, the players enjoyed the great day of golf despite the weather. We certainly hope to see more of everyone at the next outing!

Special thanks to Jae Y. Lee, Thomas Hong, and Dae Y. Kim whom spent countless hours organizing and executing this event without a hitch.

## First Place:

(-10 strokes) Harry Kim, Jaehwan Oh, Byung Ro Lee, Paul Kim

## Second Place:

(-6 strokes) Thomas Hong, Hans Chung, Luke Choi, Sean Kang

## Lucky Awards:

Steven Paik, Andy Lee, Ahshik Kim, Isaac Woo

Patrick Kim, David Chu, Dae Kim, David Yi

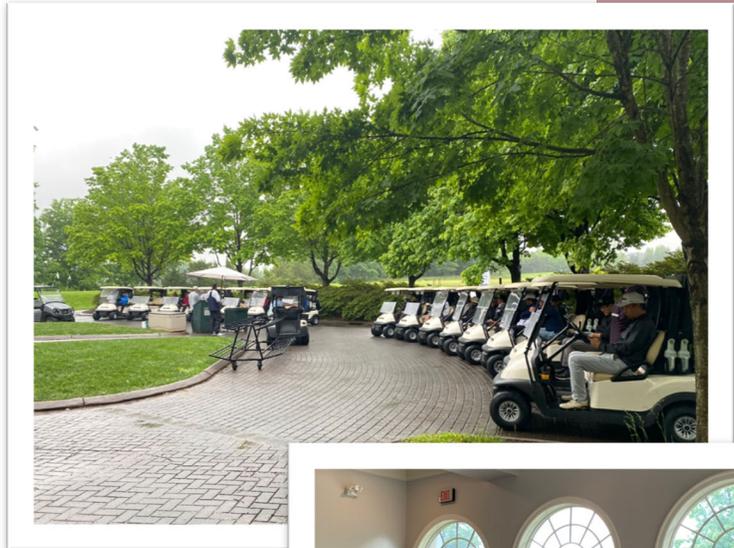
Justin Lee, Jong Shin, Jae Y Lee

## Longest Drive Awards:

Harry Kim, Jong Shin

## Closest to Pin Awards:

Sung Pil Kim, Sean Kang



# Summer Happy Hour

Our dear members and friends of KAIPPO gathered at High Point Pub in Tysons and shared stories over great food and drinks. This was our first Happy Hour event since the pandemic, and we were very delighted for the opportunity to catch up with our colleagues. We also welcomed special guests from the Korea Embassy and PCT Korea Center.

Kudos to our Outdoor Event Officers, Jonathan Lee and Patrick Kim, for organizing this event.



From left to right: Daeho Song, Thomas Hong (International Coordination & Outreach Committee Chair of KAIPPO), Hyun Suk Lim (IP Attache, Korean Embassy), James Choi (Technology Officer, KAIPPO), Yeonbum Sung (President of PCT Korea Center), Moo Ryong Jeong, Sunki Yoo, Kyung Hye Shin, Yong Jin Choe, James Lee (President of KAIPPO)

Not pictured: Sung Sik Ahn, Bong Sook Baek, Jonathan Lee (Outdoor Event Officer of KAIPPO), Sung Jong Kim



Our members and friends enjoying the company of one another.



Our Technology Officer, James Choi, and Outdoor Event Officer, Jonathan Lee, networking with our special guests Hyun Suk Lim and Yeonbum Sung.



*Cheers!*

# Korea-US IP Forum & PCT Round Table

October 2022

2022 Korea-US Intellectual Property Forum and PCT Roundtable was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at National Harbor during the AIPLA conference week. The event kicked off with welcoming remarks from Young-Jae Kim, Minister of Economic Affairs, and Chung K. Pak, Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings. Various Korean IP organizations across U.S. gathered at the forum and shared their knowledge and initiatives in their respective IP space. Participants included leaders and representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Korea Patent Attorneys Association (KPAA), Korea-American Intellectual Property Bar Association (KAIPBA), Korea-American Intellectual Property Organization (KAIPO) at the USPTO, KOTRA IP-Desk (New York and Los Angeles), PCT Korea Center, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), GI Research, and Korea Institute of Intellectual Property Promotion (KIPRO). Sixteen of our KAIPO members, officers, and guests joined the forum and got together for a social event afterwards. We would like to express our gratitude to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and PCT Korea Center for creating a forum for these organizations and promoting cooperation.

Short articles published on Korea Times about this IP forum:

<http://www.koreatimes.com/article/1438896>,

<http://www.koreatimes.com/article/1438425>



James Lee introducing KAIPO at the forum and sharing plans for cooperation with external stakeholders



Speakers in front row:

Alex Paek (GI Research), James Lee (KAIPO), Wanho Jang (KIPRO), Yeong-Jin Heo (KPAA), Chung Pak (Maryland Office), Hyun-suk Lim (Embassy of Republic of Korea), Taewook Park (KIPO), Yun J Kim/Dami Park (KOTRA IP-DESK), Sujin Park (KAIPBA)

KAIPO members, officers, guests in back row:

Charles Kim, Tawri Matsushige, Taelor Kim, Eliza Yang, Sunki Yoo, Andrew Kim, Dae Kim, Harry Kim, Vikie Kim, Matt Kim, Chanel Jhin, Stephanie Ham, Seong Ah Shin, Thomas Hong

# KAIPO ANNUAL PICNIC 2022

November 2022



KAIPO hosted its Annual Fall Picnic on November 5, 2022 at Burke Lake Park. The weather was unusually cooperative for being so late in the Fall, as the high of the day hit 78 degrees. More than 50 attendees graciously RSVP'ed prior to the event and attended on the picnic, where much joy and laughter were shared. Luncheon consisted of grilled bacon, short ribs, vegetables, dumplings, as well as rice and other assortment of menus, including kid-friendly drinks.

KAIPO President, James Lee, made a brief speech thanking the KAIPO members and guests for attending the picnic. He also shared his appreciation for the attendance of the IP Attaché from the Korean embassy and the President of PCT Korea.

Afterwards, a group picture was taken for all the attendees of the Annual Fall Picnic. It was an arduous process to gather all the kids to pose for the picture, but the kids, knowing that there would be more delicious food afterwards, relented reluctantly.

The kids also had fun! Many children won prizes by playing games. One such game was a bowling game where knocking down all of the stacked paper rolls would result in a plushie prize.

KAIPO sincerely thanks Paris Baguette of Centreville, Virginia for the generous sponsorship of prizes for raffle ticket drawings.

Special thanks to Chairperson Sisley Kim for her generous and meticulous preparation/execution of the successful Annual Fall Picnic this year. Additional thanks to the picnic prep team, with Justin Lee and Sang K. Kim for lending their expertise in grilling recipes/prep/techniques, Jae Y. Lee, Jonathan Lee, and Dae Kim for general logistics support, and KAIPO secretary Chanel Jhin for her preparations for the children's games and prizes.

And lastly, much appreciation and thanks to Mr. Daeho Song for the amazing photography of the event. Photos can be viewed here: [KAIPO Picnic 2022 Album](#).



# KAIPO International Outreach

In 2022, KAIPO created the new position, International Outreach Coordinator. Thomas Hong is KAIPO's inaugural International Outreach Coordinator and chairs the International Coordination and Outreach Committee.

The purpose of this new position is to further one of KAIPO's objectives: to network and build our connections with the Korean-American intellectual property community at-large. In 2022, we had the privilege of meeting and connecting with the IP Attaché from the Korean Embassy, the leaders and members of PCT Korea Center, Korea Patent Attorneys Association (KPAA), and Korea Electronics Association (KEA).

Below are some photos from of the international outreach events coordinated and facilitated by Thomas and the committee in 2022.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea held the National Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day reception at the residence of the Ambassador on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Ambassador welcomed and served guests including U.S. government officials, foreign diplomats, Korean-Americans as well as Korean War veterans. The leadership of the Korean-American Intellectual Property Organization (KAIPO) was delighted to be part of this celebration and to represent the Korean-American community at the USPTO.

Front row: Taelor Kim, Hyun-suk Lim, Charles Kim, Mrs. Kim, James J. Lee, Thomas Hong

Back row: Jonathan Lee, Dae Kim

# KAIPO International Outreach



Leadership of KEA visited Alexandria HQ and was welcomed by **James Lee, Thomas Hong, Taelor Kim, Moo Jeong,** and **James Choi** (not pictured).

**Chung Won Park** (center) is Vice President of KEA, the largest organization representing Korea's electronics & IT industries. It was great pleasure to meet and learn more about recent trends of IP practices and demands in Korean electronic industries.



## **Korea Patent Attorneys Association (KPAA) visits Alexandria HQ**

Leadership of KPAA visited Alexandria HQ and was welcomed by **James Lee, Thomas Hong,** and **Taelor Kim.**

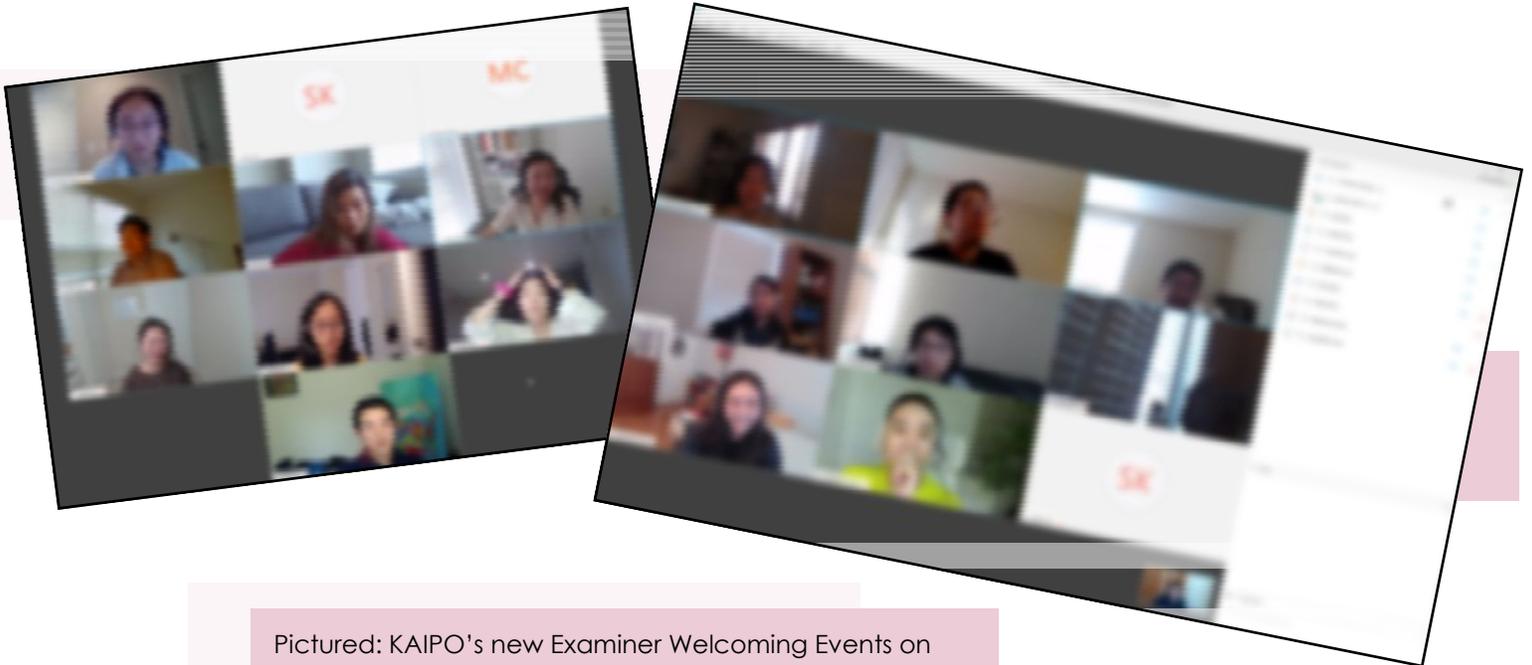
**Young-Jin Heo** (second left, Vice President) and **Kyungmin Chung** (center, Director) serve for the International Affairs Committee of KPAA, a chartered professional bar association of Korean patent attorneys (변리사), headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.

# KAIPO First Year Examiner Small Group Discussions

For the second year, KAIPO will be organizing a series of discussions for the first year Examiners. The goal of these discussions is to promote engagement between the new Examiners and experienced Examiners, and to help the new Examiners complete their first year successfully. The KAIPO First Year Small Group Discussions are also aimed at building a stronger Korean-American community among new and experienced Examiners, and to break down any isolation caused by the fully remote work environment.

During the first discussion in the series, there will be a brief presentation that shares general tips and lessons from recently retained Examiners regarding successfully getting through the first year, followed by a Q&A session. There will then be additional, biweekly small group discussions, which will cover topics of interest to the participants. For example, possible topics include a fly-on-the-wall session (i.e., watching an experienced Examiner start work on a new case), obviousness, prior art searches, responding to Applicant arguments, interviews, etc. The discussions are intended to encourage the informal sharing of opinions and questions among Examiners, and do not represent official guidance or training. All discussions will be in a virtual setting using Microsoft Teams.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact [Eric Yoon](#), New Examiner Engagement Committee Chair



Pictured: KAIPO's new Examiner Welcoming Events on October 14 and 15, 2020. 11 new PTA examiners were split into three small group sessions, and were joined by several primary examiners and three newly joined KAIPO members.

# Thank you 2022 Board of Directors & Officers!

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**James Lee**, President

**Monica Shin**, Vice President

**Thomas Hong**, International Coordination and Outreach Committee Chair

**Sisley Kim**, Outdoor Event Committee Chair

**Taelor Kim**, Annual Meeting Committee Chair

**Dae Kim**, Community Day Committee Chair

**Eric Yoon**, New Examiner Engagement Committee Chair

**Jae Lee**, Athletic Event Committee Chair

**Ig An**, Virtual Engagement Committee Chair

## OFFICERS

**Chanel Jhin**, Secretary

**Justin Seo**, Treasurer

**Jimin You**, Event Coordinator

**James Choi**, Technology Officer

**Tammy Lee**, Membership Officer

**Patrick Kim**, Event Coordinator

**Jonathan Lee**, Event Coordinator

# Welcome 2023 Board of Directors & Officers!

---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**James Lee**, President

**Monica Shin**, Vice President

**Chanel Jhin**, Secretary

**Thomas Hong**, International Coordination and Outreach Committee Chair

**Eric Yoon**, New Examiner Engagement Committee Chair

**Sisley Kim**, Marketing Chair

**Taelor Kim**, Event Coordination Co-Chair

**Jae Lee**, Event Coordination Co-Chair

## OFFICERS

**Justin Seo**, Treasurer

**James Choi**, Technology Officer

**Tammy Lee**, Membership Officer

**Euncha Cherry**, Member Recognitions Officer

**Ig An**, Remote Engagement Officer

**Andrew Kim**, Training Officer

**Jonathan Lee**, Event Coordinator

**Patrick Kim**, Event Coordinator

**Seong Ah Shin**, Outreach Officer

**Dae Kim**, Marketing Officer

# KONNECT TEAM

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Monica Shin

## CO-EDITORS

Thomas Hong, Chanel Jhin, Taelor Kim, James Lee, Justin Seo, Eric Yoon

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THIS ISSUE'S ARTICLE CONTRIBUTORS:

Sarah Alawadi, Jeffrey Palenik, Monica Shin, Jae Y. Lee, Thomas Hong, Dae Y. Kim, Jonathan Lee, Patrick Kim, Sisley Kim, Justin Lee, Sang K. Kim, Chanel Jhin, Daeho Song, Eric Yoon

## Want to join KAIPO?

Submit your [membership form](#) to [KAIPO@uspto.gov](mailto:KAIPO@uspto.gov)

We're on the web! Visit us at: [KAIPOUSPTO.ORG](http://KAIPOUSPTO.ORG)

## Email Us at [KAIPO@uspto.gov](mailto:KAIPO@uspto.gov)!

*Do you have any interesting stories or exciting news to share with fellow KAIPO members?*

*Do you have any suggestions or comments to improve Konnect and/or [our website](#)?*

Email [KAIPO@uspto.gov](mailto:KAIPO@uspto.gov) with any ideas, stories, thoughts, events, recipes, ... you name it!

## MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

Interested in learning and celebrating Korean-American heritage?

Interested in meeting other Korean-American Patent and Trademark Examiners?

Know any friends or colleagues who would be interested?

**Email or share [KAIPO@uspto.gov](mailto:KAIPO@uspto.gov) for membership inquiry**

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Full Access to KAIPOUSPTO.Org Website
- Subscription to KAIPO mailing list and receiving invitations to events and activities
- Accessing USPTO-wide Korean American network
- Enjoying free first drink in Happy Hour events
- Enjoying free food/beverage/ice cream/drink in certain events
- Retiree Certificate of Appreciation
- Funeral Service Announcement
- Konnect Newsletter
- Pricing discounts for KAIPO activities (Picnic/Golf/Bowling/Billard/etc.)
- Attending on-campus events
- Attending online seminars/events & Forum via WebEx
- Affording a right to vote
- Affording a right to seek Office
- Access to KAIPO Teams Channel