SHIN & KIM



Sangdon Lee

Partner

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Mr. Sangdon Lee is a partner at Shin & Kim. Mr. Lee has significant experience in various antitrust fields, including cartel and merger control.

As a merger filing expert, Mr. Lee has been involved in approximately 70 to 80 merger filing cases each year. Considering the average number of merger filing cases handled by the KFTC per year is approximately 800 to 1,000, he is considered one of the top ranked antitrust lawyers with the highest track record in advising clients on merger filings in Korea.

Notable merger filing cases Mr. Lee has handled include acting for Google as lead counsel when Google successfully obtained unconditional clearance from the Korea Fair Trade Commission to acquire Motorola Mobility, and for Linde as lead counsel when Linde successfully obtained conditional clearance from the KFTC to merge with Praxair. He also represented Asiana Airlines in connection with its merger with Korean Air, and Alibaba in connection with its joint venture with Gmarket.

Mr. Lee has published numerous articles on antitrust issues in the academic journals widely known and highly regarded among the Korean legal academics and practitioners, including "Legal Implication of Merger Review Period under the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act," "Evaluation Standards of Anticompetitiveness of Non-compete Provision Ancillary to M&A Transaction," "Merger Regulation and Evaluation Standards of Anticompetitive Minority Acquisitions: Comparative Study of US, European, and Korean Antitrust Law," "Review of the European Commission's Merger Filing Regulations on Minority Shareholdings: the Concept of Joint Control."

Professional Career

2023-Present	Advisor, Compliance & Trust Committee, Kakao Corp.
2013-2014	Allen & Overy Paris Office, France (Visiting Lawyer)
2013	Passed New York State Bar Exam

2007-Present	Shin & Kim LLC
2004-2007	Judge Advocate, Republic of Korea Army
2002-2004	Judicial Research & Training Institute of the Supreme Court of Korea

Key Experience

Merger Control Cases

- Representing Qorvo in connection with Skyworks' acquisition of Qorvo (ongoing)
- Represented Alibaba International Digital Commerce in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Shinsegae
- Represented Qualcomm in connection with its acquisition of Alphawave IP Group
- Represented Asia Pulp & Paper in connection with its acquisition of Monalisa/Ssangyong C&B
- Represented Asiana Airlines in connection with the divestiture of its cargo business
- Represented Asiana Airlines in connection with Korean Air’s acquisition of Asiana Airlines
- Represented LG Electronics in connection with its acquisition of Bear Robotics
- Represented Hankook Tire in connection with its acquisition of Hanon Systems
- Represented OCI in connection with its acquisition of P&O Chemical
- Represented Figma in connection with Adobe’s acquisition of Figma
- Represented Kakao Mobility in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with LG Uplus
- Represented OCI in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Tokuyama
- Represented CNGR in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with POSCO
- Represented CMA CGM in connection with its acquisition of Bollore Logistics
- Represented Samsung SDI in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with General Motors
- Represented SK geo centric in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Tokuyama
- Represented ZF Friedrichshafen, Hella, NGK Spark Plug Europe and Clarios Germany in connection with their establishment of a joint venture company
- Represented ArcelorMittal in connection with its acquisition of Companhia Siderurgica do Pecem
- Represented Foxconn in connection with its acquisition of ZF Chassis Modules
- Represented Corio Generation and OTPP in connection with its acquisition of Attentive Energy
- Represented Maersk in connection with its acquisition of LF Logistics
- Represented Lotte Chemical and SK Gas in connection with their establishment of a joint venture company
- Represented SD Biosensor in connection with its acquisition of Meridian Bioscience

- Represented OCI and Kumho Petrochemical in connection with their establishment of a joint venture company
- Represented SK geo centric in connection with its acquisition of Arkema's functional polyolefin business
- Represented Lotte Chemical and GS Energy in connection with their establishment of a joint venture company
- Represented SK Telecom and SK Broadband in connection with their acquisition of T-Broad
- Represented an interested party in connection with IBM's acquisition of Red Hat
- Represented ZF in connection with its acquisition of WABCO
- Represented ETAS and Constellation International in connection with the establishment of a joint venture company
- Represented Merck in connection with its acquisition of Versum Materials
- Represented Bosch in connection with the establishment of a joint venture company with Prettl
- Represented SJL Partners, KCC, Wonik in connection with their joint acquisition of Momentive
- Represented Daehan Oil Pipeline Corporation in connection with its acquisition of GS Caltex Distribution Center (oil storage tanks)
- Represented Linde in connection with its merger with Praxair
- Represented Novelis in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Kobe Steel
- Represented Mirae Asset Global in connection with its acquisition of Global X Management
- Represented Berkshire Hathaway Group in connection with its acquisition of Changnam INT
- Represented CJ Logistics in connection with its acquisition of Gemadept in Vietnam
- Represented Macquarie in connection with its acquisition of Cargil's petroleum business
- Represented Technicolor in connection with its acquisition of LG Electronics' set-top-box business
- Represented Macquarie and Goldman Sachs in connection with their joint acquisition of HES International
- Represented Valeo in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with PHC
- Represented Linde in connection with its acquisition of Air Liquide's domestic on-site and bulk business
- Represented Trafigura in connection with its acquisition of Essar Oil
- Represented Asahi Group Holdings in connection with its acquisition of SAB Miller's Eastern European beer brands
- Represented Terumo Corporation in connection with its acquisition of a divested business as part of Abbott Laboratories' acquisition of St. Jude Medical
- Represented Hilti in connection with its acquisition of Øglænd System Group
- Represented Genie Music in connection with its merger with CJ Digital Music (Mnet)
- Represented SKC in connection with its acquisition of SKC Haas Display Films
- Represented SK Telecom in connection with its acquisition of CJ Hellovision
- Represented Saint-Gobain in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Corning
- Represented SK Materials in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Tri-Chem in Japan
- Represented Hahn & Company in connection with its acquisition of Ssangyong Cement Industrial
- Represented Kakao in connection with its acquisition of Loen Entertainment (Melon)

- Represented Activision Blizzard in connection with its acquisition of King Digital Entertainment
- Represented Trafigura in connection with its acquisition of Nyrstar
- Represented ORIX in connection with its acquisition of KB Securities
- Represented Hahn & Company in connection with its merger filing for the acquisition of Posfine
- Represented Erae in its merger filing for the acquisition of Delphi Korea
- Represented SEB Group in connection with its acquisition of WMF Group
- Represented KCW in connection with its establishment of a joint venture company with Bosch
- Represented an interested party in connection with merger of Applied Materials and Tokyo Electron
- Represented Merck in connection with Bayer’s acquisition of Merck’s global consumer care business
- Represented CSR plc in connection with Qualcomm’s acquisition of CSR plc
- Represented ORIX in connection with its acquisition of Hyundai Logistics
- Represented Google in connection with its acquisition of Motorola Mobility
- Represented Samsung LED in connection with the establishment of a joint venture company with Sumitomo Chemical

KFTC Investigation Cases

- Represented a leading global semiconductor manufacturer and a telecommunications equipment company in the KFTC's investigation of abuse of dominance
- Represented a leading Japanese auto parts manufacturer in the KFTC's investigation of cartel
- Represented Korea Gas Corporation in the KFTC's investigation of abuse of superior bargaining position
- Represented a leading domestic steel sheets manufacturer in the KFTC's investigation of cartel
- Represented a leading global electronics & semiconductor manufacturer in the KFTC's investigation of cartel
- Represented a leading global air cargo carrier in the KFTC's investigation of price-fixing
- Represented multiple construction companies in the KFTC's investigations of bid-rigging
- Represented a leading marine hose supplier in the KFTC's investigation of price-fixing
- Represented a domestic credit card company in the KFTC's investigation of price-fixing

Franchise

- Represented a number of global franchisors in connection of franchise transaction with local franchisees and information disclosure to the KFTC

Compliance Program

- Evaluated internal competition compliance program of Korean subsidiary of a multinational chemical storage

company

- Evaluated internal competition compliance program of a domestic chemical company
- Evaluated internal competition compliance program of a domestic home-shopping channel company

Education

2013	University of Pennsylvania Law School (LL.M.)
1997-2002	Seoul National University College of Law (LL.B., 2002)

Qualifications

2004	Admitted to bar, Korea

Languages

Korean, English, Japanese

Professional Activities

- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2026 (22nd Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- GCR Merger Remedies Guide (Edition 6) 2025: Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2025 (21th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2024 (20th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2023 (19th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Invest KOREA – Update on Simplified Review for Foreign M&A and Safe Harbor for Non-Horizontal Mergers, March 2023
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2022 (18th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- The amended Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act permitting the restrictive ownership of CVCs by holding companies to be implemented, Korea Venture Capital Association M&A Newsletter, January 2021
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2021 (17th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2020 (16th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)

- Parallel Mergers: A Review Methodology, Competition Journal No. 205, 2020
- Getting the Deal Through, Market Intelligence – Merger Control 2019 (Volume 6): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2019 (15th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Getting the Deal Through, Market Intelligence – Merger Control 2018 (Volume 5): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Legal Implication of Merger Review Period under the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act, Lawyer, February 2018 (co-authored)
- The International Comparative Legal Guides - Merger Control 2018 (14th Edition): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Getting the Deal Through, Market Intelligence – Merger Control 2017 (Volume 4): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Review of Special Regulations on Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act under the Corporate Revitalization Act, Competition Journal No. 181, 2015 (co-authored)
- Getting the Deal Through, Market Intelligence – Merger Control 2016 (Volume 3): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Evaluation Standards of Anticompetitiveness of Non-compete Provision Ancillary to M&A Transaction, Competition Journal No. 181, 2015
- Merger Regulation and Evaluation Standards of Anticompetitive Minority Acquisitions: Comparative Study of United States, European, and Korean Antitrust Law, Korean Competition Law Association, May 2015
- Getting the Deal Through, Market Intelligence – Merger Control 2015 (Volume 2): Korea Chapter (Co-authored)
- Review of the European Commission’s Merger Filing Regulations on Minority Shareholdings: the Concept of Joint Control, Competition Journal No. 174, 2014
- Practical Introduction to Commitment Procedures in the EU (Law Times, May 12, 2014) (translation)
- Case Study of Unjust Supportive Acts of Five Conglomerates, Korea Fair Trade Commission, 30 Milestone Cases reviewed by the Korea Fair Trade Commission, 2011

Professional Accolades

- "Leading Individual" for Competition/Antitrust, Chambers Asia, 2022-2026
- "Leading Individual" for Antitrust and Competition, Legal500, 2021-2026 / "Next Generation Lawyer” for Antitrust and Competition, Legal500, 2019-2020
- "Leading Lawyer" for Competition & Antitrust, Asialaw Profiles, 2018-2026
- "Best Lawyer" for Antitrust and Competition, JoongAng Ilbo, Korea In-house Counsel Association, 2026
- "Leading Lawyer" for Antitrust and Competition, Legal Times, 2019-2026
- "Leading Lawyer" for Competition, Lexology Index, 2020-2025
- Merger Control Matter of the Year (APMEA) – Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, GCR Awards, 2023, 2025
- Matter of the Year – Fiat Chrysler Automobiles/PSA Group, GCR Awards, 2021
- Merger Control Matter of the Year (APMEA) – ZF Friedrichshafen/WABCO, GCR Awards, 2021

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