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# PACIFIC RIM PRACTITIONERS

**MATTHEW HULT '98, JAMES BANG '87 AND YOUNG-IL CHOI '86** APPLY CROSS-CULTURAL LEGAL SKILLS TO A WIDE RANGE OF CASES INVOLVING EAST ASIAN CLIENTS.

## **MATTHEW HULT '98**

### ▪ Advancing IP Law in Taiwan

**M**atthew Hult '98 didn't enter UC Hastings with plans for an international law career. But in retrospect, it all makes sense.

“It's actually not surprising,” he says now. “We're on the edge of the Pacific Rim, and the social and economic ties to Asia are very strong here and growing. And being on the *UC Hastings International and Comparative Law Review* made me think that seeing how different legal systems and cultures mix could be interesting.”

Today, Hult is a partner of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe and serves as the managing partner for the firm's Taipei office, traveling there six or more times per year. In addition to representing United States-based clients in commercial and intellectual property disputes, he represents Taiwanese clients who run into legal issues in the United States.

In one such case, he helped represent Taiwanese company Compal Electronics, which makes notebook computers for major brand-name suppliers, and its California-based subsidiary Bizcom Electronics. Korea-based LG Electronics sued Hult's clients, and several other Taiwanese computer manufacturers, for patent infringement in the Northern District of California. After Hult's clients won summary judgment at the trial court, the Federal Circuit reversed the decision. Hult's clients and the other defendants sought and were granted certiorari from the United States Supreme Court. In *Quanta Computer Inc. v. LG Electronics Inc.*, the court was unanimous in reversing the Federal Circuit and providing an updated statement of the law of patent exhaustion, otherwise known as the “first sale” doctrine, which has important consequences, especially in the world of high-tech and consumer electronics.

Working with clients in consumer electronics as well as biotechnology, Hult often reaches back to his science background; he majored in biology as an undergraduate and worked as a medical researcher before coming to UC Hastings. “I've always liked knowing how things work, and I've always been curious about how technology and science relate to and affect society,” Hult says.

Learning about business and law in a different part of the world has also made Hult appreciate human commonalities. “You see that we are all dealing with the same issues to be successful in our professional pursuits yet lead a balanced personal life,” he says.

Despite the long hours he must keep due to the 15-hour time difference between California and Taiwan, Hult manages to maintain a relationship with the Pacific Rim school that incubated his career in international law, having recently joined UC Hastings' Board of Governors.

“It's a wonderful way to serve not just the school, but also the state,” Hult says. “I'm a native Californian, and my education has always been public, so it's a great way to give back.”