



# Sang Hoon Kim

Managing Partner | Ph. D in Law

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## Private Wealth Law

Inheritance and Gift Tax Planning and Filing

Trusts & Estates

(Inheritance, Gifts and Trusts) Litigation

Inheritance and Family Disputes

Real Estate and Construction



법무법인 트리니티

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LEGAL

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## Experience

Trinity Legal, Partner (2022 - Present)

GAON Law Group, Partner (Head of Family Law Practice) (2020 - 2022)

Barun Law LLC, Associate, Partner (2007 -2020)

Public-Service Advocate, Korea Legal Aid Corporation (2004 - 2007)

## Education

University of Southern California Law School (LL.M. 2012)

Graduate School of Law, Korea University (Ph.D. in Law) (2009)

Judicial Research and Training Institute of the Supreme Court  
of Korea (33rd Class, 2004)

Graduate School of Law, Korea University (M.A. in Law) (2002)

Admitted to the Korean Bar (43rd Korean Bar Exam, 2001)

College of Law, Korea University (LL.B.) (1998)

## Qualifications

Admitted to practice law in Korea

## Experiences

Representation in an inheritance dispute with respect to inheritance  
of company shares totaling 800 million KRW.

Successfully advocated and obtained judgement on the validity  
of a contested will in favor of the client.

Representation of Bank H in a case of first impression defending  
against a party challenging the validity of a living trust.

Successfully represented and obtained judgement in favor of  
the client, which was the first ruling in Korea on the validity of  
the living trust.

Representation of a US client heir in an international inheritance  
dispute between a US client and a Korean citizen involving  
US citizen's rights in the partitioning and recovery of US client's  
equitable share of inheritance property in Korea valued at 500 million  
Korean Won.

Successfully represented and obtained judgement in favor of the  
US client, and assisted US client with the registration of title  
and deed of the inherited real property, the filing of inheritance taxes,  
and the remittance of financial assets to the US client's foreign account.

Represented a Korean client and successfully obtained judgement for  
the division of US and Korean inheritance property.

The case involved contesting a will providing for the testamentary  
bequest of all of decedent's US and Korean assets to children  
residing in the US.

Represented client in contesting validity of the N Hotel's chairman and owner, and successfully obtained judgement obtaining management rights and ownership to the N Hotel business.

Advised US clients on the inheritance of Korean assets.

Advised on the business succession of D pharmaceutical company, and T construction company.

Represented with succession of a hotel located in Hawaii having a value of 600 million Korean Won acquired through gift transfer and inheritance.

Advised client on inheritance and testamentary bequest relating to the business succession of Group L.

Representation in a landmark Supreme Court case. Successfully obtained a unanimous Supreme Court decision overturning existing case law and rendering unconstitutional the legal priority in the succession of "ancestral rites" (in Korean, "je-sa") privileges to the next male heir. The Supreme Court made a unanimous decision in support of the argument that any legal priority based on gender violates basic constitutional principles of individual dignity and gender equality.

Representation in Supreme Court case. Successfully obtained a Supreme Court decision remanding and vacating the lower court decision in favor of client for further review based on the Supreme Court's definitive interpretation of funeral condolence payments as being the exclusive property of the bereaved family members, and not inheritance property of the descendant's estate.

Representation in a case of first impression and first ruling by a Korean court on the annulment of a living trust.

Representation in a case of first impression and first ruling by a Korean court awarding the partition and recognition of inheritance against property held in a living trust.

Representation of trust beneficiary challenging imposition of acquisition tax on grant of transfer proceeds from sale of living trust assets to a living trust beneficiary.

Regularly advise Hana Bank in connection with its development of trust related financial products and banking services.

Regularly advise Nonghyup bank, Shinhan Bank, Hana bank and various trust companies on trust law issues.

Regularly draft and review trust agreements for Nonghyup bank, Shinhan Bank, Hana bank and various trust companies.

Regularly host seminars and provide classes on trust law issues to Nonghyup bank, Shinhan Bank, Hana bank and various trust companies.

Advised high-net-worth Chinese clients with respect to real estate trusts in Korea.

Advised US clients residing in Korea with respect to establishing a trust for their US assets.

Advised US permanent residents in establishing a living trust for Korean assets.

Advised US clients residing in Korea with respect to establishing a trust for their US assets.

Representing living trust beneficiaries to cancel imposition of acquisition tax upon transfer of trust assets upon death of the grantor.

Representation of the CEO of Group H in a divorce litigation and defending against claims for alimony and equitable division of marital property.

Representation of clients in numerous international divorce proceedings involving US, Japanese and Korean citizens.

Paternity suits establishing biological paternity of a Korean celebrity father.

Adoption cases of Korean children by foreign stepparents.

Adult guardianship case for the chairman of a major chemical Company S.

Representation in inheritance disputes for the division of inheritance assets.

Advisory services relating to the divorce of chairman of Company Pand the division of inheritance assets.

## Main Publications

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Cases of Inheritance Law (Seoul, 2020)

Lecture on Family Law (Seoul, 2018)

American Wills and Trusts (Seoul, 2012)

## Language

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Korean and English