



## → Yunlai Zha

### Associate

Four Embarcadero Center  
Seventeenth Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

T: +1.650.815.2604

[YZha@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:YZha@sheppardmullin.com)

Dr. Yunlai Zha is an associate in the Intellectual Property Practice Group in the firm's Silicon Valley office.

### Areas of Practice

Yunlai advises companies on their diverse needs on intellectual property matters, including global patent procurement and portfolio management, invalidity patent analysis, non-infringement patent analysis, freedom-to-operate, IP asset due diligence, open source license and compliance, trade secret protection and compliance, etc.

Yunlai's practice focuses on software and hardware applications in machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, virtual reality (VR), semiconductors, optical devices, nano devices, telecommunications, medical devices, robotics, and clean energy and renewables.

## Articles

### Intellectual Property Law Blog Posts

- "Patent Protection on AI Inventions," August 30, 2021
- "Distinguish "Smart Contract" From Abstract Idea To Pass Blockchain Patentability Scrutiny," March 29, 2021
- "Blockchain Patentability Through The Lens Of A Recent PTAB Decision," March 3, 2021

## Practices

Intellectual Property

## Industries

Automotive

Blockchain

Blockchain and Fintech

Emerging Company & Venture Capital

Fintech

Telecom

Transportation

## Education

J.D., The George Washington University, 2019

Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, 2014

M.A., Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, 2011

B.S., Physics, Biophysics and Biochemistry, Brandeis University, 2009

## Admissions

California

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

## Languages

Chinese (Mandarin)