



Kye Kwan WI

Partner

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Mr. Kye Kwan Wi is an associate at the Litigation Group of Jipyong, providing legal services in white-collar criminal defense, labor and occupational accident cases, tax cases, and cases involving securities, finance, and insurance. Mr. Wi worked as an associate in the Criminal Defense team of Barun Law LLC after he passed the 6th Korean bar examination. Before being qualified as a lawyer, he served as a police officer for ten years, during which he was in charge of investigations of economic crimes, sex crimes, illegal business cases, security services, and strategizing public order and security measures.

Education

2026	Yonsei University, Graduate School of Law (Ph.D., coursework completed, Candidate in Criminal Law)
2024	University of Southern California, Gould School of Law (LL.M.)
2017	Kyungpook National University, Graduate School of Law (J.D.)
2005	Korea National Police University (B.A.)

Experience

2018-Present	JIPYONG LLC
2025-Present	Legal Advisor, Korea Entertainment Management Association
2021-2023	Legal Counsel, Investigation Complaint Counseling Center, Seoul Seocho Police Station

2017	Associate, Barun Law LLC
2014	Head of Protection Team, Seoul Yongsan Police Station
2013	Commander, Police Unit, Mobile Police Headquarters, Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency
2012	Commander, Mobile Police Headquarters, Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency (Commander of the Special Staff Unit of the 5th Mobile Unit)
2011-2012	Acting Manager/Senior Inspector of the Public Safety Division / Senior Inspector of the Women & Juvenile Affairs Division, Hampyeong Police Station, Jeonnam Provincial Police Agency
2011	Promoted to Senior Inspector
2009-2011	Head of the Innovation Team, General Affairs Division, Seoul Jongam Police Station, Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency
2008-2009	Economic Crimes Division, Seoul Jongam Police Station, Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency
2007-2008	Jongam Police Station, Seoul Jongam Police Station, Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency
2005-2007	Leader of the Mobile Police Unit, Incheon Metropolitan Police Agency

Notable Achievements

- Successfully represented a student accused of school violence, securing a finding from the School Violence Deliberation Committee that no disciplinary action was warranted by demonstrating that the initial report was based on factual errors and lacked evidence, and by further showing that the accused student had, in fact, suffered emotional distress due to the reporting party's parents' intervention
- Obtained a non-referral decision (no charges) on a charge of violating the Narcotics Control Act in connection with an attempted ketamine purchase, on the grounds that the transaction had not been commenced, that criminal intent had not been established, and that the evidence was insufficient
- Secured a non-referral decision (dismissed; no charges) on a charge of false accusation in a case where the client had been accused of filing a false complaint regarding the unauthorized removal of company assets, by establishing the circumstances of the audit that prompted the original complaint, the reasonableness of that complaint, and the absence of any awareness that the report was false
- Obtained a conditional suspension of indictment subject to completion of an educational program in a public-restroom illegal-filming case, on the grounds of the spontaneous nature of the act, the short duration of the offense, the victim's wish not to seek punishment, and the client's sincere remorse and potential for rehabilitation
- Secured a non-referral decision (no charges) in a case alleging violation of the Credit Information Use and Protection Act in connection with technology credit rating services, by demonstrating that the applicable statutory provision had been improperly applied, that confusion existed in the interpretation of evaluation standards, and that the alleged conduct fell within practical limitations of the rating process
- Obtained a non-referral decision (no charges) on a charge of indecent act by compulsion (physical contact) against a flight attendant aboard an Asiana Airlines aircraft, based on objective witness testimony and the implausibility of the alleged conduct
- Secured a full non-indictment disposition (no charges) on charges of professional negligence resulting in bodily injury and violation of the Chemical Substances Control Act arising from a chemical gas leak, by establishing the adequacy of the safety management system in place, the circumstances of the incident report, and the ambiguity of the alleged injuries and causal relationship

- Obtained an acquittal in an indecent act by compulsion case involving kissing and other physical contact, by proving the reasonableness of the defendant's lack of awareness of the victim's refusal and the defendant's genuine but mistaken belief in consent
- Secured a non-referral decision (no charges) in a case alleging violation of the Act on Sale of Building Units in connection with a blog post published prior to acceptance of the sale registration, by establishing that the post did not constitute advertising and that the project developer bears no criminal liability
- Obtained a non-indictment disposition (no charges) for all executives and employees of a natural gas utility company on charges of professional negligence causing an explosion of dangerous materials and professional negligence resulting in bodily injury, in connection with a fire and explosion at a mixed-use residential-commercial complex in Mokdong
- Obtained a non-referral decision (no charges) on a charge of possession of child and youth sexual exploitation material by demonstrating that the scope of the search and seizure warrant had been exceeded and that the evidence was insufficient to prove the alleged criminal facts
- Represented the victim in a trade secret misappropriation case under the Unfair Competition Prevention and Trade Secret Protection Act, overturned a first-instance acquittal to secure a guilty verdict at the appellate level
- Obtained acquittals for all safety managers of a manufacturing company on charges of professional negligence resulting in death and violation of the Occupational Safety and Health Act
- Represented a client charged with obstruction of business in the high-profile Yonsei University ice hockey admissions fraud case, overturned a first-instance conviction and custodial sentence to secure a full acquittal at the appellate level, a decision subsequently affirmed by the Supreme Court
- Secured a non-referral decision (no charges) for the company and all of its officers and employees in a trade secret misappropriation case

Honors and Recognitions

2023	Rising Star in Criminal Defense Practice, Legal Times
2013	Commendation (excellence award) from the head of Seoul Police Security Force Command under Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency
2012	Commendation (excellence award) from the Police Commissioner General
2011	Commendation from the head of Police Training Institute (for contribution to writing examination questions for recruiting police cadets)

Speaking Engagements and Publications

[Books]

2025	Administrative Interpretation of Major Labor Cases (Co-Author), JoongAng Economy
2022	Criminal Defense Practice (Co-author), Pakyoungsa
2020	The Story of Construction/Real Estate by JIPYONG, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper

[Columns]

- 2026 Legal Pitfalls Easily Overlooked in Hospital Business Transfers, Medi:gate News
- 2021 Are Companies Obligated to Comply with Police Requests for Investigative Cooperation?, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper
- 2020 Is Showing Someone Else's Driver's License Image File Punishable as Fraudulent Use of an Official Document?, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper
- 2020 Criminal Liability for Exchange of Money or Valuables Between Executives of Reconstruction Association and Representatives of Construction Company, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper
- 2019 Can a Director Receive Interim Severance Payment Without Resolution of General Meeting of Shareholders?, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper
- 2019 Is a Worker an Employee If They Worked Under a Service Delegation Agreement?, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper
- 2019 Criminal Liability Issues Arising from Issuing False Tax Invoices, Korea Construction Specialist Newspaper

Bar Admissions & Qualifications

2017 Korea

Languages

Korean / English