

# Winstead Represents University of Houston System in Provisional Patent Filing

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Winstead PC attorney [Polin Chieu](#) represented the University of Houston System in a provisional patent filing of a nanotech coating to improve the protective abilities of surgical masks amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The coating was developed by university researcher and professor Seamus Curran.

“Standard masks are somewhat porous, and especially if they get wet, they can allow the virus to penetrate,” Curran said.

In fact, people who are infected with COVID-19 could still spread the virus to others even if they are wearing a mask, and people who are not infected with COVID-19 could still catch the virus, despite wearing a mask themselves.

Curran’s nanotech coating essentially makes medical masks water resistant, enhancing their protective abilities.

“We are proud to represent the University of Houston System and Dr. Curran in this patent filing as they aim to help protect people from COVID-19 through this invention,” Chieu said.

Chieu is a registered patent attorney experienced in patent drafting and prosecution, IP counseling and assessment, IP development and licensing agreements, patent infringement and validity analysis, as well as patent litigation. He has experience with a wide variety of technology areas including mechanical engineering, nanotechnology, hydrocarbon completion and exploration technology, medical technology, audio/video technology, and electronic technology.

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## About Winstead

Winstead is a national business law firm with more than 300 attorneys who serve as trusted advisors to emerging, mid-market and large companies, both public and private. The Winstead team provides a range of core legal services that are critical to our clients achieving their business goals. Winstead’s business transactions and litigation practices serve key industries including aviation, financial services, healthcare, investment management/private equity, life sciences, real estate and sports business.