

Miller Fellow: Sirdong Shin

Faculty Sponsor: Professor John Yoo

Project: **The 1965 Basic Relations Treaty between the Republic of Korea and Japan**



Sirdong Shin is a third-year student at Berkeley Law. Having had served in the Republic of Korea Army, he became interested in inter-Korea relations as well as South Korea's political relations with Japan, China, and the US. Before coming to law school, Sirdong worked at a non-profit organization in which he assisted in developing an antimicrobial sediment water filter using a patented chemical molecule and appropriate technology to be used in rural regions of the Philippines. In law school, he had worked for the Berkeley Immigration Law Clinic, Asian American Law Journal, and Berkeley Technology Law Journal. Currently, he is a student co-leader of the Berkeley Korea Law Center Student Fellowship.

For the Miller Fellowship, Sirdong is working with Professor John Yoo researching the territorial disputes between the Republic of Korea and Japan regarding Dokdo/Takeshima. The ROK and Japan agreed to stay silent on the Dokdo dispute in the 1965 Basic Relations Treaty. At the time, the two nations "agreed to disagree" on the issue and decided to postpone its resolution by resting on the language of the dispute resolution clause in the Article IX of the Supplementary Agreement Between Japan and the Republic of Korea Concerning Fisheries (1965). Sirdong's research will explore what the silence means for legal interpretation. The research will include a comprehensive review of existing literature related to the topic.