

Managing Intellectual Property™

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World IP Contacts Handbook 2006



Market overview

PATENT PROSECUTION

Tier 1

BEAU DE LOMÉNIE

CABINET LAVOIX

CABINET REGIMBEAU

SANTARELLI

Tier 2

CABINET PLASSERAUD

CASALONGA-JOSSE

HIRSCH POCHART

Tier 3

BREESE DERAMBURE MAJEROWICZ

BREVALEX

CABINET DEGRET

GERMAIN & MAUREAU

EGYP

The split between prosecution and contentious IP work in this year's *Managing Intellectual Property* survey has led to substantial changes to the French rankings. There are 15 new entrants this year, 14 of them ranked for contentious work – nine specialist IP boutiques and five international law firms.

The split has also meant that some of last year's law firms have moved up several rankings. One example here is patent litigation boutique Véron & Associés, which has moved up from tier four last year to become the top firm for patent contentious work. Alain Berthet, a founding partner at ProMark, described the work of the firm as "very reactive and intelligent". Leading trade mark litigator Milan Chromecek of Lovells said he was "amazed that Véron weren't in tier 1 last year". Véron has two offices, in Paris and Lyon, and four partners devoted to practising patent law. Partner Pierre Véron, who one peer considers "the best patent litigator", set up the firm in 2001. Previously

PATENT CONTENTIOUS

Tier 1

VÉRON & ASSOCIÉS

Tier 2

ARMENGAUD GUERLAIN

DUCLOS THORNE MOLLET-VIÉVILLE & ASSOCIÉS

GAULTIER LAKITS-JOSSE SZLEPER

LOVELLS

PHILIPPE COMBEAU

Tier 3

ALLEN & OVERY

COUSIN & MOATTY

HIRSCH LAMOUREUX DESROUSSEAUX

Tier 4

ARMENGAUD JEUNE LEPEUDRY

CABINET NETTER

CASALONGA-JOSSE

LINKLATERS

he created the IP department of Lamy, Véron, Ribeyre & Associés (now Lamy, Ribeyre & Associés) over 25 years ago. Since 2001, the firm has built up an impressive client roster that includes Sanofi Aventis, L'Oréal, L'Air Liquide, Chiron and Agilent Technologies. Another high-profile client is Novartis, who Véron and fellow partner Isabelle Romet are defending in a case between the company's Sandoz division and GlaxoSmithKline. Véron & Romet have also worked with the plaintiff Luk in the first case where the defendant alleges an abuse of dominant position through a patent filing policy. The defendant in this instance is Valeo.

In the rankings for the first time, Armengaud & Guerlain is highly regarded for trade mark litigation. The firm was set up in 1993 by two outstanding litigators, Jacques Armengaud and Stéphane Guerlain. The pair were at Philippe Combeau before starting up their own practice where they are joined by three associates who deal solely with IP matters. Clients advised in 2005 include