

Which lawyer?

France

- Competition/anti-trust
- Corporate real estate
- Corporate/M&A
- Dispute resolution
 - Dispute resolution: international arbitration
- Energy
- Environment
- Finance: banking and debt finance
 - Asset finance
 - Banking
 - Debt capital markets
 - Project finance
- Finance: equity capital markets
- Intellectual property

Which lawyer?

Market and recent developments

Legal market

Leading firms and lawyers

Checklist

Ethics and practicalities in France

- Labour and employee benefits
- Life sciences
 - Life sciences: competition/anti-trust
 - Life sciences: corporate
 - Life sciences: intellectual property
 - Life sciences: product liability
 - Life sciences: regulatory
- Private equity/venture capital
- Restructuring and insolvency
- Tax
- Telecoms, Media and IT
 - IT and e-commerce
 - Media
 - Telecommunications

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Market and recent developments

France continues to battle its way through a widespread popular mood of decline. Europe's third-largest economy is feeling the effect of record oil prices that have been holding back economic growth in the euro countries. Unemployment, although dipping, remains structurally high at around 10% in an economy still awaiting efficient reforms. To counter rising interest rates, the government put forward a budget tightening fiscal policy in 2007.

A modest economic recovery has provided the government with some political respite. Recent events have damaged the Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, most notably when he was forced to withdraw his plans for a modest reform of the labour market in the face of strong student opposition. The government is unlikely to embrace further economic reforms during its final year in office, as presidential and legislative elections are looming in 2007. Twelve years of Jacques Chirac's presidency have given enough time for a new political generation to come to the fore. Nicolas Sarkozy is most likely to stand as presidential candidate for the governing party, the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP). Segolène Royal of the Socialist Party appears to be the only candidate with a chance of beating Sarkozy in 2007. Whether the new president can bring about the reforms needed to restore durable economic growth remains to be seen.

Despite the negative headlines, economic growth in France remained fairly steady at about 2%. French M&A activity was rife this year as the corporate world was shaken by high-profile takeovers. The spotlight was on the steel industry, where high-stakes, high-profile takeover battles are unusual for the once crisis-ridden sector. Mittal Steel took over Paris-listed, Luxembourg-based rival Arcelor, closing the door on Russian rival OAO Severstal and creating Arcelor Mittal, the world's largest steelmaker.

Later in 2006, French lawmakers approved an energy bill that paved the way for the privatisation of state-controlled gas giant Gaz de France (GDF) and its merger with the private French company Suez, a formerly state-owned water and power company. The merger will form Europe's biggest gas group, and the continent's fifth-biggest producer of electricity. However, by brokering the plan to pre-empt a hostile bid for Suez by Enel, Italy's biggest electricity firm, the French government prompted a European Commission investigation into whether its tactics to derail the hostile bid were in breach of the EU law. The Commission and foreign opponents to the merger have voiced criticism that the GDF-Suez deal might discourage investment from other member states, and thereby contravene the EC Treaty rules on the free

movement of capital and the freedom of establishment. It remains to be seen whether the Commission will sustain its attack on the recent surge of "economic nationalism", a trend witnessed across several EU member states.

There has also been a surge in Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts in sectors such as prison and hospital construction, government building maintenance and information technology, following last year's curtain-raising sale of 50-year private concessions for three French motorways. As a result, investment banks and law firms in France are recruiting heavily to meet the demand for advice and funding. The increase in PPPs comes as no surprise considering that the French government is increasingly in debt - at almost EUR2 trillion (about US\$2.4 trillion). The view that private companies in France can deliver better results than the public sector in some areas is gaining ground.

Legal market

The French legal market remains characterised by intense competition. Anglo-Saxon law firms in particular are winning business from the large independent French firms that have traditionally dominated the French legal market. The merger in 2006 of **Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe** with the bulk of Paris M&A leader **Rambaud Martel** marks the end, as an independent entity, of one of France's most renowned domestic M&A firms, and has enabled the American firm to truly make an impact on the Parisian market.

Competition/anti-trust

The battle of the titans continues in what has been one of the most active practice areas this year. French corporate powerhouse **Bredin Prat** shared the biggest slice of the competition market with US giant **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** and UK magic circle firm **Clifford Chance** (see *Global 50 Portrait for more information on these firms*). Whereas French firm **Bredin Prat** boasts two widely acclaimed competition experts in **Hughes Calvet** and **Robert Saint-Esteben**, **Clifford Chance's** Paris competition practice continues to excel but largely rests on **Claude Lazarus'** shoulders following the loss of **Michel Debroux** to **Hogan & Hartson**. **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton's** star competition lawyer **Antoine Winkler** divides his time between Paris and Brussels, where the firm boasts one of Europe's strongest EU competition teams. Other firms with strong competition practices include **Gide Loyrette Nouel**, **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**, **Linklaters**, **Latham & Watkins** and **Jones Day** (see *Global 50 Portraits for more information on all of these firms*), as well as specialist firm **Vogel & Vogel**.

The French competition authority (Conseil de la Concurrence) has been extremely active this year as the European Commission is delegating more powers to the national competition authorities. International firms have realised the need to reinforce and consolidate their French competition law departments. As a result, several significant partner moves have rocked the legal market. UK magic circle firm **Allen & Overy** bolstered its French arm by hiring **Bird & Bird's** senior partner **Olivier Fréget** to head its Paris competition practice. It remains to be seen how **Bird & Bird**, which has always had a respected French communications and competition practice, will recover. In an even bigger blow, **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** lost its anti-trust and competition head **Jacques-Philippe Gunther** to US firm **Willkie Farr & Gallagher**, where **Gunther** will be based in both the Paris and Brussels offices. Despite a relatively small European presence, the New York-based firm is set to carve out a good reputation. US firm **Hogan & Hartson** signalled its own European push with the hire of **Michel Debroux** (see *above*), and **Lovells** competition expert **John Pheasant** for the London office.

Corporate/M&A

A record number of law firms top the ^{PLC}*Which lawyer?* French M&A rankings chart this year, showing how truly international the picture has become. London-based **Linklaters**, France's pioneering independent corporate firms **Bredin Prat** and **Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier**, and New-York headquartered international giants **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** and **Sullivan & Cromwell** have shared the deals with the highest total value. At **Bredin Prat**, big-ticket corporate partner **Didier Martin** and name partner **Jean-François Prat** largely contribute to the firm's position in the corporate/M&A market. **Pierre Yves Chabert** at **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** remains an undeniable leader in these matters, alongside **Thierry Vassogne** at **Linklaters** (see *Global 50 Portraits for more information on these two firms*). **Jean-Pierre Martel** from newly formed **Orrick Rambaud Martel** is one of Paris' most prominent corporate lawyers. **Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier's** name partner **Jean-Michel Darrois** holds on to his top spot this year again, as his firm also performed well. **Sullivan & Cromwell's** **Dominique Bompont** and **Gérard Mazet** posted successful years.

Anglo-Saxon firms in Paris also performed well. **Clifford Chance** remained busy, and **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**, arguably the largest UK firm operating in France, improved in ranking, despite the loss of its French co-head of M&A to **Davis Polk & Wardwell**. It was also a good year for independent French firm **Gide Loyrette**

Noel and corporate boutique **Veil Jourde**. **Gide** increased its global reach with the opening of offices in Hong Kong and Kiev. Meanwhile, **Veil Jourde** reinforced its corporate team with a four-lawyer hire from **Gide**. Following the lead of **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton** and **Sullivan & Cromwell**, US firms continue to do well in the French market: **Latham & Watkins**, **Weil Gotshal & Manges**, **Willkie Farr & Gallagher** and **Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom** have all posted successful years.

Dispute resolution

The litigation and arbitration circuit has remained very active this year. There is also a growing market for international arbitration services, as witnessed by the high number of specialists. The top firms according to the ^{PLC}*Which lawyer?* rankings are international players **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** and **White & Case**, and local champions **Bredin Prat** and **Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier**. **Bredin Prat** boasts top litigator and name partner *Jean-François Prat*, and French independent **Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier's** success largely rests on *Jean-Michel Darrois* in litigation and *Mathieu De Boissésou* in arbitration. *Jean-Pierre Martel* continues to maintain his undisputed status as one of the country's finest corporate trial lawyers in rebranded firm **Orrick Rambaud Martel** (see *Global 50 Portrait for more information*).

The leading litigation and arbitration practices at **Freshfields** and **White & Case** also maintain a good bench of top-quality lawyers. **White & Case** counts two leading arbitrators, *Stephen Bond* and *Christopher Seppala*, among its ranks, while **Freshfields** benefits from *Jan Paulsson's* strong arbitration practice and *Elie Kleiman* on the litigation side. Other firms faring well in dispute resolution matters in France include corporate giants **Gide Loyrette Nouel** and **Clifford Chance**. **Jones Day** and **Herbert Smith** confirm that their French presence is capable of challenging the latter firm and so does Franco-American firm **Salans** (see *Global 50 Portrait for more information on all of these firms*). The appearance of **Veil Jourde** and litigation boutiques **Derains & Associés** and **Hughes Hubbard & Reed** in a strong second tier in the ^{PLC}*Which lawyer?* rankings confirms that single-practice firms are also competing for the best cases. **Derains & Associés** benefits from name partner *Yves Derains'* reputed arbitration practice. Other leading arbitrators in France are *Jean-Louis Delvolvé* at **SCP Delvolvé Rouche** and *Emmanuel Gaillard* at **Shearman & Sterling**.

Finance: banking and debt finance

The spate of high level takeovers in the French market in 2006 has affected the financial services market to a large

extent. Lawyers anticipate some imminent reform in financial legislation, as the European Commission has called on France to modify its legislation establishing an authorisation procedure for foreign investment in certain sectors of activities that could affect public policy, public security or national defence. Part of the current legislation is in breach of EU Treaty rules on the free movement of capital, and lawyers anticipate a change soon.

UK firms have fared well in this area. **Clifford Chance**, **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** and **Allen & Overy** share the top position alongside French independent **Gide Loyrette Nouel**. **Clifford Chance** has boosted its French acquisition finance team with hires from **White & Case**, such as strong banking partner *Thierry Arachtingi*. The firm's strong bench also includes excellent project finance lawyer *Anthony Giustini*. The reinforced acquisition team will be headed by *Diane de Mouy*, whom ^{PLC}*Which lawyer?* recommends for her strong banking practice. **Freshfields** boasts an impressive list of high-profile finance lawyers, including *Antonin Besse* in debt capital markets, and *Michel Quéré* in banking, asset finance and debt capital markets.

French corporate heavyweight **Gide Loyrette Nouel** also offers top-quality advice on finance matters. *Eric-Cartier Millon*, *Emmanuel Fontaine* and *Xavier de Kergommeaux* occupy top ranks for banking, project finance and debt capital markets respectively. **Allen & Overy** was slightly shaken by the loss of its banking and asset finance partner *Jonathan Nabarro* to **Weil Gotshal & Manges** this year. The firm nonetheless shines in debt capital markets work thanks to star performer *Pierre Gissinger*.

Linklaters boasts the practice of *Bertrand Andriani* in banking and project finance, and benefits from *Gilles Endréo's* excellent debt capital markets practice. **Norton Rose's** top lawyer *Alain Gautron* dominates the market in asset finance, and was joined by *Glenn Matheson* from **Freshfields** this year. One of the strongest local firms, **De Pardieu Brocas Maffei** fared well on the banking and debt finance front. **Jeantet Associés**, one of France's oldest firms, is set to enhance its existing capabilities in banking and debt capital markets, as attested by its recent hiring of highly-regarded veteran finance lawyer *Jonathan Wohl* from the flagship Paris office of dismantled **Coudert Brothers**. Despite recent losses, **White & Case's** profile remains very strong, thanks in part to *Thomas McDonald's* market-leading asset finance practice and *Gilles Peigney's* much-recommended banking advice.

Intellectual property

IP lawyers in France are expecting the government to incorporate into French law the EU Enforcement Directive, which aims to harmonise the laws on the

enforcement of IP rights across the EU, without imposing a single regime. After implementation, IP right owners will be able to rely on effective and uniform measures throughout the internal market. Meanwhile the French legislative assemblies drafted a copyright law this year seeking to impose inter-operability on online music stores such as Apple's iTunes, in effect requesting them to make downloaded music compatible with rival platforms and opening up the market to competition.

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The intellectual property market in France is an interesting mix of strong French IP boutiques, international firms with single practice excellence in Paris, and large full-service corporate powerhouses. French IP niche firms *Véron & Associés* and *Gautier Lakits Szleper* vie for the position of best IP one-stop shop in France. Their respective name partners, *Pierre Véron* and *Geoffroy Gautier*, largely contribute to the firms' foothold in the market. They face strong competition from IP sole practitioner *Philippe Combeau*, whose excellence in patent and trade work is well known in the market. *Thierry Mollet-Vieville* at IP boutique *Duclos Thorne Mollet-Vieville & Associés* is another star performer. Other boutique firms that deserve a mention for their strong IP core practices are *Cousin & Moatty* and *Armengaud Guerlain*, both of which also have solid life sciences practices.

US firm *Howrey*, mostly known in the US and in Europe for its strength in competition law and litigation, has developed an excellent IP litigation practice in Paris, thanks mostly to patent and IP litigation expert *Marina Cousté*. English magic circle firms *Allen & Overy* and *Linklaters* respectively benefit from IP experts *Pierre Lenoir* and *Denis Monégier Du Sorbier* in their teams. *Gide Loyrette Nouel*, *Latham & Watkins*, *Bird & Bird* and *Lovells* also have strong IP practices. The latter two in particular have widely acclaimed strengths in IP related to the communications and pharmaceuticals sectors respectively.

Labour and employee benefits

Employment lawyers are observing a significant increase in harassment and discrimination-related cases, mainly due to the rising influence of HALDE (the Independent High Authority fighting inequality and discrimination in France). Criminal litigation cases related to employment law are also on the rise following the introduction of the Perben II legislation, which changed the law on organised crime by stretching the interception and remote monitoring powers of law enforcement agencies. The climate in France remains highly contentious, with a lot of employment issues coming to government review.

Highly regarded *Joël Grangé* brings French corporate powerhouse *Gide Loyrette Nouel* into shared top position this year with *Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*, where excellent lawyers *Gilles Bélier* and *Pascale Lagesse* head the firm's employment group and the Paris office labour law group respectively. The two firms compete for first place with young and high-profile labour and employment niche firm *Flichy & Associés* and well-established labour and social welfare boutique *Barthélémy & Associés*. Whereas the founding partner of the former, *Hubert Flichy*, is an undisputed leader in this practice area, the latter firm benefits from a strong bench of lawyers including *Bruno Sérizay* and *Alain Sauret*. Other firms with strong employment practices include full-service firms *Latham & Watkins*, *CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre* and *Proskauer Rose*, and labour boutiques *Auguste & Debouzy* and *Fromont Briens & Associés*.

Leading firms and lawyers



Competition/anti-trust

Leading firms

Bredin Prat
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Clifford Chance

Highly recommended firms

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Gide Loyrette Nouel
Jones Day
Latham & Watkins LLP
Linklaters
Vogel & Vogel

Recommended firms

Allen & Overy LLP
Baker & McKenzie
Bird & Bird
Brandford-Griffith & Associés
CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier
Denton Wilde Sapte
De Pardieu Brocas Maffei
DS Avocats
Hogan & Hartson MNP
JeantetAssociés
Norton Rose
Orrick Rambaud Martel
Salans
Shearman & Sterling
Vivien & Juvigny
White & Case LLP
Wilkie Farr & Gallagher

Recommended individuals

Christophe Asselineau, Simmons & Simmons
Paule Biensan, White & Case LLP
Jacques Bouillon, White & Case LLP
Stéphane Brabant, Herbert Smith
Jacques Bertran de Balanda, Lovells
Paul Lignières, Linklaters
Tim Scales, Allen & Overy LLP
Jean-Pierre Vignaud, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

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Finance: equity capital markets

Leading firms

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
 Shearman & Sterling
 Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Highly recommended firms

Linklaters
 Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

Recommended firms

Allen & Overy LLP
 Bredin Prat
 Clifford Chance
 Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier
 Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
 Gide Loyrette Nouel
 Hogan & Hartson MNP
 Jones Day

Leading individuals

Patrick Bonvarlet, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Pierre Yves Chabert, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Hervé Letréguilly, Shearman & Sterling

Highly recommended individuals

Andrew A Bernstein, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Dominique Bompont, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Pierre Servan-Schreiber, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

Recommended individuals

Renaud Bonnet, Jones Day
John Brinitzer, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Pierre Clermontel, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Xavier de Kergommeaux, Gide Loyrette Nouel
Jean-Marc Desaché, Gide Loyrette Nouel
Olivier de Vilmorin, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Gilles Endreo, Linklaters
Jean-Marc Franceschi, Hogan & Hartson MNP
Philippe Herbelin, Linklaters
Johnathan Lewis, Clifford Chance
Didier Martin, Bredin Prat
Tom O'Neill, Linklaters
Manuel Orillac, Shearman & Sterling
Frédéric Peltier, Clifford Chance
Hervé Pisani, Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier
François Poudelet, Allen & Overy LLP
David Revcolevschi, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates
Richard Vilanova, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP



Intellectual property

Leading firms

Allen & Overy LLP
 Gaultier Lakits Szeleper
 Howrey LLP
 Véron & Associés

Highly recommended firms

Armengaud Guerlain
 Bird & Bird
 Cousin & Moatty
 Gide Loyrette Nouel
 Latham & Watkins LLP
 Linklaters
 Lovells
 Philippe Combeau

Recommended firms

Baker & McKenzie
 Binn & Associés
 Cabinet Greffe
 Cabinet Marcellin
 Cléry De la Myre Mory
 Courtois Lebel
 De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés
 Duclos Thorne Mollet-Vieville & Associés
 Escande Havard-Duclos
 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
 Gilbey de Haas
 JP Karsenty & Associés
 Nataf & Fajgenbaum
 Salans

Leading individuals

Philippe Combeau, Philippe Combeau
Marina Cousté, Howrey LLP
Geoffroy Gaultier, Gaultier Lakits Szeleper
Pierre Lenoir, Allen & Overy LLP
Thierry Mollet-Vieville, Duclos Thorne Mollet-Vieville & Associés
Denis Monégier Du Sorbier, Linklaters
Pierre Véron, Véron & Associés

Highly recommended individuals

Jacques Armengaud, Armengaud Guerlain
Jacques Azéma, Lamy & Associés
Emmanuel Baud, Latham & Watkins LLP
Alain Cléry, Cléry De la Myre Mory
Pierre Cousin, Cousin & Moatty
Christian Hollier-Larousse, Cabinet Hollier-Larousse
Emmanuel Larere, Gide Loyrette Nouel
Yves Marcellin, Cabinet Marcellin
Dominique Ménard, Lovells
Grégoire Triet, Gide Loyrette Nouel

Recommended individuals

Serge Binn, Binn & Associés
Jean-François Bretonnière, Baker & McKenzie
Xavier Buffet Delmas, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Arnaud Casalonga, Courtois Lebel
Marie-Aimée de Dampierre, Lovells
Louis de Gaulle, De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés
Gérard Delille, Salans
Patrick Dunaud, Latham & Watkins LLP
Michel-Paul Escande, Escande Havard-Duclos
Fabienne Fajgenbaum, Nataf & Fajgenbaum

François Greffe, Cabinet Greffe
Stéphane Guerlain, Armengaud Guerlain
Martine Karsenty, JP Karsenty & Associés
Isabelle Leroux, Bird & Bird
Pierre Lubet, Salans
Arnaud Michel, Gide Loyrette Nouel



Labour and employee benefits

Leading firms

Barthélémy & Associés
 Flichy & Associés
 Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
 Gide Loyrette Nouel

Highly recommended firms

August & Debouzy
 CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
 Fromont Briens & Associés
 Latham & Watkins LLP
 Proskauer Rose

Recommended firms

Allen & Overy LLP
 Clifford Chance
 Coblenze et Associés
 Fidal
 Hammonds Hausmann
 Morgan Lewis
 Orrick Rambaud Martel
 Salans

Recognised firms

Baker & McKenzie
 Jones Day
 Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés

Leading individuals

Gilles Bélier, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hubert Flichy, Flichy & Associés
Joël Grangé, Gide Loyrette Nouel

Highly recommended individuals

Emmanuelle Barbara, August & Debouzy
Nicolas de Sevin, CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
Pascale Lagesse, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Deborah Sankowicz, Latham & Watkins LLP
Viviane Stulz, Clifford Chance
Yasmine Tarasewicz, Proskauer Rose
François Vergne, Morgan Lewis

Recommended individuals

Jean-Claude Anisten, CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
Isabelle Ayache-Revah, Flichy & Associés
Agnès Cloarec-Méredon, Latham & Watkins LLP
Philippe Desprès, Gide Loyrette Nouel
Chantal Giraud Van Gaver, Coblenze et Associés
Anne le Bault de la Morinière, Flichy & Associés
Jean-Louis Magnier, Salans
Jacques Nicolas, CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
Françoise Pelletier, Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés
Jean-Marc Sainsard, Hammonds Hausmann
Bruno Sérizay, Barthélémy & Associés
Sabine Smith-Vidal, Allen & Overy LLP

Recognised individuals

Anne Boileau, Jones Day
Gilles Briens, Fromont Briens & Associés
Alain Sauret, Barthélémy & Associés



Life sciences

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Life sciences: competition/anti-trust

Recommended firms

Allen & Overy LLP
 Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
 CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
 Intuity
 Salans
 Simmons & Simmons

Recommended individuals

Francois Brunet, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Olivier Fréget, Allen & Overy LLP
Bernard Geneste, CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
Melanie Thill-Tayara, Salans

Life sciences: corporate

Leading firms

Dechert LLP
 Salans

Highly recommended firms

Baker & McKenzie
 Jones Day

Recommended firms

August & Debouzy
 BMH Avocats
 Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
 Clifford Chance
 Ernst & Young Société d'Avocats
 Gide Loyrette Nouel
 Landwell & Associés
 McLoughlin & Avocats
 Taylor Wessing

Leading individuals

Alain Decombe, Dechert LLP
François Vignaud, Salans

Highly recommended individuals

Laurent Epstein, Baker & McKenzie
Sophie Hagège, Jones Day
Jonathan Schur, Dechert LLP

Recommended individuals

Gilles August, August & Debouzy
Alain de Foucaud, Taylor Wessing
Yann de Kergos, Dechert LLP
Jean-Charles Flatrès, Landwell & Associés
Thomas Jahn, BMH Avocats

*Virginie Lefebvre, Ernst & Young Société d'Avocats
Anne-Laure Marcerou, Dechert LLP
John McLoughlin, McLoughlin & Avocats*

Life sciences: intellectual property

Leading firms

Howrey LLP
Véron & Associés

Highly recommended firms

Allen & Overy LLP

Recommended firms

Armengaud Guerlain
Bird & Bird
Cousin & Moatty
Duclos Thorne Mollet-Vieville & Associés
Gaultier Lakits Szleper
Gide Loyrette Nouel

Leading individuals

Marina Cousté, Howrey LLP
Pierre Lenoir, Allen & Overy LLP
Pierre Véron, Véron & Associés

Highly recommended individuals

Geoffroy Gaultier, Gaultier Lakits Szleper

Recommended individuals

Jacques Armengaud, Armengaud Guerlain
Philippe Combeau, Philippe Combeau
Pierre Cousin, Cousin & Moatty
Thierry Mollet-Vieville, Duclos Thorne Mollet-Vieville & Associés
Grégoire Triet, Gide Loyrette Nouel

Life sciences: product liability

Leading firms

Simmons & Simmons

Highly recommended firms

Proskauer Rose

Recommended firms

Boukaert Ormen Passemard Sportes
Cabinet Baloup
Gide Loyrette Nouel
JeantetAssociés
Jones Day

Leading individuals

Jacques-Antoine Robert, Simmons & Simmons

Highly recommended individuals

Valérie Lafarge-Sarkozy, Proskauer Rose

Recommended individuals

Christian Bouckaert, Boukaert Ormen Passemard Sportes
Isabelle Lucas-Baloup, Cabinet Baloup

Life sciences: regulatory

Leading firms

Intuity

Highly recommended firms

André Rey Consultants
Baker & McKenzie
Bird & Bird
Carré Castan Consultants
Ph.com

Recommended firms

Coutrelis & Associés
Dechert LLP
De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés
Droit et Pharmacie
Huglo Lepage & Associés
JNB Développement
McLoughlin & Avocats
Proskauer Rose
Simmons & Simmons

Leading individuals

Paule R Drouault-Gardrat, Bird & Bird
Christophe Henin, Intuity

Highly recommended individuals

Henry de Suremain, Baker & McKenzie
John McLoughlin, McLoughlin & Avocats
André Rey, André Rey Consultants

Recommended individuals

Jacques-Nicolas Biot, JNB Développement
Victorine Carré, Carré Castan Consultants
Jean-Philippe Castan, Carré Castan Consultants
Philippe Conquet, Ph.com
Nicole Coutrelis, Coutrelis & Associés
Jean-Marie Job, De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés
Olivier Lantrès, Proskauer Rose



Private equity/venture capital

Leading firms

Latham & Watkins LLP
Linklaters
SJ Berwin
Weil Gotshal & Manges
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Highly recommended firms

Ashurst
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Clifford Chance
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
White & Case LLP





Recommended firms

Baker & McKenzie
Bredin Prat
Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Denton Wilde Sapte

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<small>PLC</small> Which lawyer? Yearbook France															
Legend: ● Leading ○ Highly Recommended ◐ Recommended ◑ Recognised															
Firm	Competition/anti-trust	Corporate real estate	Corporate/M&A	Dispute resolution	Energy	Environment	Finance: banking and debt finance	Finance: equity capital markets	Intellectual property	Labour and employee benefits	Life sciences	Private equity/venture capital	Restructuring and insolvency	Tax	Telecoms, Media and IT
Gide Loyrette Nouel	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	◑	○	●	○	○
Clifford Chance	●	●	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	◑	○	○	○	◑
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	◑
Linklaters	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	◑
Bredin Prat	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	◑	○	○	●	○
Latham & Watkins LLP	○	○	○	○	◑	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○
Jones Day	○	○	○	○	◑	○	○	○	○	◑	◑	○	○	○	○
Allen & Overy LLP	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
Salans	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○
White & Case LLP	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
De Pardieu Brocas Maffei	○	●	◑	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◑
Shearman & Sterling	○	○	○	○	◑	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Darros Villey Maillot Brochier	○	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◑
Orrick Rambaud Martel	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◑
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Baker & McKenzie	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◑	○	○	○	○	○
JeanetetAssociés	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◑	○	○	○	○
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◑
CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Denton Wilde Sapte	○	○	◑	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Herbert Smith	○	○	◑	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Ashurst	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Lovells	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Weil Gotshal & Manges	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Bird & Bird	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

The firms are sorted by weight of ranking, and then alphabetically. Firms achieving an equal overall score are shown within shaded bands. For some practice areas, the ranking is the result of an aggregated score across a number of subcategories. The recommendations are based on independent research among corporate counsel and private practitioners. This information is subjective and does not purport to be complete. The omission of any firm does not indicate that the firm does not practise in the areas, nor that it is not highly regarded.

PLC Which lawyer? Yearbook France															
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Leading  Highly Recommended  Recommended  Recognised 															
Firm	Competition/anti-trust	Corporate real estate	Corporate/M&A	Dispute resolution	Energy	Environment	Finance: banking and debt finance	Finance: equity capital markets	Intellectual property	Labour and employee benefits	Life sciences	Private equity/venture capital	Restructuring and insolvency	Tax	Telecoms, Media and IT
Norton Rose															
Brandford-Griffith & Associés															
Hogan & Hartson MNP															
Veil Jourde															
Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés															
Simmons & Simmons															
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates															
August & Debouzy															
Cabinet Franklin															
Dechert LLP															
Ernst & Young Société d'Avocats															
Howrey LLP															
Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP															
SJ Berwin															
Véron & Associés															
Gautier Lakits Szeleper															
Ginestié Paley-Vincent															
Huglo Lepage & Associés															
Paul Hastings															
Proskauer Rose															
Armengaud Guerlain															
Barthélémy & Associés															
Boivin & Associés															
Cousin & Moatty															
De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés															
Fidal															
Fichy & Associés															
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher															
Sokolow Carreras & Associés															

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