

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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for Business

2007

The Client's Guide

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intervention in professional liability and industrial risk, it has developed a strong construction insurance practice that complements the firm's volume of claims work.

Tétaud Lambard Jami & Associés

The Firm: This old-school boutique has developed a burgeoning construction insurance practice, which has scored "some notable successes," reported sources. It handles a large litigation workload.

Other Notable Practitioners

Primarily a litigation specialist, **Jean-Daniel Bretzner** (see p.294) from Bredin Prat is a "bright and communicative" lawyer who really "makes the difference." He has managed to rapidly build a remarkable practice in reinsurance, regulatory and professional liability and has made a name for himself in the marketplace, attracting a first-class clientele.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual Property Leading Firms	
1	BIRD & BIRD Paris GIDE LOYRETTE NOUËL Paris LINKLATERS Paris VÉRON & ASSOCIÉS Paris
2	ALLEN & OVERY LLP Paris ARMENGAUD GUERLAIN Paris COUSIN & MOATY Paris DUCLOS THORNE MOLLET-VIÉVILLE & ASSOCIÉS Paris FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER Paris GAULTIER LAKITS SZLEPER Paris LATHAM & WATKINS LLP Paris LOVELLS Paris PHILIPPE COMBEAU Paris SALANS Paris
3	BIGNON LEBRAY & ASSOCIÉS Paris CABINET ESCANDE Paris CABINET GREFFE Paris CLIFFORD CHANCE EUROPE LLP Paris DE GAULLE FLEURANCE & ASSOCIÉS Paris HERBERT SMITH Paris HIRSCH & ASSOCIÉS Paris JONES DAY Paris

Alphabetical within each band. Band 1 = highest.

Band 1

Bird & Bird

The Firm: The firm gains entry to the top tier following a deluge of positive feedback from clients and the hire of talented lawyer Yves Bizollon. This move was greeted by enthusiastic client approval and is expected to bolster the firm's patent practice. The group's diverse offering encompasses patents, design and model, copyright and data protection, with a particular focus on trade mark litigation. In addition, the firm's IP team assists clients with licensing, anti-counterfeiting campaigns, parallel and grey imports as well as comparative advertising. Clients appreciate the team's "ability to deliver dual English/French documentation," and also praise the group for its "practical, reactive and creative approach to work." The firm's network of European offices, particularly the outstanding reputation of its London team, is another major selling point with clients. **The Lawyers:** Former trade mark agent **Isabelle Leroux** is the "charismatic" head of the firm's IP practice. She is sought after for her trade mark litigation experience, particularly in the field of unfair competition. Her "penetrating pleading skills" were widely praised by commentators. Additionally, clients appreciate Leroux's "speedy and concise answers" and the "keen interest" she takes in their business. Formerly a partner at Véron & Associés, **Yves Bizollon** enjoys a strong and long-standing reputation in the IP arena. He is acclaimed for his patent expertise, alongside his "quick responses and endless availability."

Clients/Work Highlights: Airbus; Cegetel; Decathlon; EADS; Groupe DANONE; Deutsche Telekom; Fleury Michon; GM France; Allergan; Max Mara; MGM; Meccano; sanofi-aventis; SFR; Société Générale; SUEZ; Calor; Ebel; H&M; Korloff; Lanificio Fratelli Cerruti;

L'Oréal; Renault Trucks; Groupe Zannier; Zedel and ZODIAC.

Gide Loyrette Nouel

See firm details p.935

The Firm: The firm hosts a team of more than 20 top-class lawyers who have mastered the full range of contentious and contractual IP matters, from patents, copyright and trade mark to models and designs. What distinguishes this operation in the eyes of clients are its "fantastic organisational skills." Working as a well-oiled machine, the team is able to tackle complex litigation in an "exemplary manner that is both time and cost-effective for clients." The IP team works in close co-operation with the IT group and the overseas offices of Gide's growing international network.

The Lawyers: **Grégoire Triet**, who chairs the French Industrial Property Lawyers' Association (AAPI), is described as an "absolutely brilliant litigator and a great strategist." He focuses on pharmaceutical patent dispute resolution. **Arnaud Michel** was commended to researchers as "courteous and highly professional." He stands out for his "fantastic client-handling skills" and core expertise in trade mark litigation and unfair competition. Promising young partner **Emmanuel Larere** divides his time between trade mark and patent work. He is described by sources as a "brilliant strategist" who delivers excellent results.

Linklaters

See firm details p.1150

The Firm: Firmly established at the top of the rankings, Linklaters certainly is one of the rare law firms in Paris able to offer the in-depth expertise of a specialist IP boutique within a global structure. As highlighted by peers, "they have managed to set up a leading standalone IP dispute practice combined with a one-stop shop for IP in Europe." Accordingly, the group is the destination of choice to handle "elaborate matters of international resonance." In 2005, the team was particularly busy developing its capabilities in M&A and capital markets-derived IP work, and advising on patent and trade mark litigation. The team notably represented L'Oréal against Bellure, when for the first time, the Paris Court recognised a scent of perfume as a work of art, which can be protected by copyright.

The Lawyers: **Denis Monégier du Sorbier** is considered "one of France's finest patents lawyers" and is said to possess an "excellent comparative vision of foreign legal systems." A client explained: "I rate him above the rest because he's technically excellent and inventive and he always wins." He has considerable experience in patent, trade mark and design rights litigation and acts for a clientele composed of well-known French companies as well as major US and multinational clients with IP assets in France. Working closely with him is newly made partner Marianne Schaffner, a "nascent superstar in the field." She specialises in pharmaceutical patent litigation.

Véron & Associés

The Firm: This highly respected French IP boutique is frequently endorsed by clients as "the best address for high-profile patent litigation;" a reputation substantiated by the firm's impressive record of court triumphs in the field. Competitors concede that the group's lawyers "are deservedly renowned, because they are sharp, ethical and worthy opponents." The team principally handles actions for infringement, patent invalidity, patent ownership and compensation of employees' inventions. Where cross-border work is concerned, the firm is considered more than able to compete with its international rivals, since its lawyers have a perfect command of English and often team up with prominent foreign patent lawyers.

The Lawyers: Founding partner **Pierre Véron** is "a name that naturally springs to mind for patent litigation." This "charismatic advocate" continues to attract an overwhelming amount of praise for his "dedication and first-rate legal mind." He divides his time between the firm's Paris and Lyon offices. **Isabelle Romet** impresses clients with her "deep understanding of patent and technology law."

Clients/Work Highlights: The group's impressive client base include Air Liquide; Alcatel; sanofi-aventis; bioMérieux; CNRS; DuPont; Fuji Photo Film; Hewlett-Packard; Honeywell; Intel; L'Oréal; Nestlé; Novartis; Procter & Gamble; Rhodia; Schneider Electric; Siemens; Sony; Tefal; Toshiba and Unisantis.

Band 2

Allen & Overy LLP

See firm details p.1128

The Firm: Clients choose this "super-efficient operation" for its wealth of experience on contentious and non-contentious IP and IT matters. The group focuses to a greater extent on litigation, particularly on the representation of pharmaceutical companies and medical manufacturers in patent disputes, but also advises retail businesses on trade mark matters. The group's ability to tackle cross-border matters is a distinguishing feature commonly highlighted by clients.

The Lawyers: **Pierre Lenoir**, the head of the IP/IT practice, is in high demand for his patent litigation experience, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector. He is portrayed as "one of the few French litigators able to work in an international context."

Armengaud Guerlain

The Firm: The compact size of this niche practice should not overshadow its clout on the French IP market. Interviewees unanimously agree that this industrial property specialist delivers an "impeccable quality of work" and gets "outstanding results" for its blue-chip clientele. Principally recommended for patent litigation, the firm has been involved in many landmark decisions, such as the dispute between Samsung and CEA regarding LCD monitor patents.

The Lawyers: The firm owes its reputation to the "outstanding court performances" of its co-founder partners, **Jacques Armengaud** and **Stéphane Guerlain**. Armengaud concentrates on patent litigation, while Guerlain deals with the protection of well-known trade marks, company names and copyright issues for French institutions.

Intellectual Property Leading Individuals	
Senior Statesmen	
COMBEAU Philippe <i>Philippe Combeau</i>	
GAULTIER Geoffroy <i>Gaultier Lakits Szeleper</i>	
GREFFE François <i>Cabinet Greffe</i>	
1	LENOIR Pierre <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i>
	LEROUX Isabelle <i>Bird & Bird</i>
	MOLLET-VIÉVILLE Thierry <i>Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville</i>
	MONÉGIER DU SORBIER Denis <i>Linklaters</i>
	TRÉTIET Grégoire <i>Gide Loyrette Nouel</i>
	VÉRON Pierre <i>Véron & Associés</i>
2	ARMENGAUD Jacques <i>Armengaud Guerlain</i>
	BAUD Emmanuel <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
	BIZOLLON Yves <i>Bird & Bird</i>
	BUFFET DELMAS Xavier <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
	COUSIN Pierre <i>Cousin & Moatty</i>
	DELILE Gérard <i>Salans</i>
	GUERLAIN Stéphane <i>Armengaud Guerlain</i>
	MÉNARD Dominique <i>Lovells</i>
	MICHEL Arnaud <i>Gide Loyrette Nouel</i>
3	BRAULT Nicolas <i>Watrin Brault Associés</i>
	COUSTÉ Marina <i>Howrey LLP</i>
	DE DAMPIERRE Marie-Aimée <i>Lovells</i>
	DE GAULLE Louis <i>De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés</i>
	DESROUSSEAUX Grégoire <i>Hirsch & Associés</i>
	ESCANDE Michel-Paul <i>Cabinet Escande</i>
	GAULTIER Jean Frederic <i>Clifford Chance Europe LLP</i>
	LAMOUREUX Gerard-Gabriel <i>Hirsch & Associés</i>
	LARERE Emmanuel <i>Gide Loyrette Nouel</i>
	LIARD Bertrand <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
	MOATTY Myriam <i>Cousin & Moatty</i>
	MUYL Catherine <i>Jones Day</i>
	NÉRI Alexandra <i>Herbert Smith</i>
	PECORARO Anne-Marie <i>Bignon Lebray & Associés</i>
	ROMET Isabelle <i>Véron & Associés</i>
	TRISTANT Jean-Christophe <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Up-and-coming individuals	
COLOMBET Stéphane <i>Vivien & Juvigny</i>	
MASSON David <i>Salans</i>	

Alphabetical within each band. Band 1 = highest.

Cousin & Moatty

The Firm: This specialist shop continues to be widely acclaimed in French IP litigation circles. Clients are full of praise for this "team filled with truly passionate and talented people." Patent litigation continues to be the team's forte, although trade mark disputes also form an important part of its agenda. The team is particularly knowledgeable of the biotech, chemical engineering and fibre-optics industries. **The Lawyers:** Pierre Cousin "indisputably belongs to the elite of IP litigators." Clients are full of praise for his "dynamic style and brilliant results in patent disputes." Myriam Moatty handles trade mark matters and is noted for her "proactive and enthusiastic style."

Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville & Associés

The Firm: The outstanding reputation that this compact French practice enjoys in the marketplace suggests that it punches well above its weight. Its boutique nature ensures it is "intensely client-focused" and able to offer a "fantastically detailed advice at a competitive price." The team advises on a broad range of industrial property work, with a particular forte in patent and trade mark litigation. The stellar international client base it has attracted is a testimony of the firm's popularity.

The Lawyers: The firm owes much of its reputation to the profile of founding partner Thierry Mollet-Viéville. Clients praise his "deep knowledge of industrial property," while peers acknowledge they dread confronting him in court for patent litigation.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

The Firm: Although Freshfields' IP department operates chiefly in support of the firm's corporate practice, it continues to grow towards becoming a leading standalone practice. The unit practices the full spectrum of IP matters with an emphasis on trade mark, patent, advertising and unfair competition. The group has particular expertise working for pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automotive, telecoms, technology, media and entertainment companies as well as financial institutions.

The Lawyers: Xavier Buffet Delmas is the turbine behind this evolving practice. He stands out for his tremendous practice in pharmaceutical and chemical patents. Bertrand Liard, a younger member of the team, is a budding star of the profession. His practice has strong leanings towards IT matters.

Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Colgate Palmolive on an acquisition in Europe involving significant IP issues, and Sara Lee on the sale of its European meats business to Smithfield Foods. Other major clients include France Télécom; Gaz de France; Informatique CDC; Ipsen; L'Oréal; LVMH; Renault; Tyco and Solvay.

Gaultier Lakits Szeleper

The Firm: This venerable Parisian boutique has long been and remains a landmark of the French IP market. It now boasts a team of six lawyers concentrating their full attention on IP matters, particularly in the trade mark and copyright contentious field.

The Lawyers: Peers describe founding partner Geoffroy Gaultier as "a dean of the profession – a remarkably intelligent lawyer of the old school."

Latham & Watkins LLP

The Firm: Latham & Watkins is indisputably leading the charge of American firms in Paris for IP work. It is home to a team of more than ten lawyers offering expertise in all the fields of IP law, with a particular emphasis on advertising, copyright, trade marks and patents.

The Lawyers: Emmanuel Baud is particularly well versed in copyrights, trade marks, models and designs, domain names and unfair competition. He has also developed a niche expertise in the field of geographical indications and, more particularly, appellations of origin (AOC). Chair of the firm's European IP and technology practice, Jean-Christophe Tristant focuses on copyrights, trade marks, advertising and, most recently, patents, with an emphasis on complex cross-border cases and transactions.

Clients/Work Highlights: A string of recent successes include representing Apple in a dispute over the wireless networking technology developed by the company under the name AirPort. The group also successfully defended Euro RSCG, the leading advertising agency in France, in an alleged copyright infringement action brought by former employees claiming authorship of the television spot campaign for the launching of Virgin Cola in France. The Court dismissed the plaintiffs' provisional claims, which originally amounted to EUR2.2 million.

Lovells

See firm details p.1151

The Firm: Lovells' French arm boasts a team of 13 lawyers, forming a standalone IP practice largely focused on transactional work and cross-border litigation. The firm continues to strengthen its presence in domain name management and online brand protection, with the team recently securing victories for 44 clients in protecting their IP rights under the new EU legislation. The lawyers' expertise extends to media and entertainment counselling, IT and Internet-related work. The team is currently focusing on developing its ADR expertise.

The Lawyers: Observers dub Dominique Ménard "one of the best litigators in Paris." Initially specialised in the field of trade mark litigation, he has successfully developed the team's patent activity. "Hands-on and enthusiastic" Maric-

Aimée de Dampierre is appreciated by commentators for her "ability to listen to what clients have to say and for her delightful personality." She devotes a large part of her time advising and litigating on trade marks and patents.

Clients/Work Highlights: The client base comprises multinationals such as Ford; Nissan; Volvo; Toyota; Mazda; Jaguar; Land Rover; Aston Martin; Bausch & Lomb; Brasseries Kronenbourg; eBay; Amazon.com; Dassault Systèmes; Deutsche Telekom; FileNet; Dell; Citigroup; American Express; Nintendo; Fox Entertainment Group; Sony; Mitsubishi Electric; Estée Lauder; GlaxoSmithKline; Alcatel; Canon; Fuji Photo Film; Motorola; ALSTOM; Total and Boeing.

Philippe Combeau

The Firm: With an enduring reputation for patent, trade mark and design rights litigation, this firm is one of the trailblazers of IP law in Paris. Its client base is diverse and includes a number of major pharmaceutical companies. **The Lawyers:** Philippe Combeau is "a multi-talented litigator of the old school" and a "redoubtable adversary." He is particularly well versed in hard patent and trade mark matters.

Salans

See firm details p.944

The Firm: After a series of hires, which have not gone unnoticed by commentators, "this practice has been reinforced by some valuable new talents." A team of IP specialists from Rambaud Martel joined in 2006 and includes David Masson and Pierre Lubet. The firm also merged its IP, IT and telecoms practice groups, to offer clients a multi-specialist service on contentious and non-contentious IP matters. Many clients are high-profile names from the fashion and luxury goods sectors.

The Lawyers: Gérard Delile leads the new IP/IT/telecoms department and specialises in IP litigation, notably trade mark, design rights and media. "He is a safe pair of hands, open to compromise but always firm on defending his clients' best interests," say clients. Commentators were full of praise for rising star David Masson, a recent arrival from the French law firm Rambaud Martel. He focuses on IP, IT and communication law.

Band 3

Bignon Lebray & Associés

The Firm: For more than 20 years, this traditional, independent outfit has advised a wide client base – from small companies to multinationals – on the full spectrum of their activities. Interviewees say it has also managed to adapt successfully to an increasingly international context. The firm's offices in Paris, Lyon, Lille and Aix-Marseille often co-operate closely on matters, and the group is also an active member of the Meritas network, which operates in over 70 countries and ensures a regular flow of referrals from across the world. Furthermore, it has been announced that the firm will open offices in Shanghai and Beijing.

The Lawyers: Recognised primarily for her expertise in music law, Anne-Marie Pecoraro (see p.298) offers "practical and imaginative" advice on soft IP issues. Clients are particularly keen on her "direct style and listening skills."

Cabinet Escande

The Firm: Small French boutique Cabinet Escande ranks particularly high in the thoughts of interviewees for unfair competition and trade marks, and is perceived as increasingly active in patent litigation. Clients include major names in the automotive, luxury goods and food sectors. **The Lawyers:** Name partner Michel-Paul Escande is considered a first-choice practitioner for counterfeiting, design and copyright. He is commended to researchers as a "smooth operator with an outstanding analytical talent."

Cabinet Greffe

The Firm: Parisian boutique Cabinet Greffe is famed for its niche specialisation in IT matters relating to advertising and design. The firm owes its stellar reputation to the stature of senior founder François Greffe.

The Lawyers: **François Greffe** is widely regarded as a "foremost authority" in the field of patent design and models rights. He is also considered a "pioneer of French advertising law."

Clifford Chance Europe LLP

See firm details p.1133

The Firm: Clifford Chance's IP team is growing in promise and prominence, characterised by clients as "young, hungry and full of potential." Its expertise encompasses patent claims and litigation, and it also helps clients on various IP matters relating to defamation and publishing.

The Lawyers: The team revolves around **Jean Frederic Gaultier** who specialises in domestic and international IP disputes, covering patents, trade marks, designs, copyrights, and unfair competition issues. His "persuasiveness in court" is matched by his "affable and straightforward" behaviour towards clients.

Clients/Work Highlights: EADS; Airbus; Kimberly Clark; Gap; The LEGO Group; Playboy Enterprises; Sagem; Banque de Neuflyze; Carrefour; Fruit of the Loom and Golden Harvest.

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

The Firm: De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés' IP team accentuated its mark in the IP and IT legal market. A string of successes across a broad range of industries has attracted universal admiration. Its core areas of expertise lie in soft

IP, software and media-related matters. According to clients, the lawyers here "are all young, dynamic, charming and extremely competent."

The Lawyers: Among them is the "popular" **Louis de Gaulle** (see p.295), who receives widespread applause for his versatile practice. He was commended to researchers as "a brilliant and brave problem-solver." He is particularly well versed in copyright matters, and retains an enviable client list.

Herbert Smith

See firm details p.1142

The Firm: Herbert Smith continues to receive plaudits for its high-profile IP disputes practice. The group has particular experience of the pharmaceutical sector, and combines industrial property expertise with advice on artistic and literary rights. More unusual areas of expertise include cybersquatting and domain name disputes, data protection and e-commerce.

The Lawyers: **Alexandra Néri** is the prominent name of the practice and is distinguished in the market for her "pugnacious and straight-talking manner." She is portrayed as "a true fighter – top of the heap for both patent and trade mark matters."

Hirsch & Associés

See firm details p.937

The Firm: Thanks to its close working relationship with Hirsch Pochart, a firm of patent and trade mark attorneys, Hirsch & Associés offers a seamless service in the prosecution and litigation of trade marks and patents. Twelve of the team's members are dual-qualified as engineers and lawyers.

The Lawyers: **Grégoire Desrousseaux** (see p.295) is

considered a "brilliant litigator." He spends much of his time advising on trade mark law. **Gerard-Gabriel Lamoureux** (see p.297) focuses on patent law and is admired for his "great aplomb in the courtroom" and for his technology expertise.

Jones Day

The Firm: The compact and highly experienced IP group of Jones Day handles the full palette of IP and IT transactional and contentious matters, with a particular forte in copyright litigation. In 2005, the team enjoyed a substantial and successful caseload of patent, trade mark, copyright, design rights and unfair competition matters.

The Lawyers: Lead figure **Catherine Muyl** recently represented iTunes in the action started in March 2006 by Spedidam, who represents performing artists, before the Paris Civil Court against the main web sites offering music downloads. Other major clients include Halliburton, Hasbro, sanofi-aventis and Rhodia.

Other Notable Practitioners

Market participants endorse **Nicolas Brault**, who left Veil Jourde to set up his own practice Watrin Brault Associés, as "a young partner full of qualities, who distinguishes himself with his enthusiasm and eloquence." **Marina Cousté** (see p.295) at Howrey LLP is famed for the "aggressive and forceful style" that makes her a "mighty adversary." She is widely envied for her stellar client base. **Stéphane Colombet**, of independent firm Vivien & Juvigny, is described as an accessible and bright young partner with an "efficient advocacy style." He has a highly diversified practice covering trade mark, copyright, media and IT law.

PFI/PPP**PFI/PPP****Leading Firms**

1 ALLEN & OVERY LLP Paris
CLIFFORD CHANCE EUROPE LLP Paris
FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER Paris
GIDE LOYRETTE NOUËL Paris
LINKLATERS Paris

2 ASHURST Paris
DE PARDIEU BROCAS MAFFEI Paris
HERBERT SMITH Paris
NORTON ROSE Paris
WHITE & CASE LLP Paris

3 LOVELLS Paris
SIMMONS & SIMMONS Paris

Alphabetical within each band. Band 1 = highest.

Band 1**Allen & Overy LLP**

See firm details p.1128

The Firm: Allen & Overy has built wisely on its impressive bedrock of banking clients to spearhead a successful move into the growing PPP/PFI sector. As with its magic circle brethren, there is no doubt that its prior experience of PFI has allowed it to forge ahead of more domestically focused French firms. The firm's pre-eminence in French public law is also an essential element of its success in winning PPP instructions from both bidding consortia and finance parties, who repeatedly describe the firm as "among the very best in France" for PPP and government concessions.

The Lawyers: **Tim Scales** is lead partner in the Paris projects group. He oversees the firm's growing domestic PPP practice in addition to handling a thriving international project finance workload. His mixed Anglo-French

projects experience is perfectly complemented by **Noël Chadid-Nourai**'s "inside-out" understanding of French regulatory law. As a former president of a litigation section of the Conseil d'État, "he carries with him a certain prestige when dealing with public bodies." Renowned finance generalist **Rod Cork** completes the trio, bringing acclaimed leveraged finance expertise to the table.

Clients/Work Highlights: Much of the team's time is spent advising the French Ministry of Justice on a EUR900 million PPP deal for the construction of 18 prisons – the first truly large-scale application of the PPP structure in France. Elsewhere, Allen & Overy is assisting two consortia – one composed of SAPRR, Bilfinger Berger BOT and Razel, the other of SAPRR, Groupe EGIS and Eiffage – in their bids for autoroute concession contracts.

Clifford Chance Europe LLP

See firm details p.1133

The Firm: Sources confirm that Clifford Chance is "one of the finest firms in Paris for PPP," a claim backed up by its peerless finance practice and the presence of David Prétat, a colossus of French public law. Though many commentators would place Clifford Chance in the first tier because "its lawyers are so well respected by the banks," this is only one side of the story; the firm's established base of French corporate clients ensures that it represents concessionaires and consortia of bidders as frequently as it does funders.

The Lawyers: The ever-popular, dual-qualified **Michael Elland-Goldsmith** provides vital structured and asset finance input to the team in addition to his international projects offering. The chief attraction for bidders is undoubtedly **David Prétat**, acclaimed by peers as "absolutely superb, brilliant and competent, a pioneer of French PPP." He matches extensive French public law experience with Clifford Chance's UK PFI prowess to create an offer perhaps unmatched for comprehensiveness in the Paris market. As one envious competitor acknowledged:

"He gambled on creating and developing a sizeable PPP practice and it has certainly paid off." **Nikolai Eatwell** remains a name to watch at the firm. A counsel with an impressive reputation for project finance and syndicated lending, he frequently assists the PPP team.

Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised Eiffage on the EUR300 million construction, maintenance and financing of the first batch of four prisons. Lawyers also acted for a consortium including Bouygues, Transdev, IXIS, CDC and Groupe Caisse d'Épargne and the lenders on the negotiation and financing of a tramway infrastructure in Reims. Macquarie Bank instructed the firm to handle its joint bid with Eiffage to acquire the French state's stake in French motorway operator APRR for EUR5 billion. Further clients include Air France, Imprimerie Nationale and Département du Rhône.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

The Firm: Many interviewees now place this Anglo-German giant on a par with Clifford Chance at the very forefront of this market.

The Lawyers: Best known as a doyen of public law, **Thierry Laloum** has successfully exploited the obvious synergies between his traditional area of expertise and PPP law. **Jean L'Homme** heads up Freshfields' international project finance practice. Accordingly, he is well positioned to add specific structured finance expertise to the developing PPP team.

Clients/Work Highlights: The team is advising a consortium composed of Bouygues, RBS and Dexia on its bid for a design, build and operate contract for the construction of prisons in France. On the sponsor side, Freshfields assisted Calyon, HSBC France and Bank of Scotland as mandated lead arrangers in the financing of a new section of the A41 autoroute.