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2008
The Client's Guide

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual Property

Leading Firms

Band 1

Allen & Overy LLP

Bird & Bird

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Véron & Associés

Band 2

Armengaud Guerlain

Cousin & Moatty

Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville & Associés

Gaultier Lakits Szeleper

Herbert Smith

Howrey LLP

Latham & Watkins LLP

Lovells LLP

Salans

Band 3

Bignon Lebray & Associates

Cabinet Escande

Cabinet Greffe

Clifford Chance Europe LLP

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Hirsch & Associés

Philippe Combeau

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is the highest.

Band 1

Allen & Overy LLP

See firm details p.2159

The Firm: This firm moves into the top tier on the back of positive feedback from peers and clients, largely for its work in patent litigation. IP is a core practice area for the firm, which, with a growing business in trade marks, copyright and IT matters, is recognised by some commentators as “the best IP firm in the market.” The team’s cross-border litigation capability is a drawcard for many clients. Its enviable client list is drawn from the chemical, semiconductor and glass industries, and also the retail sector, which instructs the firm on matters of trade mark law.

The Lawyers: Head of the IP team **Pierre Lenoir** (see p.836) enjoys a fantastic reputation in the market due to his enviable expertise in product liability and cross-border litigation of patents and trade marks. Clients confirm: “He understands the highly technical intricacies of a case as well as the requirements of multinational companies.” Sources also drew attention to his multilingual ability and strong knowledge of French law.

Bird & Bird

See firm details p.2163

The Firm: Clients choose this practice because it is “a big firm with an unrivalled degree of IP expertise.” The team handles matters relating to trade marks, designs, models and author rights, and has an increasing capacity for patent matters following the hire of Yves Bizollon in 2006. The firm is particularly commended for its excellent knowledge of industry-specific IP, including matters concerning the IT, pharmaceuticals, television and telecoms sectors. The two partners and nine associates combine success in the French market with an “astute European approach” to cross-border litigation, capitalising on its extensive European network of offices.

Having recently commenced IP business out of its Lyon office, the team works with other branches, most notably London, to handle multi-jurisdictional matters.

The Lawyers: The “dynamic and imaginative” **Isabelle Leroux** is recognised as a leader in trade mark litigation, particularly on matters of unfair competition. Observers commend her flexibility: “She can adapt very quickly to deal with any kind of procedure.” **Yves Bizollon** commands considerable respect for his “knowledgeable and pragmatic” work in the area of patent litigation. He concentrates on France-based cases, though he also handles some overseas work ranging from smaller, specialised companies to high-profile organisations.

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

See firm details p.850

The Firm: “Definitely a key player in the market,” this firm’s stable of first-class lawyers has “an excellent appreciation of what can and can’t be done in the commercial sphere.” Advising on the full range of IP matters, including patents, trade marks, designs and models, copyrights and unfair competition, these lawyers enjoy a reputation as leaders in their field. The group works closely with the firm’s IT department and often advises clients on other aspects of IP law, such as improving the value of their assets and negotiating IP rights transfer agreements.

The Lawyers: The “absolutely brilliant” patent litigation specialist **Grégoire Triet** receives glowing commendations from his clients: “He marries together legal and commercial interests.” Triet chairs the French Association of Intellectual Property Lawyers, and is known for his composure in meeting and court settings. **Arnaud Michel** is an “outstanding and extremely knowledgeable” trade mark lawyer. His “superb client base” makes him the envy of his peers. Michel’s understanding of EC law enhances the firm’s European capabilities. **Emmanuel Larere**’s practice covers contentious and non-contentious patent and trade mark matters. Described as “a fantastic strategist with a global perspective,” Larere is renowned for his ability to co-ordinate numerous national legal teams on Europe-wide cases.

Clients/Work Highlights: Johnson & Johnson; the Lille Pasteur Institute; Levi Strauss; adidas; Merck; L’Oréal; BMW; Gucci and DuPont.

Véron & Associés

The Firm: This boutique IP firm specialises in patent litigation and has earned a reputation as “a standout firm” in the field. One client declared the firm “indisputably the best on patents – they are amazing at explaining complex technical issues in an understandable way.” The team’s 11 lawyers are spread between the Paris and Lyon offices and litigate in specific commercial fields, such as cosmetics or pharmaceuticals. Despite the firm’s boutique status, Europe-wide cases in areas of specialism such as patent invalidity, ownership and infringement are entirely within its reach. All fee earners speak fluent English, and frequently undertake cross-border cases with foreign patent lawyers.

The Lawyers: Founding partner **Pierre Véron** is singled out by peers and clients as the best patent litigator in France. He is praised not only for his unrivalled ability, but also for his success in establishing such a specialised firm. “He has developed what is now the best patent firm in the country,” said one admiring commentator. Lyon-based **Isabelle Romet** is seen as “very clear and concise – a sharp thinker.” With a broad IP background, she now specialises in patent litigation in the chemistry, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

Clients/Work Highlights: Novartis; Rhodia Services; bioMerieux;

The European Central Bank; Bayer CropScience; Air Liquide; Agilent Technologies and Thalys.

Band 2

Armengaud Guerlain

The Firm: Two partners and three associates at this “high-quality IP boutique” advise on patents, trade marks, designs and models and unfair competition matters, primarily in the industrial property field. The firm is best known for patent litigation, and recently represented condiment producer Bonne Maman against counterfeiters.

The Lawyers: Co-founding partners **Jacques Armengaud** and **Stéphane Guerlain** are the heart of the firm. Armengaud’s specialism is patent litigation, with commentators praising his “excellent courtroom performances.” Guerlain handles trade marks and copyright issues for French and foreign clients. He recently acted for O2 and L’Oréal.

Cousin & Moatty

The Firm: The “excellent reputation and impressive expertise” of this specialist Paris outfit ensure its position at the forefront of IP litigation. Patent disputes remain the team’s strong point, and the pharmaceutical sector is another specialism. Trade mark-related work is on the increase for the team, and now features regularly in the group’s workload for clients in the electronic, biotech, chemical engineering and fibre optics industries.

The Lawyers: The “brilliant and dynamic” **Pierre Cousin** is widely respected in the business for his work in the mechanic, electronic and pharmaceutical sectors – notably on patent drug disputes. Fellow name partner **Myriam Moatty** represents many luxury brands on trade mark issues. Foremost among these are Roederer; Guerlain; Mont Blanc; Vivarte and Kookaï.

Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville & Associés

The Firm: Commentators immediately acknowledge this firm’s reputation as “a French boutique with big-name clients and big-ticket deals.” Size is proving no barrier to the team’s work in both patent and trade mark litigation, with clients appreciating the specialised service offered by the hands-on approach of the team. Industrial property is a particular strength, and the team’s exceptional client base is testament to its standing in this field.

The Lawyers: Founding partner **Thierry Mollet-Viéville** is recognised as “a fantastic lawyer – a leading expert in IP.” Market observers point to his court performances and supreme knowledge of IP law as evidence of his position at the forefront of this practice area.

Gaultier Lakits Szeleper

The Firm: This esteemed Parisian firm continues to impress commentators with its trade mark and publishing work. While specialising in industrial property law, the team also handles designs and models and unfair competition, and has distinguished itself with work relating to art and antiques auctions.

The Lawyers: “Long seen as one of the best patent lawyers in Paris,” the venerable **Geoffroy Gaultier** is variously described as “formidable” and “absolutely awesome” by peers. The founding partner focuses his litigation work on patents, trade marks and designs.

Herbert Smith

See firm details p.2168

The Firm: Clients commend this firm’s expertise in IP litigation:

Intellectual Property**Leading Individuals****Senior Statesmen**

Combeau Philippe *Philippe Combeau*
 Gaultier Geoffroy *Gaultier Lakits Szeleper*
 Greffe François *Cabinet Greffe*

Star individuals

Véron Pierre *Véron & Associés*

Band 1

Lenoir Pierre *Allen & Overy LLP*
 Mollet-Viéville Thierry *Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville & Associés*
 Monégier du Sorbier Denis *Howrey LLP*
 Triet Grégoire *Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI*

Band 2

Armengaud Jacques *Armengaud Guerlain*
 Baud Emmanuel *Latham & Watkins LLP*
 Bizollon Yves *Bird & Bird*
 Buffet Delmas Xavier *Hogan & Hartson MNP*
 Cousin Pierre *Cousin & Moatty*
 Cousté Marina *Howrey LLP*
 Delle Gérard *Salans*
 Escande Michel-Paul *Cabinet Escande*
 Guerlain Stéphane *Armengaud Guerlain*
 Leroux Isabelle *Bird & Bird*
 Ménard Dominique *Lovells LLP*
 Michel Arnaud *Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI*
 Néri Alexandra *Herbert Smith*

Band 3

Antoine-Lalancé Muriel *Antoine-Lalancé Muriel Avocat*
 Braut Nicolas *Watrin Braut Associés*
 de Dampierre Marie-Aimée *Lovells LLP*
 De Gaulle Louis *De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés*
 Desrousseaux Grégoire *Hirsch & Associés*
 Dunaud Patrick *Latham & Watkins LLP*
 Gaultier Jean-Frédéric *Clifford Chance Europe LLP*
 Lamoureux Gérard-Gabriel *Hirsch & Associés*
 Larere Emmanuel *Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI*
 Moatty Myriam *Cousin & Moatty*
 Pecoraro Anne-Marie *Bignon Lebray & Associés*
 Romet Isabelle *Véron & Associés*
 Tristant Jean-Christophe *Latham & Watkins LLP*

Up-and-coming individuals

Colombet Stéphane *Vivien & Juvigny*
 Masson David *Salans*
 Schaffner Marianne *Linklaters*

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is the highest.

Clients/Work Highlights: In addition to the online heavy-weights, the team also represents Nina Ricci; Etam; Bayer; Chevron; Capgemini; PwC and Nexter.

Howrey LLP**See firm details p.2331**

The Firm: The Paris office of this international firm is a new entrant in this year's rankings, following glowing references from peers and clients. The team is best known for its patent litigation, especially in the pharmaceutical sector, but also enjoys a busy trade mark practice. "It has the expertise and the capability to deliver on a large amount of work in a tight deadline. It is one of the top litigation firms in France," say clients.

The Lawyers: A leading player in patent and trade mark law, Denis Monégier du Sorbier (see p.837) joined the firm in March 2007, bolstering Howrey's established reputation in litigation. Clients praise his dedication and flexible approach: "He can adapt to any kind of litigation; he's a real fighter who cuts straight to the heart of a case." Monégier du Sorbier advises French companies as well as major US and multinational clients. Managing partner and patent litigation expert Marina Cousté (see p.831) is "highly proficient in the negotiation and litigation aspects of IP cases." She has specialist expertise in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and high technology patents.

Clients/Work Highlights: GlaxoSmithKline; Pfizer; Procter & Gamble; Philips and Essilor.

Latham & Watkins LLP

The Firm: This team covers the full range of IP law, with lawyers specialising in IT, designs and models, trade marks and patents. Described as "an excellent international firm with an impressive client base", the team covers domestic and Europe-wide cases, and focuses its trade mark work on a select number of complex cases. **The Lawyers:** Emmanuel Baud is a "very intelligent lawyer" who specialises in trade mark litigation and degeneration, and also advises on designs and models. Media law expert Patrick Dunaud chairs the office's litigation department. One client declared him "simply the best – he is a tremendous analyst and great strategist. We use only him on major IP disputes." Jean-Christophe Tristant counts patent, designs and models, and trade mark cases among his portfolio. "He is precise and pragmatic at the same time," said one client.

Clients/Work Highlights: Recent cases include acting for beauty giant L'Oréal in two trade mark litigation cases concerning the generic character of the Spa trade mark for cosmetic products. The group also represented Alcatel-Lucent in a transatlantic patent infringement action brought by Microsoft, before the US International Trade Commission. Other clients include Warner Bros.; Nestlé; Endemol; Terailon; Accor and Arjo Wiggins.

Lovells LLP**See firm details p.2175**

The Firm: Lovells' Paris office upholds the firm's reputation as a truly international law practice. Focusing on transactional work and cross-border patent disputes, the three partners and 14 associates advise many international companies and have a close relationship with several Asian businesses. "They have an excellent product liability practice, and they are very good on all aspects of IP," reported one interviewee. The team also offers counselling on media and entertainment issues, and is expanding its capacity for IT and Internet work, domain name management, online brand protection and ADR.

The Lawyers: Patent specialist Dominique Ménard (see p.837) is described as "a brilliant trial lawyer who loves fighting a case before the court." He frequently conducts multi-jurisdictional litigation in France and abroad, and represents many international

companies. Marie-Aimée de Dampierre (see p.831) advises primarily on contentious trade mark and media law cases, while also incorporating copyright and unfair competition into her work. Observers praise her dedication to providing top-quality client service: "She treats her clients with total loyalty and the utmost care." **Clients/Work Highlights:** Clients include Facebook and Ford.

Salans**See firm details p.1585**

The Firm: The Paris headquarters of this international firm is "supremely proficient" in its core practice areas of trade mark and IT litigation. The ten-lawyer team operates as a combined IP, IT and telecoms practice handling contentious and non-contentious matters, and advises many high-profile fashion and luxury brands on patents, copyrights, designs and models and unfair competition. **The Lawyers:** Gérard Delile handles an even split of litigation and advisory work on trade mark and patent forgery, authors' rights and industrial property. Peers regard him as a "formidable opponent." Newcomer to the firm David Masson is a property and IT law expert who focuses on acquisition, enhancement, exploitation and defence of rights.

Clients/Work Highlights: Highlights include advising a major US movie producer in a copyright infringement case, acting for a global food manufacturer in a trade mark dispute before the European Court of Justice, and representing a European telecoms operator in several patent infringement cases.

Band 3**Bignon Lebray & Associés**

The Firm: This independent firm advises French and international companies on a wide variety of IP law matters. Industrial property, new technologies and literary and artistic properties all feature in the team's portfolio. Bignon Lebray is part of the Meritas network, which operates in more than 60 countries, and the firm's Paris, Lyon, Lille and Aix-Marseille offices work closely together to manage the referral work garnered from this membership. **The Lawyers:** Anne-Marie Pecoraro specialises in music law and has won acclaim for her work in advertising and trade marks. She also has a good knowledge of designs and models and disloyal competition.

Cabinet Escande

The Firm: Described by interviewees as "a luxury boutique," this firm is particularly known for its expertise in trade marks, designs and models. Founder Michel-Paul Escande has recently consolidated the group and takes a hands-on approach to working with the five-strong team.

The Lawyers: The "bright and courteous" Michel-Paul Escande is "a real connoisseur of IP and a key player in the field," according to peers. Highly regarded for his authors' rights and trade mark expertise, he has been developing the patent litigation side of his practice, particularly for long-standing client Renault.

Cabinet Greffe

The Firm: "The reference in the field of designs, models and media-related disputes," this niche boutique earns extensive plaudits for its "very deep IP expertise."

The Lawyers: Senior statesman François Greffe is considered "a master of intellectual property," and has a specific expertise in advertising law.

"The team is very active in litigation and well connected and experienced in going to court. It is our number-one firm." Working on mostly contentious cases, the lawyers each specialise in a particular area – patents, designs and models or IT. The team takes cross-border matters in its stride with a network of European offices to turn to, and is increasingly busy with precedence work involving the Internet.

The Lawyers: Much of the team's reputation stems from the work of the "awesome, brilliant and quick-witted" Alexandra Néri. The department head, she concentrates on online jurisprudence, most notably the application of trade mark litigation law on the Internet. She has built up an "outstanding" client base, which includes the likes of Google and YouTube.

Clifford Chance Europe LLP

See firm details p.2164

The Firm: The two partners and four associates in this "client-oriented" group deal primarily with patent and trade mark disputes, using the firm's international network of IP lawyers to best serve clients' overseas needs. "They're a strong team, and can act quickly on urgent matters," say interviewees.

The Lawyers: The team's reputation centres on the ability of partner **Jean Frederic Gaultier** (see p.833), who is described as "a responsive, business-minded lawyer who can explain legal information clearly." He works on a variety of cases relating to patents, trade marks, designs, copyrights and unfair competition.

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

See firm details p.847

The Firm: The four partners and 12 associates at this "smart and dynamic law firm" handle the full range of IP law with a focus on soft IP, software and media law. Clients identify the team's deep knowledge of French, UK and US laws as a major drawcard.

The Lawyers: **Louis De Gaulle** (see p.831) concentrates on copyright issues in the IT sector for French and English-speaking clients. Commended by peers for being "succinct and clear when bringing a point before the court," he also works on cases from the motion picture industry and handles a small amount of trade mark forgery.

PROJECTS & ENERGY**Projects & Energy****Leading Firms****Band 1**

Clifford Chance Europe LLP
Herbert Smith
Linklaters

Band 2

Allen & Overy LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI
Norton Rose
White & Case LLP

Band 3

CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre
De Pardiou Brocas Maffei
JeantetAssociés
Lovells LLP
Simmons & Simmons

Alphabetical order within each band; Band 1 is the highest.

Band 1**Clifford Chance Europe LLP**

See firm details p.2164

The Firm: With a remarkable international focus, Clifford Chance in Paris is considered to be "one of the best and biggest firms" in the projects sector. Enjoying a strong reputation in the market, this "brilliant firm" remains a key legal adviser for international projects in francophone sub-Saharan and North African countries. It is regularly involved in infrastructure, telecoms, oil and gas, and electricity projects, as well as mining projects such as Tenke in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the team is currently advising OPIC and several development organisations. The group has also expanded its robust

Hirsch & Associés

The Firm: Distinguished by its original approach that mixes IP lawyers with engineers, Hirsch makes its debut in the tables this year. Sources praise it as "an exceptionally good firm that handles high-profile cases." The team is highly regarded for its "deep, technical know-how" and has expertise in patent and trade mark litigation.

The Lawyers: With a strong engineering background, **Grégoire Desrousseaux** deals predominantly with patent disputes in the automobile, pharmaceutical and telecoms industries. Sources report that he is "extremely quick to understand even the most complicated cases." The "very energetic" **Gerard-Gabriel Lamoureux** has a patent law focus in the IT sector.

Philippe Combeau

The Firm: Enjoying a long-standing reputation, this firm remains "a notable market player." Indelibly linked with modern French trade mark law, design rights also feature strongly in its court work.

The Lawyers: The "extremely impressive" **Philippe Combeau** is widely recognised as "one of the most experienced IP lawyers in France." This senior statesman has made a successful and long-running career out of hard patent and trade mark cases.

presence in other regions such as the Middle East, South America and southern Africa.

The Lawyers: Market sources recommend the "effective and hands-on" **Anthony Giustini** (see p.834). Highly appreciated for his pragmatism, "he has a rare clarity and is able to explain concepts simply."

Clients/Work Highlights: The firm advised multilateral and development-centred foreign institution lenders in the AES Sonel electricity expansion project in Cameroon. It also supported the bidder on a new international airport build-operate-transfer project and the concession of the Monastir and Enfidha airports. The squad also acted as counsel for the export credit agencies and lenders on the Usina Siderurgica do Ceara in Brazil construction.

Herbert Smith

See firm details p.2168

The Firm: Years of first-hand experience in Africa have imbued these lawyers with significant local knowledge. Commentators unanimously praise the Paris team for its "competent and proactive" approach in francophone African countries. Strengthened by Jacques Bertrand de Balanda's arrival and Rebecca Major's return, Herbert Smith has renowned projects expertise, particularly on the financing and M&A side. "Efficient, practical and commercial," the firm is also active in France and across Europe, where it handles energy, infrastructure, telecoms and natural resources projects, including the Bakouma Uranium Project in the Central African Republic.

The Lawyers: Interviewees acknowledge **Bertrand Montebault's** "great depth of work in Africa." He is a mining and hydrocarbon specialist, and clients admire his "good guidance and support," on both legal and documentation issues. He recently acted for BHP Billiton on its acquisition of an interest in the Sangarédi aluminium project in Guinea. **Stéphane Brabant's** "well-developed energy practice" remains a valuable asset in dealing with francophone African jurisdictions. He recently advised the MagIndustries Group on a major USD544 million project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, combining the financing of a hydroelectric facility, the financing of a mining project and the development of supporting infrastructure facilities needed for the achievement of

Other Notable Practitioners

Formerly with Freshfields, **Xavier Buffet Delmas** (see p.830) continues to make a name for himself at Hogan & Hartson MNP. He retains his excellent client base, with interviewees singling out his trade mark work for special mention. Particularly well regarded for her trade mark expertise, **Muriel Antoine-Lalancé** makes her debut in the tables on the back of very positive market feedback. She has a thriving practice, and also lectures on IP at Paris XII Université. **Watrין Brault Associés' Nicolas Brault** is enjoying great success at the boutique firm he co-founded. Specialising in authors' rights, trade marks, multimedia law and rights to privacy, he "always gives the impression that you're his main client." Commentators applaud Vivien & Juvigny's rising star **Stéphane Colombet** for his broad talent base encompassing copyright, trade mark, IT and media law. The promising **Marianne Schaffner** (see p.840) at Linklaters draws praise for her excellent client rapport and strong work ethic in patent and trade mark litigation. Impressed clients report that the multilingual partner "strives for excellence and is always looking for solutions."

the project. Known for his "successful individual style," **Jacques Bertrand de Balanda** has renowned expertise in acquisition and project finance, with a focus on the French and African markets. **Clients/Work Highlights:** Recent highlights include representing Sumitomo on its investment in the USD2.5 billion Ambatovy nickel and cobalt mining project in Madagascar. The team also advised Gazprom Marketing and Trading on its acquisition of Gaz de France's entry capacities into the French natural gas transmission network, as well as its gas transmission agreement with GDF Distribution. The firm's impressive client portfolio additionally includes BNP Paribas; EDF; JAPEX and Premier Oil.

Linklaters

See firm details p.2174

The Firm: Observers in the market appreciate that Linklaters in Paris "dedicates its time fully to clients." According to one interviewee, the lawyers are "there for you around the clock." Comfortable in both French and English law, the "highly professional" 12-lawyer team is able to provide comprehensive advice on international projects. With a core business concentrated on the mining industry in Africa, it also has a notable track record in infrastructure, energy and telecoms in francophone Africa, France and Europe. It acted for the sponsors on the Group Ouest copper and cobalt brownfield mining project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Lawyers: One peer described the well-reputed **Bertrand Andriani** (see p.828) as "simply one of the cleverest lawyers around." He handles various projects financing in francophone Africa and France, including the restructuring of the Eurotunnel project. Focused on energy, infrastructure and mining issues, **François April** (see p.828) provides clients with "timely and pragmatic assistance" on projects issues.

Clients/Work Highlights: The team is currently supporting the lead arrangers on the financing of EDF Energies Nouvelles' wind farm portfolio, and is advising one of the sponsors on the Koniambo projects in New Caledonia involving the development and financing of nickel mining, metallurgical projects and related infrastructure. It also acted for the lenders on the secured financing of Xeltium's purchase of energy blocks.

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Rodríguez, Henry (Costa Rica)
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Rodríguez, José Antonio (Spain)
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Rodríguez, Miguel Angel (Spain)
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