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Why NPEs are looking more closely at Europe

Opportunity knocks for sellers and licensors in China

How the financial markets have embraced intangibles

Leading life sciences patent litigation firms revealed

Inside the world of defensive patent aggregation

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How and why intangible values rebounded in 2009

litigation to rival the UK, the Netherlands and Germany. According to commentators, this is due to the difficulty associated with conducting litigation efficiently in the jurisdiction. As a result, the number of law firms offering high quality representation in the field is relatively small. A handful of local boutiques and international firms with an interest in this practice area around the world are the go-to practices for clients litigating here.

Tier 1

Almost unanimously viewed as "the stand out firm in France for this field", **Véron & Associés** is a 13 lawyer patent litigation focused boutique. Around half its practice concerns life sciences related cases, predominantly working with originators, though it also has a healthy generics practice. Véron is also lauded for having brought together such a talented support team under one roof.

UK magic circle firm **Allen & Overy LLP** has a significant presence in the French patent litigation market thanks predominantly to the presence of Pierre Lenoir. The team he leads wins plaudits from competitors for being "tough and thorough adversaries". Quality comes at a price; commentators note that clients can expect the pricing of services at this international outfit to be higher than those of its smaller local rivals.

Tier 2

Specialist IP firm **Cabinet Hirsch & Associés** offers clients a full range of patent and trademark services, and houses European patent attorneys as well as lawyers. Market sources agree that the practise is "coming up fast". The firm's litigation department devotes around half of its time to life sciences related work for generics and innovators. **Linklaters LLP** has a strong presence in the French market. **Bird & Bird** is a market leader across much of Europe in life sciences patent litigation, but does not enjoy quite the same profile in the French market. Nevertheless, the firm is able to call on its substantial global network and client base in the field. The profile of Howrey LLP's French IP practice continues to rise, with Marina Couste at the helm. IP boutique **Cabinet Cousin & Moatty** covers all types of patent litigation including those arising in the life sciences sector. ■

France: Firms

1 **Allen & Overy LLP**

Véron & Associés

2 **Bird & Bird**

Cabinet Cousin & Moatty

Cabinet Hirsch & Associés

Howrey LLP

Linklaters LLP

Germany

While local IP boutiques retain a large share of the market, full-service international firms have benefitted from recent consolidation as well as growing concerns over regulatory issues, which many boutiques do not advise on. But whichever of the leading firms clients choose to instruct, they can expect consistent, high quality patent litigation services. Because of Germany's importance as a patent litigation forum, this compact legal market is among the most competitive in continental Europe.

Tier 1

Bird & Bird is recommended for its "impressive litigation team" and its "excellent portfolio of multijurisdictional work" wins acclaim from interviewees across Europe. "Firm of choice" **Lovells** undertakes a good deal of high profile pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device cases; sources praise its "wide-reaching national and international network". Patent infringement cases are a core area of expertise for IP boutique **Reimann Osterrieth Köhler Haft**. This Dusseldorf-based firm is recognised for its "deeply experienced, internationally-savvy litigators". Fellow boutique **Rospatt Osten Pross** also specialises in a wide range of patent litigation matters, including life sciences. Market commentators extol the firm's "well-established track record for innovator pharmaceutical companies".

Tier 2

Bardehle Pagenberg stands apart from many of its competitors because of its