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## France Intellectual Property

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## Intellectual Property - France

### Band 1 | Allen & Overy LLP (/firm/8991/7)

**THE FIRM** This widely respected team is well known for its patent expertise. Market commentators are particularly positive about its pharmaceutical experience, but its recent activity also includes representing major players in the electronic goods and aviation sectors. The department houses talented soft IP practitioners, and high-profile trade mark and copyright disputes make up a significant proportion of the team's caseload. Clients include Merck, Samsung Electronics and Nintendo.

**Sources say:** "A leading patents firm." "Excellent lawyers."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Laetitia Benard \(/person/637962/7\)](#) is a prominent figure in the practice and continues to grow in stature on the French marketplace. Her recent activity includes advising Samsung Electronics on its litigation with Apple in France.

Whilst less active than in the past, [Pierre Lenoir \(/person/140250/7\)](#) continues to be one of the team's most influential lawyers. Few in France can match his patent experience.

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### Band 1 | Bird & Bird (/firm/9081/7)

**THE FIRM** Interviewees confirm that Bird & Bird's Paris IP team maintains its leading position despite some recent departures. Subsequent new arrivals are undoubtedly one of the reasons for this. The team is well known for its litigation capabilities and handles international hard and soft IP disputes. The department's offering also includes a broad range of non-contentious services, including trade mark portfolio management and IP transactions. Focus industries include pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, renewable energy and electronics.

**Sources say:** "Very impressive: the team has quality throughout."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Yves Bizollon \(/person/312640/7\)](#) heads the IP department. He wins praise from commentators for his patent litigation prowess.

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### Band 1 | Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI (/firm/4416/7)

**THE FIRM** Gide's IP team is amongst the biggest on the Paris market, and this is reflected in the breadth of its activity. The team represents an impressive client portfolio in hard and soft IP litigation on a domestic and international level. Recent examples of patent litigation the team has handled include representing Actavis in a dispute with Novartis regarding the expiration of production rights, and advising Samsung Electronics on aspects of its dispute with Apple. Notable soft IP clients include adidas and Levi Strauss. Additionally, the department houses a trade mark filing and portfolio management service staffed by three paralegals.

**Sources say:** "An excellent firm that deals with the full range of IP issues. It is a major player on the Paris market." "The team is results-oriented and has a practical approach. The lawyers are creative when seeking solutions."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Grégoire Triet \(/person/140259/7\)](#) is a highly regarded IP disputes specialist. Market sources draw attention to his patent litigation practice, but his recent activity also includes international trade mark disputes. One interviewee praises his pragmatic approach, observing that "he is very commercial in his way of thinking."

[Emmanuel Larere \(/person/312167/7\)](#) has a broad IP practice that encompasses contentious and non-contentious work in both hard and soft IP. He recently represented the Laboratoire Français du Fractionnement et des Biotechnologies in litigation concerning patent and technology licensing agreements.

Commentators confirm [Arnaud Michel \(/person/140258/7\)](#)'s impressive standing on the Paris market. He has experience in areas ranging from brand protection to technology patent infringements.

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**THE FIRM** This team enters the top band thanks to strong feedback, a wide skill set and a prestigious client base. It represents leading names in sectors including entertainment, automotive, food and technology. The team's recent activity on the trade mark side includes enforcement and infringement mandates on behalf of PepsiCo, HTC and The LEGO Group. On the patent side, the team frequently represents Apple in disputes related to the protection of its technology. In addition, the department houses an internationally renowned domain name practice.

**Sources say:** *"In-depth expertise that we rarely find in other law firms."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Marie-Aimée de Dampierre \(/person/175688/7\)](#) is the office's managing partner and head of practice. She is particularly well regarded for her trade mark practice, and recently represented The LEGO Group in an infringement case before the Cour De Cassation.

[Xavier Buffet Delmas \(/person/140254/7\)](#) is sought by clients for advice on both hard and soft IP. He has been a key figure in the team's representation of a giant of the IT sector.

Sources are full of praise for [Dominique Ménard \(/person/140256/7\)](#), describing him as *"a skilled patent litigator with a lot of experience."* He recently represented Eli Lilly in a multi-jurisdictional dispute with Sandoz.

[David Taylor \(/person/312110/7\)](#) is considered *"a really, really sharp lawyer who is amazing for domain name work."* He advises clients of the calibre of Amazon and Facebook on the management and defence of their domain name portfolios.

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**THE FIRM** This top-level firm focuses exclusively on patent litigation. Its long-standing reputation for excellence attracts domestic and international clients from sectors including pharmaceuticals, electronic goods and transport. Commentators associate the firm with an exceptionally thorough and detailed approach, and its lawyers are supported by two scientific consultants, an economic litigation consultant and a graphic designer. Recent instructions have come from the likes of L'Oréal, Nokia, Honeywell and Eurocopter.

**Sources say:** *"The firm adds value by working out exactly what the client needs; we will phrase a problem in layman's terms, and they will get to the legal heart of the matter straight away."* *"Our issues are often very complex and technical, yet the lawyers are able to understand the science and explain it to a judge. They are very impressive."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** The hugely experienced [Pierre Véron \(/person/140243/7\)](#) heads the team. One interviewee describes him simply as *"France's leading patent litigator."* Véron recently advised the INPI (the French Patent Office) on complex, heavily disputed proceedings concerning the expiry of a drug's supplementary protection certificate.

Market sources are full of respect for [Isabelle Romet \(/person/310948/7\)](#). Her recent activity includes representing Merrial in a high-value dispute with Omnipharm.

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**THE FIRM** This well-considered three-partner boutique advises an impressive spread of major clients on issues involving both hard and soft IP. Sectors in which the team is active range from fashion and luxury goods to transport and natural resources. Market commentators emphasise the impressive depth of the team's experience in the IP field.

**Sources say:** *"Strong individuals who have contributed to the development of the profession in France."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Jacques Armengaud \(/person/140245/7\)](#) is the firm's patent specialist. He has long been a prominent figure on the Paris IP market, and is regarded by commentators as an *"excellent litigator."*

[Stéphane Guerlain \(/person/140246/7\)](#) is best known for his trade mark expertise and is particularly visible on domestic IP disputes.

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**Band 2 | Cousin & Associés (/firm/63934/7)**

**THE FIRM** This boutique focuses exclusively on IP matters and is held in high regard for its work in the field. The team advises on copyrights and trade marks, but is especially esteemed for its domestic patent litigation practice. Life sciences and new technologies are amongst the sectors in which the team is experienced.

**Sources say:** *"The lawyers are very good in their field, and have a real focus on patent litigation."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Pierre Cousin \(/person/140244/7\)](#) is the firm's most prominent practitioner. He is described by interviewees as *"an excellent, very clever and highly experienced lawyer."*

[Myriam Moatty \(/person/312712/7\)](#) is well considered for her work in both patents and trade marks.

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**Band 2 | De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés (/firm/89031/7)**

**THE FIRM** This team takes a full-service approach, and while it houses specialists with experience in all aspects of IP, interviewees are particularly positive about the soft IP side of the practice. As well as having the capacity to advise leading clients on contentious and non-contentious issues, the department also offers an international trade mark prosecution service. The team's clients include Microsoft, Twentieth Century Fox and The Louvre.

**Sources say:** *"Quick and to the point; excellent for soft IP work." "Energetic and assertive litigators."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Louis De Gaulle \(/person/203375/7\)](#) represents domestic and international clients in hard and soft IP litigation. He is well regarded for his activity in sectors such as IT, life sciences and sport.

Commentators are full of praise for the trade mark and copyright work of [Frank Valentin \(/person/246272/7\)](#). His specialisations include IP crisis litigation related to the internet and motion picture industries.

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**Band 2 | Dentons (/firm/3175/7)**

**THE FIRM** Salans combined with SNR Denton and FMC in 2013 to become Dentons. This notable team advises a distinguished portfolio of clients in sectors including luxury goods, leisure, IT and life sciences. It is perhaps most highly regarded for its soft IP capacity and represents globally-known names such as Coca-Cola, Bacardi-Martini and Allergan. All the partners are also regularly engaged in high-profile patent disputes.

**Sources say:** *"We are impressed by the firm's IP expertise and by the strategies the team proposes to solve each problem we face."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** The *"innovative"* [Isabelle Leroux \(/person/203372/7\)](#) has an outstanding reputation in soft IP. She is particularly well known for her trade mark litigation practice, and advises major international players on all their French IP issues.

The *"pragmatic, hard-working and efficient"* [David Masson \(/person/312055/7\)](#) has long been recognised for his trade mark activity, and commentators also confirm his increasing visibility on patent mandates.

[Gérard Delile \(/person/248442/7\)](#) is a soft IP specialist. His recent activity includes unfair competition proceedings and disputes involving counterfeit goods.

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**Band 2 | Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville & Associés (/firm/63937/7)**

**THE FIRM** Clients and market sources are unanimous in their praise for this independent French firm's IP capacity. The team can advise on all aspects of IP, and regularly litigates on behalf of clients. Its capabilities are augmented by the firm's broader corporate expertise.

**Sources say:** *"Smart, quick and easy to work with. I can only say good things about the firm."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** Sources confirm that [Thierry Mollet-Viéville \(/person/140247/7\)](#) continues to impress with his outstanding work in IP. His experience in handling contentious patent mandates is particularly highlighted.

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**Band 2 | Herbert Smith Freehills (firm/9247/7)**

**THE FIRM** This well-regarded team has been strengthened by a number of recent arrivals and promotions. Its most prominent activity is in the IT, internet and media sectors, and it is frequently instructed by global leaders in areas including social media and e-commerce. Commentators identify soft IP litigation and data protection as some of the areas in which the team is most impressive.

**Sources say:** *"Very specialised and extremely dedicated. Excellent litigation expertise."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** Head of practice [Alexandra Néri \(/person/245940/7\)](#) is commended for her experience in data protection, as well as all other aspects of IP. She represents an exceptional portfolio of clients and is described as *"a well-connected expert in French litigation."*

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**Band 2 | Hoyng Monegier LLP (firm/309049/7)**

**THE FIRM** This IP boutique has consistently impressed since its establishment in 2011, and continues to build its profile on the Paris market. The team is best known for its patent work and is instructed by noteworthy players in the pharmaceutical, telecommunications and electronic goods sectors. Sources are also full of praise for the team's trade mark and copyright capacities. Clients include Saint-Gobain, Philips and L'Oréal.

**Sources say:** *"Aside from its excellent legal knowledge, the team is well aware of the business world. The advice is accurate and extremely pragmatic."*

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** Market observers consider [Denis Monégier du Sorbier \(/person/140252/7\)](#) to be one of France's leading IP litigators. He has *"an extremely good reputation in IP"* and is described as a lawyer who offers clients *"deep strategic opinions and a highly commercial approach."*

[Marie George-Picot \(/person/491632/7\)](#) is a soft IP specialist. She is particularly commended for her transactional IP practice.

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**Band 3 | August & Debouzy Avocats (firm/2519/7)**

**THE FIRM** The recent arrival of Grégoire Desrousseaux has significantly bolstered this firm's patent offering, and the IP department houses both experienced litigators and former patent attorneys. The team's soft IP activity ranges from copyright and trade mark through to domain names and IP rights contracts. Clients include Microsoft, Peugeot and Nokia.

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** Interviewees regard [Grégoire Desrousseaux \(/person/312049/7\)](#) as *"a top-level patent litigator,"* drawing attention to his scientific background and experience as a patent attorney. His recent activity includes representing Citroën in a patent infringement dispute.

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**Band 3 | Baker & McKenzie SCP (firm/9061/7)**

**THE FIRM** This team is predominantly recognised for its work in trade marks and copyrights. It handles both advisory and contentious mandates and is particularly strong on cross-border IP disputes. Recent highlights include advising various companies within the LVMH group on international trade mark and domain name issues.

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** The *"knowledgeable and personable"* [Jean-François Bretonnière \(/person/35630/7\)](#) heads the practice. He recently advised Groupe SEB on various matters including anti-counterfeiting litigation and IP acquisitions.

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**Band 3 | Cabinet Escande (firm/3554/7)**

**THE FIRM** This boutique is held in high regard by market commentators for its contentious and non-contentious soft IP work. Sources confirm the visibility of its practitioners, most notably on domestic litigation.

**Sources say:** "Very good in the trade mark and design field."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Michel-Paul Escande \(/person/247347/7\)](#) is the firm's most prominent individual. Interviewees note his abilities as a litigator and his portfolio management activity.

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### Band 3 | Deprez Guignot Associés (/firm/112869/7)

**THE FIRM** This firm's IP department enters the rankings thanks to excellent client feedback. Its focus is on soft IP, and services offered include trade mark prosecution, portfolio management and litigation. The department's cross-border capabilities are augmented by a strong 'best friends' network. The team represents impressive clients in sectors including media, food and luxury goods.

**Sources say:** "Very experienced and able to represent clients all over the world."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Jacques Beaumont \(/person/617684/7\)](#) attracts praise from clients for his "balanced and diplomatic" approach to negotiations, and for his "ability to resolve problems by coming to an acceptable conclusion for all parties involved."

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### Band 3 | DLA Piper UK LLP (/firm/498/7)

**THE FIRM** This firm's Paris office can advise on all aspects of IP. The department includes patent litigation specialists and integrated trade mark prosecution and enforcement services. Clients range from international media groups to major manufacturers.

**Sources say:** "Expertise you can rely on." "Proactive advice."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Jean-Christophe Tristant \(/person/248437/7\)](#) is the team's patent specialist. He is highly commended by interviewees, who say: "His English is perfect, his drafting skills are very good, and he can understand difficult technical issues quickly."

[Laurence Julien-Raes \(/person/312986/7\)](#) leads the trade mark side of the department, as well as heading the firm's Europe, Middle East and Africa trade mark prosecution activity. She is a "smart, helpful and incredibly responsive" lawyer with extensive experience in her field.

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### Band 3 | Féral-Schuhl/Sainte Marie (/firm/126795/7)

**THE FIRM** Sources are highly enthusiastic about the trade mark and copyright capabilities of this well-regarded French firm. It advises a diverse client portfolio which includes publishers, pharmaceutical groups and industry-wide lobbying bodies. Software IP and associated licensing and infringement issues are a particular specialisation.

**Sources say:** "Reactive, available and very attentive to the client's needs."

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** Bruno Grégoire Sainte Marie is the contact for the team.

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### Band 3 | Hirsch & Associés (/firm/129740/7)

**THE FIRM** This IP boutique combines prosecution work with wider legal services on both the hard and soft IP sides. Its patent offering is augmented by the presence in-house of engineers and lawyers with science backgrounds. The team is multilingual and receives instructions from an international client base.

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** [Gérard-Gabriel Lamoureux \(/person/312179/7\)](#) is amongst the firm's most prominent individuals. Sources particularly highlight his trade mark expertise.

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### Band 3 | Jones Day (/firm/8431/7)

**THE FIRM** Whilst this department covers both hard and soft IP, interviewees are most enthusiastic about its trade mark offering. Activity ranges from strategic advice to IP support on major transactions. Litigation is a notable strength, as recently demonstrated by the team's representation of Daikin in a patent infringement dispute.

**KEY INDIVIDUALS** The department's leading practitioner [Emmanuel Baud \(/person/203373/7\)](#) wins high praise from clients. He is described as "a *reactive and creative lawyer whose advice can be relied upon 100%.*"

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#### Other Notable Practitioners

[Anne-Marie Pecoraro \(/person/321292/7\)](#) is one of Aklea's most prominent lawyers. She is best known for her work relating to IP rights in the music industry.

[Emmanuelle Hoffman \(/person/715541/7\)](#) is a well-known partner at IP boutique Cabinet Hoffman, a firm with almost 50 years of activity in this field. She is noted for her contentious and advisory soft IP work.

[Muriel Antoine-Lalance \(/person/312696/7\)](#) of Cabinet AL AVOCAT has an impressive depth of experience in the field. Sources note her frequent visibility on domestic disputes.

[François Greffe \(/person/175606/7\)](#) of six-lawyer boutique Cabinet Greffe is a long-established player on the French scene, and is especially recognised for his expertise in the advertising sector.

The "thorough, responsive and creative" [Denis Schertenleib \(/person/647608/7\)](#) of Cabinet Schertenleib receives glowing client feedback and continues to grow in stature on the French market. Sources particularly highlight his background in science and ability to provide a seamless service to English-speaking clients: "He is qualified in the UK and France and can bridge the gap for someone from an Anglo-Saxon background."

[Marianne Schaffner \(/person/313967/7\)](#) recently moved from Linklaters to the Paris office of Dechert. She is a well-considered patent litigator and represents such high-profile clients as LG, Johnson & Johnson and Saint-Gobain.

[Stefan Naumann \(/person/314264/7\)](#) of Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP has a broad practice encompassing patents, trade marks, copyright, performing rights and domain names. He recently defended Dentsply successfully against a patent cancellation claim.

[Sophie Havard Duclos \(/person/854189/7\)](#) of Laude Esquier Champey enters the rankings thanks to excellent client reviews. She specialises in soft IP and is described as "an efficient litigator who really considers the client."

[Emmanuel Gougé \(/person/755383/7\)](#) heads the newly-formed IP department at Marcuss Partners. He is a "smart, responsive and precise lawyer who packages advice very well." Patent disputes and IP licensing are particular strengths.

[Jean-Frédéric Gaultier \(/person/246080/7\)](#) recently moved from Clifford Chance to Olswang, where he will be establishing the Paris IP practice. He is experienced in both hard and soft IP and has noteworthy activity in the media sector.

[Marina Cousté \(/person/249454/7\)](#) heads the IP department at Reed Smith. Her recent activity includes representing major pharmaceutical groups in patent disputes and advising global industrial companies on their trade mark portfolios.

[Stéphane Colombet \(/person/311365/7\)](#) of Vivien & Associés is a "very impressive copyright lawyer," say interviewees. He assists clients with contentious and non-contentious IP issues and is especially experienced in the new technologies field.

[Nicolas Brault \(/person/203370/7\)](#) is a leading lawyer at boutique firm Watrin Brault Associés. He is well regarded by market sources, and his copyright work on behalf of significant clients is particularly highlighted.

Sources identify [Clara Hainsdorf \(/person/1165583/7\)](#) of White & Case LLP as a particularly promising IP lawyer. She is described as a "creative, rising star who provides very precise, tailored opinions."

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#### CONTACT DETAILS

**Chambers & Partners**  
 39-41 Parker Street  
 London  
 WC2B 5PQ  
 Tel: +44 (020) 7606 8844  
 Fax: +44 (020) 7831 5662

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