

WHO'S WHO LEGAL

WWL

FRANCE 2015

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France remains a frontrunner in the life sciences industry with its innovative work in the area as exemplified by two French scientists receiving the 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. We list 34 practitioners who excel in the areas of regulatory, transactional, patent litigation and product liability work

Specialist patent litigation firm Véron & Associés garners four listings in this chapter. **Pierre Véron** is a “distinguished” patent litigator with “unsurpassed experience”. Clients appreciate his “technical expertise” and “commercial sensitivity”. **Sabine Agé** represents clients in the fields of medical devices, pharmaceuticals and mechanics as well as research organisations in litigations over patent ownership, validity and infringement. **Isabelle Romet** is noted for her patent litigation work in the fields of chemistry, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics; she is a “great orator”. **Thomas Bouvet** is noted for his patent validity and infringement litigation practice. He presents “sensible and well put together arguments”.

Hogan Lovells also achieves four listings. **Cécile Derycke** coordinates the Paris life sciences group and the related life sciences litigation team. She has a “very active” product liability practice defending clients in the life sciences sector. **Thomas Rouhette** is a “talented litigator” specialising in product liability matters with a deep understanding of the pharmaceutical industry. **Mikael Salmela** concentrates on commercial, regulatory and contractual work in the life sciences industry. He provides “strategic advice” and is “greatly respected” by peers. **Dominique Ménard** focuses on patent disputes and his work includes representing a pharma company in a patent and SPC infringement procedure regarding a use claim for treating osteoporosis.

At Dentons, three lawyers are singled out. **Anne-Laure Marcerou** has a transactional practice assisting life sciences companies in their M&A transactions, partnerships and strategic contracts. She is also highly knowledgeable on regulatory issues in the health sector. **Pascale Poupelin** advises leading pharmaceutical companies on compliance and regulatory matters and is also a “source of trusted advice” on manufacturing, distribution,

promotion, sponsoring, research and development, advertising regulations and ethical rules. Senior counsel **François Vignaud** advises on mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures in the life sciences industry as well as on regulatory matters in the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, medical devices and biotechnology sectors.

At Allen & Overy, **Laëtitia Bénard** leads the Paris IP practice and co-heads the life sciences group worldwide. Her “internationally recognised” practice covers regulatory issues, contracts and patents. She is a “rigorous” and “effective” lawyer according to clients. **Pierre Lenoir** is a “font of knowledge” on patent litigation and is also well known for his product liability work on behalf of pharmaceutical clients.

Two practitioners are recommended from Simmons & Simmons. **Jacques-Antoine Robert** acts for pharmaceutical companies in relation to contract law, regulatory matters and disputes involving commercial or liability issues. He has been involved in several high profile product liability cases. **Alexandre Regniault** is a “talented litigator” who represents life sciences companies in product liability, breach of contract, break off or negotiations, comparative advertising and claim recovery matters. In addition, he is “well versed” in negotiating licences and transactions.

PDG Avocats’ **Paule Drouault-Gardrat** specialises in contentious and non-contentious regulatory and compliance, IP and product liability matters. She has a “unique insight” into the pharmaceutical sector.

Olivier Fréget at Fréget – Tasso de Panafieu provides a “high quality client service” specialising in competition law and regulation matters affecting clients in the life sciences sectors.

Intuity is a life sciences-focused firm founded by **Christophe Henin**. An “industry expert” he advises on competition, distribution, regulatory,

product liability and dispute resolution matters.

Dechert’s Paris managing partner **Alain Decombe** is a “notable figure” in the life sciences legal marketplace advising on transactions and complex deals. He is a “great negotiator” and “astute lawyer”.

Christian Bouckaert of Bouckaert Ormen Passemard – BOPS is “famous” for his product liability defence work and remains a “revered practitioner” in the field.

Reed Smith’s **Marina Cousté** is an IP litigator representing clients in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. Her advice is “tailored to clients’ needs” and “delivered in a timely manner”.

Bernard Geneste at CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre is recommended for his expertise in life sciences regulatory matters.

Managing partner of Hoyng Monegier’s Paris office **Denis Monégier du Sorbier** handles patent litigation and unfair competition matters. His clients include multinational and national companies in the food, medical equipment and life sciences sectors.

At his own firm **Denis Schertenleib** is dual qualified to practice in France, and England and Wales. His broad practice encompasses patent litigation, technology licensing, competition law and regulatory matters in the pharmaceutical field.

August & Debouzy’s **Grégoire Desrousseaux** specialises in patent litigation and is a “seasoned advocate”.

Emmanuelle Trombe at McDermott Will & Emery advises on commercial matters relating to the pharmaceutical, medical device and healthcare industries. Her work has included acquisitions and divestitures, outsourcing projects, product development, regulatory matters and licensing agreements.

Vigüé Schmidt’s **Etienne Gousse** specialises in pharmaceutical and liability matters and is “top ranked” by peers.

Olivier Lantrès heads the life sciences team in Fieldfisher’s Paris office.



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Admitted to the Paris Bar in 1994, Sabine Agé has been exclusively dedicated to patent litigation since she became a partner of Véron & Associés at the creation of the firm in 2001.

Véron & Associés is a law firm of 14 lawyers, assisted by two scientific consultants, an economic litigation consultant, a graphic designer and translators, dealing exclusively with patent litigation for French and international clients.

Sabine handles standard related cases in the multimedia systems and telecommunications fields and has acted in particular on behalf of an international telecommunications manufacturer for the French part of worldwide cross-border patent litigations. She is also active in cases relating to pharmaceuticals, chemicals and medical instruments as well as household appliances and consumer goods, for international and domestic industry-based clients as well as research organisations. She deals with legal issues extending from contractual disputes, patent ownership (and co-ownership) to validity and infringement.

Sabine lectures on patent litigation at the International Centre of Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI) in Strasbourg and at the universities of Lyon and Montpellier, in addition to her speaking engagements for conferences.

Sabine Agé is an active member of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) and secretary to the European Patent Lawyers Association (EPLAW). She is also a member of IPO and AIPLA through Véron & Associés.

Véron & Associés maintains close relationship with top-tier independent law firms in other jurisdictions, which can handle parallel proceedings in multi-jurisdictional cases.

She is co-author of *Saisie-contrefaçon*, published by the leading French publisher Dalloz and edited by Pierre Véron (third edition, 2012).



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Christian is the senior partner of the law firm Bouckaert Ormen Passemard, widely known as BOPS. Christian was admitted to the Paris bar in 1975 and has considerable experience of commercial disputes, in particular for insurance, reinsurance and liability matters. Before founding Cabinet BOPS, Christian was the head of Norton Rose's international litigation and arbitration practice in Paris.

Christian has in-depth industry-specific knowledge in the areas of insurance; aviation; banking; construction; industrial risks; pharmaceutical liability and product liability. He is used to handling large-scale and complex matters and mass litigation (especially in aviation, pharmaceutical liability and product liability).

Christian Bouckaert has also developed specific expertise of arbitration proceedings, both as counsel and arbitrator. He is a member of the board of the American Arbitration Association and a member of the ICC Commission on arbitration. He has been a member of the board of directors of a reinsurance company.

Chambers describes Christian as a "long-standing specialist and extremely respected lawyer" who is "universally acclaimed for his dexterity in negotiations". It adds that he is "described as one of the most respected figures in the French legal landscape" and merits "an A-plus for tremendous work, concluded in a timely fashion". The guide adds, "His peers sing his praises as a 'delightful human being'."

A leading French legal guide has ranked Christian as one of the 22 "leading strategists" of the Paris bar for four years in a row. When it comes to insurance matters, he is described as "an undisputable master in the area".

Christian has spoken at numerous conferences related to business litigation, has been a member of the editorial board of the *Air & Space Law Journal* and of the journal of the AIDA Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Society, and has extensively published in topics of interest to the business community.



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Thomas Bouvet obtained an LLM in the USA and is a doctor-at-law. Admitted to the Bar in 1996, he specialised in intellectual property law and dedicates himself exclusively to patent litigation since he became a partner of Véron & Associés, at the creation of the firm in 2001.

Véron & Associés is a law firm of 14 lawyers, two scientific consultants (a professor of physics and chemistry and a doctor of pharmacy), an economic consultant, a graphic designer and translators, dealing exclusively with patent litigation for French and international clients.

Thomas handles patent validity and infringement disputes in most technical fields, notably electronics, telecommunications, media, mechanics, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, medical products and biotechnologies. He advised several pharmaceutical companies and a major French public medical research institute in patent entitlement cases, in actions of compensation for employees' inventions and advises companies setting up appropriate policies in this respect. Thomas handled plant breeder's rights litigation, including before the CPVO. He also handles trade secrets litigation.

Thomas lectures on patent litigation. He is a member of AIPPI (a member of the programme committee and co-chair of the standing committee on biotechnology and plant breeders' rights), GRAPI (currently president), and EPLAW. He is also an administrator of Centre Paul Roubier. The firm is a member of IPO and AIPLA.

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Bernard Geneste, partner, joined CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre in 2002 and was the co-manager of the European and competition law department from 2002 to 2005.

He is a former manager of the European and competition law department of Landwell (1996–2002), and was a partner from 2000. He was legal director of the French Council of the Ile-de-France region (1995–1996); legal secretary of the Court of First Instance of the European Union (1991–1995); and committee chairman of the French Competition Council (1986–1990). He also reached several positions of responsibility in French jurisdiction: he was adviser of the Administrative Court of Paris (the French court dealing with public law matters) from 1990 to 1991 and adviser of the Tribunal Administratif de Versailles (First Instance) from 1991 to 1988.

Bernard specialises in the pharmaceutical sector; his practice area covers regulatory, public and economic affairs, competition (mainly in the hospital sector), and pharmaceutical taxes. His clients include French subsidiaries of major international groups and professional representation bodies.

His practice covers the whole field of competition law at national and EU levels. He has particular experience in relation to state aid. In addition, his career path has given him an excellent command of EU law as well as a wide experience of French and EU competition bodies. He advises comments and litigates in the following scopes of activity: industry and commerce regulations, especially in the pharmaceutical field (contact with pharmaceutical authorities, advice and litigation for companies in pharmaceutical and medical devices sector (regulatory), interpretation of national and/or European provisions); European law; public law; and European litigation (before national and European courts)

After obtaining his Master of Arts degree in 1972, Bernard graduated from the University Schools of Management in Nancy (IAE) with an MBA in 1974. He has written several books and articles in his areas of expertise and teaches at the Universities of Paris II – Assas and Paris IX – Dauphine. A native French speaker, he is fluent in English.



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Isabelle Romet is entirely dedicated to patent litigation, as are the 13 other lawyers of the firm. Admitted to the Bar in 1988, she began working with Pierre Véron immediately afterwards. She is a co-founder of the firm Véron & Associés in 2001, with Pierre Véron, Thomas Bouvet and Sabine Agé.

Her practice focuses on patent validity and infringement in most technical areas, especially in complex technological fields and in an international context. A team player, she points out the importance of the firm's scientific consultants who assist the lawyers to build a strong technical reasoning and design the best visual aids with the in-house graphic designer. The economic litigation consultant allows the clients to assess the financial stakes of the case at all stages.

She has handled landmark cases relating to cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, ophthalmology, nanotechnology, diagnosis, genetically modified plants and veterinary products. Her expertise in pharmaceutical patents goes with a focus on supplementary protection certificates. Green technologies are a growing activity. She remains active in mechanics, electricity and electronics.

Convinced by the interest of alternative dispute resolution, she participated in mediations and negotiations that led to major settlements.

She lectures on patent litigation at Sciences Po, Paris, various intellectual property centres (such as Centre Paul Roubier), international conferences and private seminars. She is a member of AIPPI, EPLAW, LES and, through Véron & Associés, IPO and AIPLA. She is a co-author of the book *Saisie-Contrefaçon*, published by leading French publisher Dalloz and edited by Pierre Véron (third edition, 2012).



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Pierre Véron is a member of the Paris Bar.

His 14-lawyer firm, with offices in Paris and Lyon, deals solely in patent litigation, with a special emphasis on international cases. Between 2006 and 2015 it was named 7 times French Law Firm of the Year at the Managing Intellectual Property Awards; it obtained the Décideurs Award for the Best Intellectual Property Law Practice in France in 2003, 2007, 2009 and 2014.

Pierre Véron is the honorary president of the European Patent Lawyers Association (EPLAW), which he founded in 2001 and of the French association of patent litigators. He has taught European patent litigation at the International Centre of Industrial Property Studies (CEIPI) in Strasbourg. Between 2007 and 2012 he served as an expert with the European Commission for the creation of the Unified Patent Court in Europe. He has then been a member of the drafting committee of the Rules of Procedure of this court. He now serves as an expert in the Expert panel advising the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent court.

Pierre Véron is the editor of *Saisie-Contrefaçon*, from the leading French publisher Dalloz (third edition, 2012), and *Concise International and European Intellectual Property Law*, published by Kluwer Law International (third edition, 2014). He is also the author of more than 70 other publications on patent litigation.

A former president of an arbitration centre and a former associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, he has been involved in several arbitration proceedings, either as counsel, arbitrator or chairman of the arbitration panel.

Véron & Associés maintains a statistical study on patent litigation in France. The latest report concerns the years 2000 to 2009, and follows on from a previous study spanning the years 1990 to 1999. Both can be found on the firm's website.

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PATENTS

The introduction of the unified patent and the unified patent court looks set to take place during the course of 2015, with sources indicating that this could lead to a concentration of patent litigation in the jurisdictions in which the central court of first instance will be based (France, the UK and Germany). Our research identifies 23 leading lawyers in the field.

Véron & Associés is once again the leading firm in this sector with four lawyers selected for inclusion this year. **Pierre Véron** is a “true leader in the field” and is recognised as a “first-class” patent litigator. **Isabelle Romet** is an “expert” in cases involving the chemistry, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. The “talented” **Thomas Bouvet** focuses his practice on patent validity and infringement litigation and possesses “incredible capabilities” according to our sources. **Sabine Agé** provides “outstanding support” to clients in the telecommunications and medical devices sectors, as well as to research organisations. Her expertise covers patent ownership, validity and infringement.

Two individuals from Allen & Overy are selected this year, including the “brilliant” **Pierre Lenoir**. His wide-ranging practice encompasses both transactional and litigious matters and clients praise his “pragmatism and efficiency”. **Laëtitia Bénard** heads the Paris IP group and advises on contentious, non-contentious and regulatory matters. She is commended for her “astute legal mind” and “impressive knowledge” of the sector.

August & Debouzy also has two listings in this chapter. **Grégoire Desrousseaux** acts for French and foreign clients in connection with their patent-related issues and is “greatly respected” by his peers. **François Pochart** is the “go-to guy” for regulatory issues and matters related to supplementary protection certificates.

Grégoire Triet at Gide Loyrette Nouel is “well reputed” for his contentious work and works extensively in the drug patent field.

At his own firm **Denis Schertenleib** specialises in litigation and regulatory law in the pharmaceutical field. He is noted for his “exceptional courtroom skills”.

Denis Monégier du Sorbier at Hoyng Monegier is a “client favourite” thanks to his experience in all types of IP cases both national and cross-border. His recent experience includes successfully acting for a telephone operator in two major litigations relating to a patent infringement.

At Duclos Thorne Mollet-Viéville & associés, **Thierry Mollet-Vieville** is acknowledged as a “leading light” thanks to his decades of experience in IP law.

Hirsch & Associés’ **Marc-Roger Hirsch** is in “high demand” for his “remarkable skills” in the patent field.

Marina Cousté at Reed Smith enjoys a “great reputation” in the market and has a wealth of experience in the area of high tech patents.

Linklaters’ **Pauline Debré** heads the office’s IP/TMT practice and has garnered praise for her “phenomenal” work. Her practice focuses on national and cross-border patent litigation in the life sciences and telecommunications industries.

Marianne Schaffner at Dechert is an “excellent strategist” who provides “sound advice” on national and pan-European litigation in sectors including healthcare and electronics.

At Hogan Lovells, **Dominique**

Ménard handles complex multi-jurisdictional patent disputes and is seen as a “major player” in the market. His representative experience includes assisting one of the world’s leading petrol, gas and chemicals multinationals for its patent related matters.

Dariusz Szleper at Szleper Henry Avocats is a “high quality” advocate who handles matters involving infringement, temporary injunction proceedings and employee inventions. He possesses “finely tuned skills” and a “sharp mind” according to our sources.

Bardehle Pagenberg’s **Julien Fréneaux** represents French and international corporate clients in patent infringement and nullity cases. With his “quick grasp of complex issues”, he comes highly recommended this year.

Cyra Nargolwalla at Cabinet Plasseraud is “highly proficient” in litigious and due diligence matters, and is noted for her “solutions-oriented approach”.

Jacques Armengaud is a “leading light” at Armengaud Guerlain. He receives recognition for his “specialist knowledge” and “great client service”.

Cousin & Associés’ **Pierre Cousin** is another “influential figure” in the French patent litigation market and receives widespread praise for his “global approach”.

Alexandra Neri at Herbert Smith Freehills is a “trusted adviser” to a number of multinational companies and is an “absolute pleasure to work with” according to clients and peers.



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Thomas Bouvet obtained an LLM in the USA and is a doctor-at-law. Admitted to the Bar in 1996, he specialised in intellectual property law and dedicates himself exclusively to patent litigation since he became a partner of Véron & Associés, at the creation of the firm in 2001.

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The practice of Julien Fréneaux, Dipl CEIPI Brevets, DESS, Sciences-Po, comprises advice and litigation in all matters of intellectual property, with an emphasis on patent infringement and validity litigation before the French courts, as well as trademark, design and unfair competition matters, licensing, technology transfer agreements and IP-related contracts.

The cases that Julien Fréneaux handles regularly involve coordination with teams of lawyers from other jurisdictions as well as with parallel litigation proceedings in different countries in a complex international litigation framework. He represents international as well as French corporate clients in patent infringement and nullity cases before the various French courts.

Julien Fréneaux has managed many multinational patent conflicts concerning technologies such as medical devices, sports equipments and mechanical engineering. He also handles a number of fashion design infringement cases. Julien Fréneaux has published a number of articles on various IP topics.

He is admitted to the Paris Bar and heads the Paris office of Bardehle Pagenberg.



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His 14-lawyer firm, with offices in Paris and Lyon, deals solely in patent litigation, with a special emphasis on international cases. Between 2006 and 2015 it was named 7 times French Law Firm of the Year at the Managing Intellectual Property Awards; it obtained the Décideurs Award for the Best Intellectual Property Law Practice in France in 2003, 2007, 2009 and 2014.

Pierre Véron is the honorary president of the European Patent Lawyers Association (EPLAW), which he founded in 2001 and of the French association of patent litigators. He has taught European patent litigation at the International Centre of Industrial Property Studies (CEIPI) in Strasbourg. Between 2007 and 2012 he served as an expert with the European Commission for the creation of the Unified Patent Court in Europe. He has then been a member of the drafting committee of the Rules of Procedure of this court. He now serves as an expert in the Expert panel advising the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent court.

Pierre Véron is the editor of *Saisie-Contrefaçon*, from the leading French publisher Dalloz (third edition, 2012), and *Concise International and European Intellectual Property Law*, published by Kluwer Law International (third edition, 2014). He is also the author of more than 70 other publications on patent litigation.

A former president of an arbitration centre and a former associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, he has been involved in several arbitration proceedings, either as counsel, arbitrator or chairman of the arbitration panel.

Véron & Associés maintains a statistical study on patent litigation in France. The latest report concerns the years 2000 to 2009, and follows on from a previous study spanning the years 1990 to 1999. Both can be found on the firm's website.

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