

WHO'S WHO LEGAL

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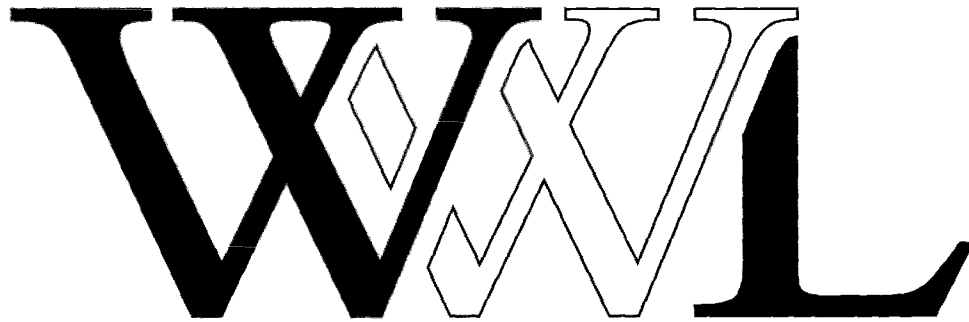
LIFE SCIENCES 2015

PATENT LITIGATION

PRODUCT LIABILITY

REGULATORY

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PATENT LITIGATION

## FINLAND



## ELLA MIKKOLA

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Ella is highly acclaimed by rivals and clients.

Ella is head of the intellectual property group and life sciences group in Finland.

She has gained extensive experience in intellectual property (IP) and life sciences law, including various contractual and litigation matters as well as regulatory proceedings concerning pricing and reimbursement of pharmaceuticals.

In addition to her Finnish law degree from the University of Turku in 1995, Ella has a US master's degree (LLM) in intellectual property law from the George Washington University Law School where she studied as a Fulbright Scholar in 1997–98.

Apart from working at law firms since 2001 Ella has also experience as a university lecturer and researcher focusing on patenting of biotechnological inventions and as a lobbyist for the Finnish industry.

Ella has served as a member of the national Copyright Council and Employee Inventions Board. She has also participated in legislative work as a member of legislative committees reforming the Design Act and Trademark Act in Finland.

Ella has been acknowledged as one of the leading intellectual property law practitioners in Finland in the most notable international directories (*Chambers and Partners* and *The Legal 500: EMEA and Best Lawyers*).

She has served as chairman of the board of the Finnish Association for Industrial Property Rights (2012–2014) and has served as board member in other IP associations as well, including the Finnish AIPPI Group and Finnish Information Technology Law Society.

*Chambers Global* (2014; intellectual property section) describes Ella as “respected in the market for her expertise”. *LAM Patent* (2014) says “Ella Mikkola provides strong leadership to the IP and life sciences divisions”, adding that she is “excellent in all respects, her background work is thorough and she always comes prepared.”

## FRANCE



## SABINE AGÉ

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Admitted to the Paris Bar in 1994, Sabine Agé has been dedicating herself exclusively 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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Yves is renowned for his extensive experience in patent litigation.

Yves is the partner who leads Bird & Bird's intellectual property group in France. He is based in the Paris office.

With more than 25 years' experience in IP, Yves has extensive experience in litigation. He has dealt with some of the most significant, cross-border, patent cases in the fields of pharmaceuticals, electronics, telecommunications and mechanics.

Yves also led the establishment of the Lyon office in 2006, making Bird & Bird the first Anglo-Saxon law firm to practise in Lyon.

Before joining Bird & Bird, Yves was an IP partner at Lamy Véron & Associés.

He is a professor at CEIPI (Strasbourg), a lecturer at Centre Paul Roubier and regularly teaches at Montpellier Law University.

Yves is a member of many professional organisations such as APEB, EPLAW, APRAM, GRAPI and AAPI, where he is president of honour of the AIPPI French Group and was previously vice president of the AAPI.

*Chambers Global* (2013) comments, “Yves Bizollon wins praise from commenters for his patent litigation prowess”, while *The Legal 500: EMEA* (2013) comments, “Yves Bizollon gives ‘clear and proactive advice based on legal knowledge and sound business understanding”.

Sources says he is “one of the best patent lawyers in Paris” (*Chambers Europe* (2014)).



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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 has dedicated himself to patent litigation since becoming partner of Véron & Associés, at the founding of the firm in 2001.

Véron & Associés is a law firm of 14 lawyers, two scientific consultants, 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 the fields of electronics, telecommunications, mechanics, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, media and biotechnologies. He has extensive experience in patent entitlement cases and in matters relating to the violation of trade secrets. He defends employers in actions of compensation for employees' inventions and advises companies setting up appropriate policies in this respect. Thomas handled many actions for infringement of plant breeder's rights and represents clients before the CPVO. He arranged several customs actions.

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

Thomas is the author of a doctoral thesis titled "The Legal Protection of Vegetal Innovation" and co-author of *Saisie-Contrefaçon* (published by leading French publisher Dalloz; third edition, 2012) and *Droit et Pratique des Voies d'Exécution* (published in the Dalloz Action series, 2013–2014). He contributed to *Global Patent Litigation: How and Where to Win*, published by Bloomberg BNA (2014).



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Isabelle Romet is entirely dedicated to patent litigation, as are the 14 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 a mediation that led to a major settlement indemnity and favours negotiations.

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, AAPI, 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. It won the 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Managing Intellectual Property Award for the French Law Firm of the Year and the 2003, 2007, 2009 and 2014 Décideurs Award for the Best Intellectual Property Law Practice in France.

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*, published by leading French publisher Dalloz (third edition, 2012), and of *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.

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