She has served as board member in other IP associations as well, including the Finnish AIPPI Group and Finnish Information Technology Law Society.

The *I AM Patent 1000 (2015)* says: "At the helm is life sciences doyenne Ella Mikkola. Quick-witted and perspicacious, the celebrated partner and former Fulbright scholar brings adjunct expertise in copyright and M&A to her well-rounded practice."

*Chambers Europe (2015)* says: "Ella Mikkola leads the firm’s IP and life sciences teams. She covers patent, trademark and media-related copyright, and is praised by sources as a 'skilful and experienced lawyer'."

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 12 lawyers, assisted by a scientific consultant, 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 on behalf of international telecommunications manufacturers 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 of 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.


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Yves is renowned for his extensive experience in patent litigation.

Yves is the partner who leads the firm’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 the firm, Yves was an IP partner at Lamy Véron & Associés.

He is a professor at CEIPI (Strasbourg) and 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. He was previously vice president of the AAPI.

*LAM Patent 1000 (2015)* says: "Group leader Yves Bizollon benefits from over a quarter-century’s worth of contentious experience. He shines on multi-jurisdictional disputes and has spearheaded terrific growth in the department."

*Chambers Global (2015)* says: "He is a very intelligent and bright lawyer and very quick – even in complicated technical cases he understands everything immediately."

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**EDITORIAL POLICY AND SELECTION CRITERIA:** Nominees have been selected based upon comprehensive, independent survey work with both general counsel and business lawyers in private practice worldwide. Only those who have met independent international research criteria are listed.
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 12 lawyers, a scientific consultant, an economic litigation 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. 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 breeders’ rights and represents clients before the CPVO. Thomas handled many actions for infringement of plant breeders’ rights and represents clients before the CPVO. He obtained a number of pioneering decisions about trade secret misappropriation.

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 (former president), and EPLAW, and an administrator of Centre Paul Rouzier. Thomas 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 Saisies-Contrefaçon, trilingual version, edited by Pierre Véron (2015), and Droit et Pratique des Vôtes d'Exécution (published in the Dalloz Action series, 2013–2014). Thomas is a member of AIPPI, EPLAW, AAIP, LES and, through Véron & Associés, IPO and AIPLO. He is also a member of the AIPPI, EPLAW, AAIP, LES and, through Véron & Associés, IPO and AIPLO. He is also a member of the author of more than 70 other publications on patent litigation.

Isabelle Romet is entirely dedicated to patent litigation, as are the 12 lawyers at 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. Team player, she points out the importance of the firm’s scientific consultant who assists the lawyers to build a strong technical reasoning and design the best visual aids with the in-house graphic designer. The economic litigation counsel 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 develops mediation in addition to negotiations.

She lectures on patent litigation at Sciences Po, Paris; various intellectual property centres (such as Centre Paul Rouzier); international conferences; and private seminars. She is a member of AIPPI, EPLAW, AAIP, LES and, through Véron & Associés, IPO and AIPLO. She is also a member of the book Saisies-Contrefaçon, trilingual version, edited by Pierre Véron (2015). She contributed to the book Patent Enforcement Worldwide, published by Hart Publishing (2015).
Alex Wilson, partner, has an international practice, acting mainly in multi-jurisdictional IP matters. He regularly advises clients on Europe-wide patent enforcement and defensive strategies and coordinates their implementation. He has experience of arbitrations under International Chamber of Commerce and specific national rules.

Alex's background in the life sciences (BSc, biochemistry) makes him ideally placed to handle matters in the medical devices, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors. He also has a wealth of experience in telecommunications and electronics disputes involving standardised and implementation technologies. His fluency in French and German has allowed him to spend time working in leading law firms in Paris and Düsseldorf. He has also practised as a solicitor in Australia and as an examiner at the European Patent Office for a number of years.

He regularly supports and attends proceedings before the German Courts and is a recognised foreign expert in the German system (Chambers Global). He has also practised as a solicitor in Australia and as an examiner at the European Patent Office for a number of years. Alex has been a partner at Powell Gilbert since 2007. He is a member of AIPI, EPLAW, GRUR, and VPP. He regularly lectures on intellectual property matters at conferences and is the author of numerous articles on this subject.

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Admitted to the Paris Bar in 1994, Sabine Agé gained experience in the various intellectual property fields (patents, trademarks, designs), before dedicating herself exclusively to patent litigation when 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 on behalf of an international telecommunications manufacturer for the French part of a worldwide cross-border patent litigation. She is also active in cases relating to pharmaceuticals, chemicals and medical instruments, 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.

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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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The practice of Julien Fréneaux, Dipl CEIPI, Brevets, DSS, Sciences-Po, comprises advice and litigation in all matters of intellectual property, in particular 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.

Recommendations include *Leaders League, 2011*, and *The International Who's Who of Patents Lawyers, 2011*, where he was described as “top-drawer”.

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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 *Saitie-Contrefaçon*, published by leading French publisher Dalloz and edited by Pierre Véron (third edition, 2012).
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.


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.

Klaus Haft has worked as a physicist (holding a diploma degree) since 1997 and an attorney since 2002. He advises on patent infringement litigation and subsequent litigation regarding damages, as well as licences, in the entire area of intellectual property law, with a specialism in patents. His particular focus is on standards, electronics, software, optics, electricity and general mechanics.

Klaus Haft studied in Würzburg and Munich. He completed his diploma thesis in 1997 as a member of the Spin Muon Collaboration at the European Centre for Particle Physics at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1996, in parallel to his physics studies, he started specialising in intellectual property law (particularly patent law). Klaus Haft is visiting lecturer at Maastricht University and at Hagen Law School.

Tobias Hahn has been an attorney since 2004 and a partner at the firm since 2011. He advises German and international clients in all matters of intellectual property, and specialises in national and international patent litigation as well as subsequent proceedings for damages. He particularly concentrates on the telecommunications, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, automotive and mechanics sectors.

His practice has a key focus on infringement proceedings on standard-relevant patents, in which capacity Tobias advises and represents several international telecommunication companies regarding FRAND and antitrust defences. He further represents clients in opposition, revocation and nullity proceedings before the German and European Patent Office, the German Patent Court and the Federal Supreme Court. Moreover, he drafts and negotiates patent and copyright licence agreements, R&D contracts, software and know-how agreements.

After studying at the Universities of Heidelberg (Germany) and Leeds (UK) he has specialised in intellectual property law. During his legal clerkship he continued this specialisation, working for several international law firms. His PhD, obtained from the Free University of Berlin, dealt with the liability of companies for acts of unfair competition by third parties.

Tobias Hahn publishes regularly on current issues of intellectual property law and is a speaker at conferences on patent law and licensing. Furthermore, he is visiting lecturer at Hagen Law School.
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