

Patent attorney practice

OLSWANG



Our patent attorney practice

“The Firm is commercially savvy and focuses on IP as part of a client’s overall business strategy. The individuals are on the ball and technically proficient with it.”

Chambers and Partners 2009

A true “one stop shop” for patent protection and enforcement, Olswang is unique among major UK law firms as it comprises both solicitors and patent attorneys.

Our team includes specialists in mobile, wireless and optical communications, software engineering, electronics, mechanical engineering and the life sciences, including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and diagnostics. We are able to handle all technical subject matter. The vast majority of our attorneys have worked in-house in the industries in which they specialise. The patent attorney team forms an integral part of Olswang’s “sector based” approach to legal services.

Olswang offers a full range of patent attorney services, including drafting and prosecution of EP and UK patent applications, oppositions and appeals before the European Patent Office, analysis of patent portfolios, due diligence analysis and advice on the strategic management and optimisation of existing portfolios.

Advantages of the combined practice

A combined patent attorney and solicitor practice provides IP management efficiencies in cost and time and provides a platform for a greater quality of work. Advantages include:

- One firm, one team for all your IP matters: reduced management and cost of outside counsel;
- The potential for volume discounts across all IP work;
- Clear demarcation of outside counsel responsibility: no gaps between lawyers and patent attorney firms;
- Patent attorneys working with litigators to produce “litigation ready” patents; litigators working with patent attorneys to gain an expert understanding of UK, IPO and EPO practice;
- Patent attorney and solicitor teams cooperating to identify and obtain access to relevant third party IP (where necessary), with a full appreciation of the commercially important aspects of the technology and IP constraints;
- Up to date legal precedents for the management and transfer of IP; and
- Reduced time in transaction management: talking off the clock, cooperation not competition between patent attorneys and solicitors.

Our clients

Our patent clients include **Microsoft** and **Cambridge Silicon Radio**, for whom we draft and prosecute patent applications originating from their UK and European research facilities. In the materials and engineering sector we advise **Alcoa** on management of their European portfolio and IP strategy. Our life science clients include **GlaxoSmithKline**, **Vectura** and the **Wellcome Trust**, whom we support for patent drafting, prosecution and opposition/appeal work at the European Patent Office.

Our integrated IP offering

Our patent attorneys work within an IP team of 45 solicitors, trade mark attorneys and paralegals, allowing our IP team to offer a full range of IP advice covering litigation, transactional, corporate and brand/product management. Olswang is the only UK law firm to offer this fully integrated practice. Olswang's IP practice forms a part of the Technology, Media and Telecommunications ("TMT") team and we are proud to have been awarded TMT Team of the Year 2009 (UK Legal Business), for the second year running.



IP litigation

Our patent attorneys work with our patent litigators in a unified patent litigation team whose combined resources, including an in-house barrister, ensure that all possible tactics in litigation can be deployed, such as parallel proceedings before National Courts and the European Patent Office. Our IP litigators also have expertise in copyright, design rights and breach of trust/confidence actions. Our clients include **eBay** and **Boston Scientific**.

Brand management

Patent applications are only one part of a comprehensive intellectual property strategy. Our IP team contains specialists in trade mark prosecution and litigation, registered and unregistered design protection and copyright. We advise our clients on brand strategy, including, new brand launches, company name changes, domain name issues, international expansion plans, franchising, licensing, technology development and collaboration, and intra-group restructuring. Our clients include **Sky** (trademarks), **ITV** (trademarks) and **Xerox** (registered design protection).

Patent attorney practice

Transactional

Olswang were one of the first UK firms to have a sector focus consolidating their teams by industry knowledge. We combine the skills of our commercial IP lawyers with our UK and European patent attorneys to maximise the commercial value of our clients' transactions by presenting a unified team. Patent landscaping, freedom to operate analysis, licensing and other transactional matters all benefit from this combined approach of transactional lawyers and patent attorneys and this differentiating factor has led to Olswang advising on many significant and leading IP transactions for clients in its sectors. Our clients include **Vectura** and **Skype**.

Corporate

Olswang's corporate group regularly advises on technology driven transactions. The corporate team work closely with IP lawyers and patent attorneys who advise on the commercial effects key IP may have on a corporate transaction, as well as carrying out both general due diligence investigations and IP specific reviews for technology deals. The capability of Olswang's patent attorney practice means we can offer clients an early assessment of key IP drivers before they get too far down the track of a corporate transaction. Recent deals include advising **MVM Life Science Partners** on its investment in **Heptares** and its investment by way of a spin out in **Vantia Therapeutics**.

Key Contacts

Senior attorneys in our key technology areas.

Biotechnology



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Thought leadership

Olswang staff regularly contribute to a number of weblogs and events covering a wide range of IP topics including:

PatLit: The only European weblog dedicated totally to patent litigation and dispute resolution.
www.patlit.blogspot.com

Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC): Members of our Life Sciences sector team and our patent attorneys have worked together to set up and run a blog which now has over 500 subscribers.
www.thespcblogger.blogspot.com

IPKat: Dr Jeremy Phillips is a consultant to Olswang and founder of IPKat www.ipkat.com, the most popular IP blog in the world.
www.ipkat.com

IP Finance: A weblog fusing together a cohort of financial expertise in a diverse range of financial fields.
www.ipfinance.blogspot.com

Annual IP review of the year: Olswang hold an Annual IP Review of the year to bring the industry up to date with all of the developments in the past 12 months in all aspects of IP.