

Overall, the French patent litigation market appears stable, with some commentators reporting a slight uptick in contentious activity. With the proposed Central Division of the Unified Patent Court to be seated in Paris, there is a real measure of confidence in its prospects for the future; it is hoped that French *avocats* will be able to steal some of the limelight away from their Germany counterparts, who have traditionally enjoyed the lion's share of patent scuffles on European turf. Traditional domestic boutiques still dominate the conflicts scene, although international players have made some convincing incursions over the last decade. Those with patent protection needs are well served by the French market, which includes some of Europe's best-known attorney firms.

Allen & Overy LLP

Allen & Overy is a regular fixture in mission-critical patent battles in the French courts. It is currently representing Samsung in its worldwide smartphone and tablet technology war against Apple. High-profile assignments also flood in from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, in which it is widely tipped for its deft handling of cutting-edge science: in one recent example it acted for long-time client Novartis in an infringement suit against MedImmune concerning a patent covering a method of producing particles displaying antibody molecules. Unanimously hailed as a "leading light in France", gold-rated **Laëtitia Bénard** "manages her team well and consistently operates at the highest level". She takes the lead on cases, but draws invaluable support from newly minted partner **David Por**, an authority on the intersection of IP and competition law. Senior counsel **Pierre Lenoir** shares his inestimable wisdom with the team.

August & Debouzy

Dual strength in patent litigation and opposition work (usually the preserve of prosecution-focused attorney firms) is a killer USP for dynamic business law ensemble August & Debouzy. Actions on the pharmaceutical side, where it represents Teva, and in the telecommunications sphere, where Ericsson is a key client, have kept the unit busy lately. It is home to some of the country's most technically sophisticated practitioners, and several of its lawyers – including helmsmen **Grégoire Desrousseaux** and **François Pochart** – are also qualified as European patent attorneys. Listed in the gold tier, Desrousseaux is extolled by sources across the continent as a "skilled litigator with exemplary technical prowess". A doyen of the life sciences field, Pochart

Firms: litigation

Allen & Overy LLP

Véron & Associés

August & Debouzy

Bird & Bird AARPI

Cabinet Armengaud & Guerlain

Cousin & Associés

Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Vieville & Associés

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Hogan Lovells International LLP

Hoyng Monegier AARPI

Casalonga Avocats

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Dentons

Jones Day

LAV OIX

Reed Smith LLP

impresses for his "deep sector knowledge" and "premier trial skills".

Bird & Bird AARPI

Seamless coordination of lawyers and technical experts across its sweeping international

Firms: transactions

Recommended

Allen & Overy LLP

August & Debouzy

Bird & Bird AARPI

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Dentons

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Jones Day

LAV OIX

Marks & Clerk France See p22

White & Case

network is a hallmark of distinction for Bird & Bird. The Paris unit, augmented by key strategic hires in 2013, is a central cog in its European and global patent practice, and its stock is rising as the advent of the unified patent regime looms large. Do-or-die patent litigation is the order of the day for France IP group leader **Yves Bizollon**, a 25-year veteran of major cross-border battles with pharmaceutical and high-technology inventions at their core. **Anne-Charlotte Le Bihan** joined in early 2013. She has diverse IP experience, but demonstrates a particular flair for patent litigation.

Cabinet Armengaud & Guerlain

The compact yet powerful three-partner team at IP specialist Armengaud & Guerlain stands out for its persuasive performances in patent litigation. By aligning itself as a key commercial ally to rights holders and providing an attentive, partner-led and cost-effective service, the team has forged deep and long-lasting relationships, particularly with international companies. **Jacques Armengaud** is the group's headline advocate.

Cabinet Beau de Loménie

While the market-leading trademark group at Cabinet Beau de Loménie may win most of the

Firms: prosecution

Recommended

Cabinet Beau de Loménie

Cabinet Plasseraud

Casalonga & Associés

Germain & Maureau

LAV OIX

Marks & Clerk France See p22

REGIMBEAU

Santarelli See p548

headlines, behind the scenes its team of patent attorneys, technical experts and lawyers works tirelessly to secure broad-scope patent protection for clients' keystone inventions. Patent procurement and rights management are fortes, though the group also provides sage strategic advice as well as rights commercialisation and defence services. At the helm for 25 years, patent specialist **Jean-Jacques Joly** is a stellar name among French and European patent attorneys.

Cabinet Plasseraud

One of the largest patent attorney outfits in the country, Cabinet Plasseraud earns widespread acclaim from leading *avocats* for its precision drafting and adroit manoeuvring of files through European, US and Asian patent offices. Its dedicated search department represents a key commercial advantage; in concert with a sizeable squad of patent attorneys, it delivers patentability, validity and freedom-to-operate opinions. Assistance on litigation briefs is another specialty. All technical disciplines are covered by this accomplished and well-schooled ensemble.

Casalonga & Associés/Casalonga Avocats

Celebrated European IP specialist Casalonga maintains both a patent and trademark attorney operation and a lawyer division in France, and the two collaborate closely in order to provide an A-to-Z offering. Across both organisations, a

Individuals: litigation

Laëtitia Bénard

Allen & Overy LLP

Pierre Cousin

Cousin & Associés

Grégoire Desrousseaux

August & Debouzy

Thierry Mollet-Viéville

Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Viéville & Associés

Denis Monégier du Sorbier

Hoyng Monegier AARPI

Grégoire Triet

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Pierre Véron

Véron & Associés

Sabine Agé

Véron & Associés

Jacques Armengaud

Cabinet Armengaud & Guerlain

Yves Bizollon

Bird & Bird AARPI

Thomas Bouvet

Véron & Associés

Arnaud Casalonga

Casalonga Avocats

Marina Cousté

Reed Smith LLP

Isabelle Leroux

Dentons

Dominique Ménard

Hogan Lovells International LLP

Arnaud Michel

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

François Pochart

August & Debouzy

Isabelle Romet

Véron & Associés

Marianne Schaffner

Dechert LLP

Denis Schertenleib

Cabinet Schertenleib

Benoît Strowel

Hoyng Monegier AARPI

Cyrille Amar

LAVOIX

Emmanuel Baud

Jones Day

Sandrine Bouvier-Ravon

Cousin & Associés

Caroline Casalonga

Casalonga Avocats

Louis de Gaulle

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Julien Fréneaux

BARDEHLE PAGENBERG

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practical approach prevails which underpins the firm's commercially minded guidance. European patent and trademark attorneys **Francis Zapalowicz** and **Gerrard Dossmann** come highly recommended, with expertise in electronics/information technology and life sciences, respectively. For contentious briefs, **Caroline Casalonga** is the top draw: "Great at communicating with clients, she is very effective at managing large, upscale cases." **Arnaud Casalonga** is a litigator extraordinaire, with

30 years of experience under his belt. Commentators also appreciate his insightful counsel across all aspects of intellectual property.

Cousin & Associés

"Still brilliant", Cousin & Associés has many fans among the very best litigators on market, who confirm that they would not hesitate to send conflict of interest referrals its way. It shines in high-stakes patent litigation, with the

Antoine Gautier-Sauvagnac

Foucaud Tchekhoff Pochet et Associés

Jean Jacques Joly

Cabinet Beau de Loménie

Francois Jonquieres

Reed Smith LLP

Emmanuel Larere

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Anne-Charlotte Le Bihan

Bird & Bird AARPI

David Masson

Dentons

Stefan Naumann

Cabinet Hughes Hubbard & Reed

David Por

Allen & Overy LLP

Luc Santarelli

Santarelli

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Dariusz Szleper

Szleper Henry Avocats

Jean-Christophe Tristant

DLA Piper UK LLP

Frank Valentin

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

pharmaceutical sector proving a particularly fruitful hunting ground. The compact ensemble is led by the inestimable **Pierre Cousin**: “Being friendly and approachable is not incompatible with being an aggressive lawyer, as Pierre shows. Clever and extremely hardworking, he really goes in-depth on complex cases.” Also highly rated is **Sandrine Bouvier-Ravon**, who dispatches matters effortlessly at both domestic and European levels.

De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Intellectual property is a central plank of De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés’ full-service operation. The entrepreneurially spirited ensemble enjoys a steady diet of contentious assignments – on which it performs admirably

– alongside its counselling and transactional duties; in all areas, the pragmatic, custom-made quality of its solutions resonates with clients. In a market in which most of its competitors are boutiques, its ability to offer financing, regulatory, IP and contract law expertise to patrons is a cardinal distinction and one which “makes it incredibly efficient on IP and technology deals”. Maintaining a mixed litigation and transactions practice, **Julien Horn** – an *IAM Patent 1000* newcomer for 2014 – is a firm favourite among IT and software companies in particular. **Frank Valentin** anchors the litigation practice and has carved a niche advising US companies in the internet and motion picture areas. Pharmaceutical manufacturers also call on him when faced with complex litigation. All-round IP counsellor and litigator **Louis de Gaulle** sets the commercial tone that characterises the practice here.

Dentons

One of the coups of 2013 for Dentons was the recruitment of leading IP academic and author Michael Vivant, who takes up a consultancy role; the firm’s lawyers and clients should benefit hugely from his encyclopaedic knowledge of all areas of intellectual property. In another highlight, the team played a vital role in a multibillion-euro fight between two leading high-tech multinationals. Litigation accounts for the lion’s share of its patent-related activity, and is an area in which **David Masson** and **Isabelle Leroux** distinguish themselves. Both can leverage effectively on the firm’s wider network to expedite results in multi-front infringement battles. They are also shrewd negotiators of keystone agreements between life sciences entities, working in tandem with the firm’s corporate wing.

Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Vieville & Associés

This august boutique is a preferred choice of international corporates and their domestic subsidiaries, as well as the most successful domestic innovators, and is acclaimed as one of the best patent litigation shops that France has to offer. Its lawyers – skilled linguists – confidently bring matters of pan-European significance to a successful conclusion. Among its passionate, creative and attentive operators, **Thierry Mollet-Viéville** is singled out for praise; his contentious nous traverses the IP spectrum

Individuals: prosecution

Recommended

Francis Ahner
REGIMBEAU

Philippe Blot
LAVOIX

Thierry Caen
Santarelli See p223

Gerard Dossmann
Casalonga Avocats

Stéphanie Michiels
LAVOIX

Gérard Myon
LAVOIX

Luc Santarelli
Santarelli See p225

Francis Zapalowicz
Casalonga Avocats

and he adds further value with his keen insight into competition law issues.

Germain & Maureau

Though it can trace its roots back to the end of the 19th century, Germain & Maureau dispenses advice which more than suits the needs of 21st century technology enterprises. The protection and defence of patents are both undertaken with tact and guile, though the former is its mainstay. The market's elite lawyers are quick to sing its praises.

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

French powerhouse Gide has a sterling reputation in intellectual property – long a core competency. The Paris patent squad conducts itself with a level of commercial finesse that many of the more traditional players in the French IP space struggle to match. On the litigation front, it is impossible not to mention “undoubted leader” **Grégoire Triet**. The master strategist wins plaudits from across the continent and is a veteran of many upper-echelon trademark and patent trials. **Arnaud Michel** is

Individuals: transactions

Recommended

Cyrille Amar
LAVOIX

Emmanuel Baud
Jones Day

Alain Bensoussan
Alain Bensoussan Avocats

Jean-François Bretonnière
Baker & McKenzie See p222

Antoine Gautier-Sauvagnac
Foucaud Tchekhoff Pochet et Associés

Emmanuel Gougé
Pinsent Masons

Julien Horn
De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Isabelle Leroux
Dentons

Bertrand Liard
White & Case

David Masson
Dentons

Arnaud Michel
Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Christian Nguyen-Van-Yen
Marks & Clerk France

François Pochart
August & Debouzy

Marianne Schaffner
Dechert LLP

Jean-Christophe Tristant
DLA Piper LLP

an engine behind the firm's success. A former head of the Brussels office, his expertise in European law is a boon to those with business interests across the continent. **Emanuel Larere**

Luminaries

Pierre Lenoir
Allen & Overy LLP

is perhaps best known for his trademark proficiency, but the versatile lawyer is also a dab hand on patent infringement suits.

Hogan Lovells International LLP

Hogan Lovells is one of the few international players that can boast a premier IP practice across all jurisdictions in which it is present – few can top its ability to seamlessly manage major cross-border patent disputes. The Paris set is “doing a fantastic job at the moment” – not least thanks to the strong direction provided by dispute resolution guru **Dominique Ménard**, a “personable lawyer who leads his team with real enthusiasm”. Heavyweight multinationals appreciate his incisive guidance on multi-jurisdictional suits.

Hoyng Monegier AARPI

The inimitable Hoyng Monegier is perceived as one of Europe’s most forward-thinking and dynamic IP boutiques. It has quickly gained traction on the French litigation market and is listed in the silver tier alongside and ahead of others which have been in business much longer. The local troupe was bolstered in 2013 by the relocation of **Benoît Strowel** from Brussels to Paris. Strowel is a go-to adviser for marquee pharmaceutical companies such as Pfizer and Eli Lilly, thanks to his blend of patent and regulatory law expertise. Strowel joined gold-rated **Denis Monégier du Sorbier**, a “gifted lawyer who never wastes time on silly arguments” and a “fearsome but fair opponent who you can get things done with”.

Jones Day

Global powerhouse Jones Day houses a compact, seven-lawyer set in Paris which focuses primarily on French and European litigation for international clients. The team also showcases a deft touch in the drafting and negotiation of major IP and IT-related transactions, particularly those involving complex cross-border elements. **Emanuel Baud** steers the practice with confidence and verve.

LAVOIX

LAVOIX – a combination of two structures, attorney firm and law firm – provides one of the most holistic offerings available on the market. Spread between five French offices and one in Munich, it has nearly 200 IP professionals – a tally which makes it one of the biggest players on the European stage. On the prosecution front, life sciences work features prominently, though all major technical disciplines are covered by its resourceful and technically adept crew. It has three individuals – former EPO examiner **Gérard Myon** and the erudite **Philippe Blot**, both mechanical/electrical aces; and life sciences specialist **Stéphanie Michiels**, a former in-house counsel with a major pharmaceutical company – recommended in the *IAM Patent 1000* for prosecution, the most of any firm in France. The lawyers here do a fine job ensuring everyone that is singing from the same song sheet on multi-jurisdictional affairs, including big-ticket litigations and transactions. Influential figure **Cyrille Amar** is the former general counsel of the Philips group mobile telephony division and hence a leading authority on telecommunications matters.

Marks & Clerk France

With a diverse skill set, Marks & Clerk is one of only two French firms to be listed for prosecution and transactions in the *IAM Patent 1000*. Its artful engineers and patent attorneys liaise closely with the consultancy wing – Marks & Clerk Consulting SNC – to deliver commercially insightful advice on patent procurement, strategy and monetisation. To complement its Paris presence, the firm recently expanded southwards, opening a second office in regional business and technology hub Sophia Antipolis – a move which has reinforced the firm’s software and digital technology credentials in particular. Managing director **Christian Nguyen-Van-Yen** specialises in the computer sciences and combines technical and contractual expertise like no other.

Reed Smith LLP

International outfit Reed Smith set up shop in Paris in 2005 and has rapidly established itself as a force to be reckoned with. The IP practice really took off in 2011, when Howrey alumni **Marina Cousté** and **Francois Jonquieres** joined. Cousté is a veteran litigator with a take-no-prisoners attitude, making her an invaluable

ally for companies embroiled in must-win patent fights. A versatile player, she can take on cases in both life sciences fields and high-technology areas, and has acted for clients including GlaxoSmithKline, Mitsubishi and Procter & Gamble. Pharmacology PhD Jonquieres has spent much of his private practice career working in tandem with Cousté, and they make a devastatingly effective pairing on the most technologically complex assignments.

REGIMBEAU

The favourite agent of many a top law firm locally and further afield, REGIMBEAU is hailed for the iron-clad patent protection it secures for patrons; in terms of patent quality, some sources suggest that it sets the bar. Success at a European level is its calling card; a pristine track record on all proceedings before the European Patent Office (EPO) cannot fail to impress. With a dedicated EPO division in France, it also opened a Munich office in late 2012, a move which only served to cement its reputation in this sphere. A nuanced understanding of US patent law is a further advantage for international patrons. Chemistry authority **Francis Ahner** is a pharma company favourite.

Santarelli

One of only three firms recommended for both litigation and prosecution, Santarelli has some rarefied credentials. "It is full of exceptionally clever people who are highly dedicated to their craft. Meticulous in their drafting, technically excellent and very reliable on prosecution, they also have a finely tuned understanding of the dynamics of litigation." CEO **Luc Santarelli** is a wise IP strategist who also provides crucial direction on a full range of contentious matters, including litigation. *IAM Patent 1000* debutant and life sciences connoisseur **Thierry Caen** is "great at distilling the most intricate technical concepts".

Véron & Associés

Véron & Associés' USP is its 100% focus on patent litigation. Its lawyers enjoy the backing of scientific and economic consultants and a translation team; this diversity of know-how gives it an edge over virtually all rivals. At the head of a deep bench sits the peerless **Pierre Véron**, "a splendid litigator with vast knowledge and razor-sharp presentation skills – outstanding in every aspect". Sources confirm that he has

broken new ground in terms of advocacy style, citing as an example his "pioneering – and successful – use of graphics as visual aids in the courtroom". He has long made invaluable contributions to the development of law and practice on the continent, and is one of two French experts on the drafting committee convened to lay down the Unified Patent Court's rules of procedure. Next in command is the "truly excellent" **Isabelle Romet**. She trained under Pierre Véron, but now stands out as a leader in her own right. **Sabine Agé** has had a busy year, with trials for Vorwerk, the German manufacturer of the Thermomix food processor, and Air Liquide. "She is extremely thorough and represents her clients in a masterful way. A team player too, she is easy and pleasant to work with." Dynamo **Thomas Bouvet** continues to go from strength to strength, covering himself with glory in cases across all fields of technology. In the plant breeders' rights niche, he is considered an authority.

White & Case

White & Case's global network represents a major competitive advantage that especially plays into the hands of its Paris-based IP lawyers. Transactional work is meat and drink to the group, although an increased flow of contentious assignments has been a positive development of late. The firm is endorsed by prestigious multinationals, which routinely entrust it with their key matters in France; as an example, White & Case is the exclusive service provider to Facebook in France, advising it in respect of a broad swathe of pre-litigation and litigation matters. Altis Semiconductor is another regular patron, and one for which the team has negotiated several important patent and technology licences. Group head **Bertrand Liard** applies his commercial savvy across a wide range of contentious and non-contentious matters.

Other recommended experts

At his own eponymous firm, **Alain Bensoussan** is considered a thought leader on emerging technologies. Baker & McKenzie's anchorman in France is **Jean-François Bretonnière**, a lawyer who stands apart in terms of the sheer breadth of his IP knowledge. **Julien Fréneaux**, a Paris partner at redoubtable European boutique BARDEHLE PAGENBERG, is an experienced infringement and validity litigator who excels on

multi-jurisdictional actions. **Antoine Gautier-Sauvagnac** of Foucaud Tchekhoff Pochet et Associés benefits from the patronage of top-flight Stateside operators. “He has impeccable judgement and gives sound, practical advice. Though he is always in demand, he is approachable and available to consult with around the clock. He has surrounded himself with great associates, too.” Admitted in England and Wales as well as France, Pinsent Masons partner **Emmanuel Gougé** makes a fine choice for cross-border matters. “Tenacious, he goes to the ends of the earth for his clients.” IP all-rounder **Stefan Naumann** operates out of Cabinet Hughes Hubbard & Reed. In the patent area, he handles medical device cases with particular dexterity, and showcases a knack for securing large awards for clients. Dechert’s **Marianne Schaffner** is “well organised and always extremely well prepared”. Pan-European patent litigation is her metier. **Denis Schertenleib** of Cabinet Schertenleib is spotlighted for his “dual UK/France qualifications, superb technical skills and excellent grasp of patent litigation”. The gifted physicist works across the life sciences and high-technology areas. Following the break-up of Cabinet Gaultier Lakits Szeleper, **Dariusz Szeleper** struck out to form IP boutique Szeleper Henry Avocats. He focuses on patent litigation and particularly cases involving demanding science. DLA Piper’s **Jean-Christophe Tristant** is a life sciences whizz who can sensitively shepherd important IP and technology deals within the industry.