

France

When the Unified Patent Court comes into force, the French IP community will undoubtedly endeavour to make Paris the venue of choice for multinational rights holders – over and above Dusseldorf, Munich and London. Will this be successful? It is possible. Paris is known to have a host of judges who are extremely skilled in handling IP disputes, and what's more, they have been turning heads lately by granting strikingly high damages. A notable number of non-practising entities are now entering the market and bringing litigation against household names. On the prosecution side, business confidence in President Emmanuel Macron's economic plans and substantial investment in corporate start-ups from venture capital funds are generating plenty of work for agencies and keeping examiners at the National Industrial Property Institute busy.

Allen & Overy LLP

The "excellent" Allen & Overy is on a rocket ride in France – recent highlights include obtaining the full dismissal of an action brought by Ono Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Professor Honjo against its client, Merck, in one of the first cases in the country to consider antibodies. Despite the fact that both the European Patent Office (EPO) and a UK court had ruled against Merck, so innovative and inarguable was the line of reasoning pursued by **Laëtitia Bénard** and **David Por** that the French judge felt compelled to side with them. Left truly stunned by this case, peers shower Bénard with praise: "She's an extremely hard worker with a tremendous reputation. Her importance in the IP scene is unquestionable." While the team is clearly most famous for its pharmaceuticals activity, Por is also raising its visibility in the electronics space. Working hand in hand with colleagues in Germany, he recently aided Archos on infringement actions brought by Philips regarding the UMTS/LTE standard, an extremely complex fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) matter with parallel litigation in three countries.

Armengaud Guerlain

The pragmatic, hands-on lawyers at Armengaud Guerlain know all the enforcement tricks in the book. Fazed by nothing, they take to the courtroom with poise and put in sublime performances time and time again. However, this does not mean that they are loath to negotiate; if settling makes commercial sense for a client, they will turn on the charm with opposing counsel. Stéphane Guerlain should be the first port of call for interested parties.

August Debouzy

August Debouzy's stellar contentious offering is fronted by **François Pochart** and **Grégoire Desrousseaux**, but also undergirded by a team of in-house engineers, who provide top-notch technical assistance on abstruse disputes in the healthcare and telecoms sectors. This synergy results in steadfast courtroom support that ticks all the right boxes. "Pochart is one of the best practitioners in France, if not the best." He recently led Teva to a commercially crucial victory against Warner Lambert and Pfizer in a second medical use claim. Desrousseaux is "someone who never wastes time. He gets straight to the point; everything he says and does is crystal clear". Orange and Peugeot *Citroën* are two household names that swear by him. Outside of the courtroom, Pochart and Desrousseaux also maintain a thriving transactional practice; their business savvy and interpersonal skills ensure that lucrative contracts are inked with minimal fuss.

Bird & Bird AARPI

Comprising 18 astute IP practitioners, Bird & Bird's practice is one of the largest in the country. What is more, it effortlessly straddles the contentious/non-contentious divide; wall-to-wall support is the name of the game, all applications are drafted with due consideration of how they might be attacked in court and cases fought with full knowledge of nitty-gritty details of the invention. **Anne-Charlotte Le Bihan** and **Yves Bizollon** are always the first names on the team sheet. Le Bihan's straight-up, sharp-shooting licensing and enforcement counsel has earned her the patronage of Technicolor, Unibeton and Edwards Lifesciences. Her comrade-in-arms Bizollon recently showcased his sharp analytical skills representing Actelion Pharmaceuticals on a case against Icos Corporation – this broken new ground in France by considering the application of the time limitation period to patent revocation actions.

Firms: transactions

Allen & Overy LLP
August Debouzy
Bird & Bird AARPI
Dentons
Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI
Jones Day
LAVOIX
Marks & Clerk France

Firms: prosecution

Highly recommended
Cabinet Beau de Loménie
Cabinet Plasseraud
Santarelli
Recommended
CASALONGA
Germain & Maureau
LAVOIX
Marks & Clerk France
Novagraaf
REGIMBEAU

Firms: litigation

Allen & Overy LLP
August Debouzy
HOYNG ROXH MONEGIER
Bird & Bird AARPI
Cousin & Associés
Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Viéville & Associés
Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI
Hogan Lovells
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Cabinet Beau de Loménie

The first IP firm to create a comprehensive index of patents, Cabinet Beau de Loménie has been ahead of the curve since 1930 – and it shows no signs of letting up. The side now has offices in Paris, Lille, Lyon and Marseille, as well as two in Germany and one in the United Kingdom, enabling it to handle multi-jurisdictional matters with aplomb. The team files approximately 2,000 French and European patent applications annually for a highly diverse clientele, ranging from innovative start-ups to Asian titans. **Didier Intes**, **Pierre Balesta** and **Philippe Hubert** are all safe bets. Intes and Balesta dispatch even the most challenging mechanics mandates effortlessly, while Hubert is committed to the cost-effective prosecution of elaborate chemistry patents.

Cabinet Plasseraud

Synthesising impeccable technical knowledge with a modern, down-to-earth outlook, Cabinet Plasseraud has won favour among waves of national and international rights holders, especially start-ups. It has a special team dedicated to innovative, early-stage companies and relishes building its clients' portfolios brick by brick, providing close analysis of the competition and any potential obstacles. Didier Boulinguez is a cogent choice.

CASALONGA

With its headquarters in Paris supported by impressive offices in Munich and Alicante, CASALONGA serves up a supreme suite of services; filing, right transfers and high-profile litigation are all handled with the utmost flair and finesse. **Gerard Dossmann** and **Francis Zapalowicz** lead the way for prosecution and portfolio management. Their appreciation of the pressures clients face and constant availability allow for easy, effortless collaboration. Having spent six years assisting with the training of examiners at the EPO, Dossmann knows exactly what makes an airtight application, while Zapalowicz's experience as a research and development engineer in the aerospace industry immediately endears him to inventors. **Arnaud Casalonga** picks up the bat on contentious matters – and really lets swing. Having spent 25 years at the IP coalface, his practice has been sharpened to a razor's edge. Supplementary protection certificate issues are one of his notable fortes.

Cousin & Associés

Over the last few years nimble IP litigation boutique Cousin & Associés has been on a roll, notching up a string of landmark victories that belies its four-partner size. The unassailable team has the out-of-the-box thinking and encyclopaedic case law knowledge to take anyone on. Not shy of entering uncharted territory, name partner **Pierre Cousin** really plies his trade at the frontier of patent law. He gets to grips with the intricate facts of a case in no time at all and nets results that seemed impossible when the issue first surfaced. His dedication and enterprising spirit are shared by teammate **Sandrine Bouvier-Ravon**, another fearsome fighter who is afraid of no one. She lectures and publishes widely, sharing her wisdom with the legal community.

Dentons

The global capabilities that Dentons brings to the party on top of intimate sector knowledge and hands-on customer service makes for an offer that is hard to refuse. Even when under the sort of pressure that would cripple others, the Dentons team produces flawless work on budget and on time. Captain **David Masson** leads by example. Knowing exactly what will cut the mustard in a critical telecoms case, he maintains a hotline to major multinationals; standard-essential patent issues are bread and butter for him. Having spent a lot of time in the firm's Dubai office, **Isabelle Leroux** knows precisely what rights holders in the Middle East and Asia want from outside counsel. She always finds the time to conduct face-to-face meetings with clients and never loses sight of their wider objectives. New recruit Marianne Schaffner can be relied on to contrive incisive, informed litigation strategies in the healthcare and chemistry spaces.

Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Viéville & Associés

For over 50 years, Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Viéville & Associés has been listening carefully to clients and reworking its service accordingly. It is hard to imagine a team that better understands business reality; to ensure that all advice makes commercial sense, its IP whizzes routinely seek out a second opinion from their corporate colleagues. **Thierry Mollet-Viéville** and **Thomas Cuche** form the spine of the patent practice. The shrewd, tactically astute Mollet-Viéville is among the most distinguished pharmaceutical litigators in the country. He has the nifty footwork to outwit even the most steadfast of defenders and find the back of the net against all odds. Cuche always gets right into the thick of the action too. His powers of recall are the talk of the town; even the most experienced opposing counsel do not dare to contradict him on hard facts.

Germain & Maureau

Founded in 1849, Germain & Maureau has a rich history. Its "extremely professional" IP squad has helped thousands of clients – from start-ups through multinationals to government bodies – secure their inventions and then go on to monetise them. With five offices across the country (in Grenoble, Marseille, Lyon, Paris and Saint-Etienne), not to mention three abroad, it really knows the lay of the land and is never more than a stone's throw from the domestic operations of its clients. A pleasure to work with, prosecution pro **Frédéric Gaillarde** has a natural ability for explaining things clearly and concisely. He has a particular affinity for deciphering civil engineering conundrums.

Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Business law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel never disappoints the diverse array of rights holders that come from far and wide to sample its finely calibrated IP support. Portfolios are expertly optimised with contracts that keep on giving by the likes of **Arnaud Michel**. He has the transactional shrewdness to secure outstanding licensing terms. When the call comes with news of a conflagration, **Grégoire Triet** is the first on the scene. He is second to none in terms of enforcement experience. Fellow litigators **Emmanuel Larere** and **Raphaëlle Dequiré-Portier** are not wet behind the ears either. Both have a complete command of life sciences issues and the sort of drive and determination that earns them respect from everyone they meet, whether friend or foe.

Hogan Lovells

Hogan Lovells' global IP practice is home to approximately 400 fee earners – a number reflecting just how committed the firm is to this practice area – with 22 of these based in Paris. A typical day sees the squad preparing watertight pleadings, bouncing ideas off each other and liaising with colleagues in foreign offices to give clients the edge in touch-and-go multi-jurisdictional battles. **Stanislas Roux-Vaillard** is currently involved in one such case for Eli Lilly in London. A generic attack on its oncology product Alimta, it is the first to have a single EU court decide the fate of foreign patents. When not working on this, he has been skilfully representing SNF, Hollister and Bristol-Myers Squibb. "Stanislas has deep knowledge of domestic IP legislation and foreign case law, which he obviously follows very carefully. He is widely regarded as one of the most prominent attorneys at law of his generation – he didn't become the head of Hogan Lovells' Paris patent practice by chance."

HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER

"Rights holders like to work with HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER because all its lawyers are reliable and well informed about the law and work extremely quickly. It's apparent how much in-house counsel appreciate their attitude and how convenient they make things." Having offices abroad in Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium, the firm has the wherewithal to take on sprawling cross-border cases without breaking a sweat. **Denis Monégier du Sorbier** has certainly laid the smack down on opposing counsel in his fair share of pharmaceutical and telecoms cases. "He has outstanding patent litigation experience and pitch-perfect knowledge of complex technical issues. The way he presents issues in writing as well as orally in court hearings is incredible." His teammate **Benoît Strowel** comes in for reams of praise too. "He's incredibly impressive – especially in regard to French pharmaceutical marketing approvals and the pricing and reimbursement process and the interplay that has with litigation." Du Sorbier and Strowel recently stepped in and took over a FRAND case for Core Wireless from another firm after it lost at first instance. It is no surprise that the telecoms giant turned to these two hard-hitting litigators to take the reins to try to save the day.

Jones Day

The December 2016 signing of **Thomas Bouvet** was a huge coup for Jones Day. Over the last 12 months he has taken the firm's patent practice to a whole new level. Not one to waste time, he got stuck in straight away and has already handled sensitive cases for Coloplast, Star Fruits and the Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia and Naos. "Thomas is a top-notch litigator whose courtroom presentations are incredible." He was warmly welcomed by longstanding anchor of the practice **Emmanuel Baud**, who has seen nearly everything there is to see in the courtroom. His calendar features pending Supreme Court proceedings for the BCPE bank consortium. With these two working under one roof – and assistance from allies in the firm's 44-office network only a phone call or email away – the future looks bright for Jones Day.

LAVOIX

The only firm to feature on all three tables in the France section of the *IAM Patent 1000* for 2018, LAVOIX offers a cradle-to-grave service covering all phases of the patent lifecycle and is known for handling matters exquisitely. A suite of innovative software tools – IPDATA², EasySTAMP, EasyPATENT and EasyINFORM – make things a breeze for clients, enabling them to consult portfolios online in a totally secure environment and effortlessly prove prior existence and integrity in the event of litigation. Having worked for four years as an examiner at the EPO, **G rard Myon** has an intimate understanding of the nuances of proceedings. **Philippe Blot** dazzles in the mechanical and electrical areas, and **St phanie Michiels** brings in-house experience at a major pharmaceuticals company to the table.

Marks & Clerk France

Established in 2005 by former heads of the IP team of a well-known electronics group, Marks & Clerk prides itself on marrying unique industry and R&D experience with hands-on, highly personalised customer service. In its salient area of expertise – electronics, IT and telecoms – it has filed a staggering 3,500 European patent applications. Co-managing partner **Christian Nguyen-Van-Yen** is particularly prolific. He is a safe pair of hands who manages to make something of even the most ambitious applications.

Novagraaf

Novagraaf is a whirlwind force in prosecution and portfolio management. Its 35 shrewd, commercially minded patent practitioners work hand in glove with clients to create incisive, informed strategies that reap long-term results. With 16 offices across Europe, it is particularly well-positioned to handle matters before the EPO. Entrepreneurs, start-ups and multinationals have all sent work Novagraaf's way; dedicated life sciences, mechanics and electronics teams ensure that everyone receives the red-carpet treatment. **Adrien Metivet** is an ever-reliable choice.

REGIMBEAU

REGIMBEAU never fails to impress with its fleet-footed, precise and business-minded IP support. Pooling their vast collective expertise, its patent pros successfully frame applications so as to sidestep competitors' existing rights and devise far-sighted portfolio management strategies. The "seriousness and immense experience" of life sciences stars **Francis Ahner** and **Fr d rique Faivre Petit** is particularly appreciated. An honorary president of the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, Ahner is a distinguished member of the global IP community. Having worked for a major pharmaceutical group, Petit is familiar with the industry's unique pressure points. She is approachable, responsive and always on top of the latest developments.

Santarelli

Santarelli puts its clients first, with well-wrought, commercially sound assistance at a flexible price. The menu of services runs from filing through licensing all the way to enforcement – and head honcho **Luc Santarelli** is comfortable handling the lot. His spell as a telecoms engineer still shapes the way he sees the world; unlike some litigators, he is more than happy to chew over the technical minutiae of a cutting-edge invention with clients. His partner **Thierry Caen** is an "exceptional" patent attorney with "real expertise" in the pharmaceuticals area. He savours the challenge of getting a patent for a potentially game-changing biotech invention. Beyond these two old hands, the firm also has an administrative wing with over 20 paralegals who tackle routine tasks so that Santarelli and Caen can focus all their attention on testing issues.

V ron & Associ s

"V ron & Associ s is unquestionably a top firm with impressive visibility in the market and some superb patent lawyers. Competitors appreciate having it on the other side; it's always a redoubtable opponent." The much-acclaimed litigation boutique has a feel for how to provide judges with a clear understanding of the subject matter at hand; working closely with scientific experts and graphic designers, it produces clear visual aids, such as charts and animations, that adeptly highlight the essential issues. **Sabine Ag ** is one of the best-known contentious stars in the country. "She is an absolutely excellent lawyer – top in her field. There aren't many individuals as comfortable considering the international elements of complex cases as she is." **Amandine M tier** joins her in the *IAM Patent 1000* for 2018. "Having deep knowledge of the French legal system, she handles cases with great aplomb." She is not one to pull punches in the courtroom, but is totally at home handling arbitration proceedings too.

Other recommended experts

Founding partner of Amar Goussu Staub, Cyrille Amar is a telecoms whizz whose nine years spent as general counsel at Philips still guide him; he produces pellucid reports that can be easily digested by the C-suite. **Celine Bey** at Gowling WLG is a battle-hardened litigator who knows the case law inside out. Cléry Devernay's **Alain Cléry** has the agility to manoeuvre around any obstacle in the courtroom. **Marina Cousté** at Simmons & Simmons devises unassailable filing strategies for multinational life sciences entities. **Emmanuel de Marcellus** of Cabinet de Marcellus & Dissier marries impeccable technical knowledge with a down-to-earth, unstuffy attitude that makes him a pleasure to work with. Linklaters' **Pauline Debre** comes recommended for her experience handling elaborate cross-border cases in the healthcare and telecoms sectors. **Anne Desaix** at Ernest Gutmann – Yves Plasseraud is a life sciences sage with major international research laboratories in her client catalogue. "**Julien Fréneaux** at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG is an extremely tough IP litigator with top-level electronics and mechanics expertise." Opposition proceedings before the EPO see Bandpay & Greuter's **Renaud Fulconis** at his best. Taliens' sharpshooting **Jean-Frederic Gaultier** lets nothing run away from him in high-stakes patent cases. **Antoine Gautier-Sauvagnac** of Foucaud Tchekhoff Pochet et Associés is a font of commercial wisdom; he has an extraordinary ability to negotiate solutions that work for everyone in licensing agreements with third parties. Pinsent Masons' **Emmanuel Gougé** is admitted to practise in England and Wales as well as France, making him a top choice for multi-jurisdictional cases. A recent example of some of his best work is his representation of B/E Aerospace on its pan-European battle against Zodiac Aerotechnics. "He's an excellent lawyer who is very cooperative and has fantastic language skills." **Florent Guilbot** of the self-titled Guilbot Avocat is a pharmaceuticals virtuoso whose passion for invention shines through in everything he does. When his clients' patent rights are being infringed, **Jean-François Guillot** at Guillot de Haas does all he can to extinguish the flames. **Julien Horn** at De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés is one of the most trusted licensing experts around and an ace in the courtroom. High-stakes life sciences litigation is a staple for Simmons & Simmons' whip-smart **François Jonquères**. Captaining the IP practice at White & Case, **Bertrand Liard** is treasured by rights holders who want to be strategic about their growth. He monetises their patents at just the right time, getting maximum returns as a matter of course. **Stefan Naumann** of Hughes Hubbard & Reed is widely known for his flawless performances in landmark pharmaceutical cases. **Fabienne Orsini** at Coralis Harle Phelip is an indefatigable filer with the sort of enthusiasm and can-do attitude that clients love. CEO at Cabinet Netter, **Jean-Yves Plaçais** litigates with an overarching focus on what the outcome will mean commercially. He keeps clients apprised of the situation every step of the way. Cabinet Schertenleib's eponymous **Denis Schertenleib** knows all the tricks of the contentious trade and is supremely comfortable with a wide range of technologies. Having 30 years' experience under his belt, **Dariusz Szleper** of Szleper Henry Avocats makes light work of thorny instructions; issues surrounding employee inventions are a forte. With a fine-tuned appreciation for how to structure electrical and mechanical patent applications so that they make the grade with the EPO, **François Tanty** at Nony & Partners is a cogent choice. Atlanta Law's **Frank Valentin** immediately wins client trust because he is upfront about what is at stake every time a patent is infringed and what his proposed solutions will cost.

Luminaries

Pierre Véron - Véron & Associés

Individuals: transactions

Emmanuel Baud - Jones Day

Grégoire Desrousseaux - August Debouzy

Antoine Gautier-Sauvagnac - Foucaud Tchekhoff Pochet et Associés

Emmanuel Gougé - Pinsent Masons

Julien Horn - De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés

Anne-Charlotte Le Bihan - Bird & Bird AARPI

Bertrand Liard - White & Case LLP

Arnaud Michel - Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Christian Nguyen-Van-Yen - Marks & Clerk France

François Pochart - August Debouzy

Marianne Schaffner - Dentons

Individuals: prosecution

Francis Ahner - REGIMBEAU

Pierre Balesta - Cabinet Beau de Loménie

Philippe Blot - LAVOIX

Thierry Caen - Santarelli



Anne Desaix - Ernest Gutmann - Yves Plasseraud SA

Gerard Dossmann - CASALONGA

Frédérique Faivre Petit - REGIMBEAU

Renaud Fulconis - Bandpay & Greuter

Frédéric Gaillarde - Germain & Maureau

Philippe Hubert - Cabinet Beau de Loménie

Didier Intes - Cabinet Beau de Loménie

Stéphanie Michiels - LAVOIX

Gérard Myon - LAVOIX

Fabienne Orsini - Coralis Harle Phelip

Luc Santarelli - Santarelli



François Tanty - Nony & Partners

Francis Zapalowicz - CASALONGA

Individuals: litigation

Sabine Agé - Véron & Associés

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 ROKH MONEGIER

François Pochart - August Debouzy

Denis Schertenleib - Cabinet Schertenleib

Grégoire Triet - Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

Yves Bizollon - Bird & Bird AARPI

Thomas Bouvet - Jones Day

Arnaud Casalonga - CASALONGA

Marina Cousté - Simmons & Simmons LLP



Anne-Charlotte Le Bihan - Bird & Bird AARPI

Arnaud Michel - Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI

David Por - Allen & Overy LLP

Stanislas Roux-Vaillard - Hogan Lovells

Benoît Strowel - HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER

Cyrille Amar - Amar Goussu Staub
Emmanuel Baud - Jones Day
Céline Bey - Gowling WLG
Sandrine Bouvier-Ravon - Cousin & Associés
Alain Cléry - Cléry Devernay
Thomas Cuche - Duclos, Thorne, Mollet-Viéville & Associés
Emmanuel de Marcellus - Cabinet de Marcellus & Disser
Pauline Debre - Linklaters LLP
Raphaëlle Dequiré-Portier - Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI
Julien Fréneaux - BARDEHLE PAGENBERG SELAS 
Jean-Frederic Gaultier - Taliens
Antoine Gautier-Sauvagnac - Foucaud Tchekhoff Pochet et Associés
Florent Guilbot - Guilbot Avocat
Jean-François Guillot - Guillot de Haas
Julien Horn - De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés
Francois Jonquieres - Reed Smith LLP
Emmanuel Larere - Gide Loyrette Nouel AARPI
Isabelle Leroux - Dentons
David Masson - Dentons
Amandine Métier - Véron & Associés
Stefan Naumann - Hughes Hubbard & Reed
Jean-Yves Plaçais - Cabinet Netter
Luc Santarelli - Santarelli 
Marianne Schaffner - Dechert LLP
Dariusz Szleper - Szleper Henry Avocats
Frank Valentin - Atlana Law