

Focused on patents and trade secrets disputes

Defending your inventions through strategic thinking

In today's global economy, your inventions can be your most valuable assets. Developing a patent portfolio to protect them can take a substantial investment. Trade secrecy, software copyright, utility models and design laws can also protect aspects of your inventions.

But do you have a strategy to enforce those rights? Where your patent or trade secret disputes involve more than one country, how do you manage the complexity of a patchwork of national patent laws and procedural rules? How do you keep control of costs and strategy so that you can make the smart decisions which are right for your business?

The Eversheds patents group has the answer.

What we do for our clients

All the services you need are in one place, including:

- patent litigation in a wide range of technical fields before specialist national patents courts in Germany, the UK and other European jurisdictions
- arbitration relating to patents and trade secrets
- mediation and all other forms of alternative dispute resolution
- strategic advice and management of multi-jurisdictional disputes
- pre-litigation opinion work
- expertise in technical standardisation, interoperability testing, essential patents, patent pooling and FRAND licensing obligations
- border seizures and criminal proceedings
- speedy relief, such as preliminary or interim injunctions
- patent entitlement disputes
- employee inventor compensation claims
- anti-trust advice and strategy.

Innovation in our sector

Enforcing patent rights across Europe can be daunting. We have developed RAPID, a unique and comprehensive project management approach to dispute resolution. RAPID works for every type of case, from a straightforward trade secret dispute in your home market to large cross-border patent disputes.

Our service includes:

- thoroughly scoping the case at the outset and working with you create a strategy for getting the best possible outcome
- a dedicated project manager who will be your point of contact for all cases
- established communications protocols to ensure that you know what's going on and what we're doing for you at all times
- regular strategy reviews and cost updates, enabling you to see the overall picture so that you can make the decision that make sense for your business
- a commercial approach to resolving disputes which avoids perpetual litigation.

The result is a cost and outcome that is far more predictable. Valuable management time is saved and business relationship can be preserved if that is one of your desired outcomes. In essence you take control of the dispute and manage it on your terms.

"IP Firm of the Year"

JUVE Awards 2010 shortlist



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Did you know?

- 1** Our patents group is a specialised unit dedicated to resolving patent and other technology-related disputes across Europe.
- 2** From our offices in Munich, London, Milan and Madrid, our unit offers expert insight into these important jurisdictions in Europe and co-ordinates pan-European patent litigation, counselling and licensing using our network of offices and best-friend firms.
- 3** We know the importance of fully understanding your technology in order to provide you with the best service and advice. Our team has lawyers with a range of science backgrounds, including members with degrees in Chemistry, Physics, Biochemistry and Engineering.
- 4** We work closely with our team of in-house European patent attorneys, who are educated to Ph.D level in a range of technical fields and can offer support on technical issues.
- 5** Our clients come from a wide range of industry sectors. For example, recent cases have been in the pharmaceutical, biotech, consumer electronics and wireless telephony sectors.
- 6** Clients include AEG, DuPont, Hewlett-Packard, Boeing, Tyco and Heinz.
- 7** With over 600 cases filed each year, over 60% of litigation of European patents currently takes place in Germany. The English Courts deal with fewer cases, but are renowned for their specialist knowledge, procedural flexibility and detailed scrutiny, and have introduced a new low-cost procedural option. We can help you to navigate this ever-changing landscape.
- 8** We can help you to avoid disputes by ensuring that your inventions are generated and exploited within a framework of clear agreements. We have particular experience in drafting and negotiating complex technology licences, R&D collaboration agreements, materials transfer agreements, clinical trials agreements, advising on FP7 and other publicly-funded consortiums, implementing technology-driven joint ventures and strategic alliances.
- 9** Eversheds LLP has over 2,000 legal and business advisers based around the world, including many internationally renowned specialists. We have the resources and network to be there, on the ground, wherever you need us.
- 10** What makes us truly different is our ability to provide you with predictability. We will take a project management approach to your patent work where we'll carefully scope, plan and cost everything upfront.

Key contacts

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