

Our technology patent expertise in Paris

Key differentiators



A leading patent litigation team

Led by three partners and two counsels, the Paris IP practice is consistently ranked as a tier one team on the market. We are assisting our clients in many of the cutting-edge patent lawsuits of the recent years, which have reshaped the landscape of patent enforcement in France.



Sector expertise

Our team of specialists has developed thorough expertise in dealing with issues that are key in the high-tech sector. Our team has a track record of handling significant, high-profile matters in relation to technology patents for international companies. This sector orientation gives us a greater understanding of our clients' markets and needs.



Unique experience of SEPs and FRAND

We have acted on the vast majority of disputes involving SEPs and FRAND issues in France. Several of these cases have defined the French approach to SEP litigation.

Having acted both for patentees and implementers, and also co-ordinated pan-European litigations pertaining to SEPs, we are able to provide a unique view of the issues from a truly global perspective.



Technical background

One of the only IP teams on the French market which includes qualified European Patent Attorneys and associates with technical degrees, including in telecommunications.

This familiarity with the key legal and industry issues allows us to offer our clients a practical and informed approach to understanding and achieving their objectives. We also work on patent cases without the assistance of outside patent attorneys, providing both better results and cost savings.



Complementary antitrust capabilities

Antitrust issues are crucial in patent litigation, not only with respect to SEPs and FRAND. Uniquely amongst most IP specialist firms, we are also able to offer advice from world leading antitrust practitioners.



Innovative and result-oriented strategies

We have been daring to break new ground to achieve the results our clients wanted. That included re-defining the conditions under which preliminary injunctions can be obtained, setting new requirements for sufficiency of writs of summons (which has proven essential in the context of suits brought by patent-assertion entities), or shaping the format of SEP litigation in France.



Local depth and global reach

Beyond our recognised expertise in French law, we can rely on a team of more than 100 specialist IP partners and associates worldwide. Allen & Overy is one of the few firms in France that can offer a streamlined service across the major European and Asian jurisdictions on cross-border cases.



Focus on the future

Our international IP team is gearing up for the major changes which will come into effect with the launch of the Unified Patent Court as well as the impact of Brexit.

Paris main contacts



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Our key technology patent experience in Paris includes advising:

Samsung/Apple

in the French part of their worldwide IP litigation against Apple concerning the parties' smartphones and tablets. This very high-profile case, which notably involved highly complex patents pertaining to the UMTS/3G technology, involved considerable commercial stakes for both parties and has re-shaped the sector of mobile telecommunications.

Samsung/Technicolor

in the most high-stakes litigation in France in the technology sector since the CJEU's landmark Huawei v. ZTE decision, in four proceedings regarding the alleged infringement of six patents relating to a range of functionalities of Samsung's products. These proceedings will have a major impact on the entire industry, as the Paris court will, for the first time, decide how SEPs can be enforced in France, how FRAND terms can be set, and what remedies can be available to non-practicing entities.

A major chip manufacturer

on an extremely high-value patent licensing issue with a major competitor, relating to computer chip architectures and associated patents.

A multinational technology company

on two infringement actions based on two patents launched against Sonos, a major developer and manufacturer of audio products. In one of the actions, the Paris First Instance Court found the patent valid but not infringed. This decision has been appealed. The other action is still pending before the Paris First Instance Court.

Toshiba and DVD6C Members

in relation to the implementation of its approved patent pool, and the legality of various proposed modifications to the approved licensing programme.

A leading handset manufacturer

in relation to patent infringement claims concerning patents alleged to be essential to UMTS/LTE and video coding, as well as implementation patents.

Samsung Electronics

on the French part of their worldwide battle against Ericsson. The dispute raged throughout multiple countries over three continents. This was one of the largest licensing disputes since many years, involving the worldwide leader (by volume) in the market of handheld devices and a company presenting itself as one of the largest owners of patents in the space.

Archos

in French, German and Dutch patent infringement actions brought by Philips on both essential patents regarding the UMTS/LTE standard and implementation patents linked to mobile phones operating systems. We obtained the first ever decision by the Mannheim court finding a defendant to have infringed, but refusing to issue an injunction against him because the patentee had failed to comply with his FRAND obligations.

Samsung Electronics

on an investigation initiated by the European Commission in relation to the way Samsung Electronics sought injunctive reliefs regarding a violation by Apple of SEPs.

A leading manufacturer of consumer electronics

in fending off royalty claims from a patentee allegedly owning patents essential to a standard essential patent.

A multinational technology company

on a patent infringement lawsuit brought by an individual against Android (operating system). It is the third patent case involving this company in France.

“The IP team at Allen & Overy LLP has strength in patent infringements and preliminary injunctions proceedings. The firm has expertise in multiple sectors, including technology, telecoms, life sciences, medtech, and frequently handles pan-European cross-border cases.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (Intellectual Property)

“The strong IP practice provides expertise in various sectors including life sciences and TMT, with further knowledge of the entertainment industry.”

Chambers Europe 2022 – France (Intellectual Property)

“In Paris the group is known for its involvement in some of the most headline-grabbing and precedent-setting cases in both the life sciences and high-technology sectors.”

IAM Patent 1000 – France (The World's Leading Patent Professionals 2022)



Ranked in Tier 1

Legal 500 2021 – France
(Intellectual Property, Patents)

Ranked in Band 1

Chambers Global 2022 – France
(Intellectual Property, Patents)



Laëtitia Bénard – Patent star 2021 & Top 250 Women in IP 2022

Managing IP – Intellectual Property
Patent star 2022



David Por – Patent star 2022

Managing IP –
Intellectual Property