



Dehns

**World Class
Intellectual Property Services**

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Exceptional service in Intellectual Property

We turn inspired thinking into patents, trade marks and registered designs that are valuable commercial assets for our clients.

Dehns was founded in 1920 by Frank B. Dehn. For over 100 years we have grown organically and sustainably to become one of Europe's largest firms of patent and trade mark attorneys, with an internationally established reputation. With over 300 people across offices in London, Munich, Oslo, Oxford, Brighton, Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham, and a strong network of global partnerships, we offer our clients a truly international service.

We work at the forefront of developments in intellectual property, building on our extensive experience, with a thorough understanding of cross-cultural nuances in patents, trade mark and design law. In this way, we use our practical knowledge and pragmatic approach to achieve the most commercially successful outcome for our clients.

From large corporations through to individual private inventors, our client list spans an expansive range of sectors. This diversity is matched by the specialist fields in which Dehns' attorneys and agents work. Our forward thinking and progressive team are well known for their ability to understand even the most complex technologies and markets.

We keep our clients' requirements and objectives in mind, ensuring they get the best possible advice, and follow a trajectory that ensures that all the work we do with them is both cost-effective and relevant to their business strategy. Our unique combination of experience, commercial awareness and specialist legal knowledge means we can give them exceptional service in the fields of patents, trade marks and designs.

“The team of excellent individuals are good listeners and understand client needs accordingly.”

Legal 500

Contact Dehns
T: +44 (0)20 7632 7200
E: info@dehns.com
W: www.dehns.com



A world class service

As an approachable, responsive and friendly team, we give our clients closely tailored advice in all aspects of British, European and international patent, design and trade mark law. Though the procedures of patenting and trade marking are often complex, we guide clients through the process without jargon, in a language they understand.

Our team of attorneys consists of highly experienced Chartered and European Patent Attorneys, and Chartered and European Trade Mark Attorneys, who pride themselves on the efficiency and accuracy of their work. Many of our attorneys have been awarded prizes for their exceptional performance in the qualifying examinations.

The rest of the team is made up of first class graduates and post-graduates, many of whom have doctorates from some of the world's most respected universities. Dehns has a strong reputation for graduate training, and as a result has become a desirable place to work.

We offer comprehensive international services, including:

- Preparing and filing patent applications, trade marks and designs in Europe and throughout the world
- Conducting opposition and cancellation actions
- Searching and giving advice on conflicting patents, trade marks and designs
- Watching for competitors' patents and trade marks
- Preparing and recording licences, assignments and other transactions
- Conducting infringement and other proceedings in the Courts
- Liaising with other lawyers on both contentious and non-contentious matters
- Renewing patents, trade marks and designs

"We work closely with our clients to develop the most successful strategy for their intellectual property."

Patents



"We pride ourselves on giving our clients clear and practical advice."

We offer a complete patenting service which aims to secure the broadest defensible protection anywhere in the world. Our clients range from international corporations through to small enterprises and private inventors.

Our team of graduate and post-graduate scientists pride themselves on their aptitude for giving clients clear, commercially focused advice.

Drafting applications

When drafting applications, we take meticulous care to make sure our clients enjoy robust protection for their inventions. We draw on our vast experience of drafting and prosecuting applications in every major jurisdiction to ensure that clients can optimise their legal protection.

Prosecution

We co-ordinate the prosecution of global patent portfolios, drawing on our large network of trusted firms in all major jurisdictions. We aim to select the best firm for each client to get the right results at the best value.

Oppositions

We represent clients in hundreds of oppositions every year and have an enviable track record of success on their behalf. Our opposition experience with the European Patent Office is one of the things that sets us apart.

Some of the major technical fields we work in include:

- Aviation
- Civil engineering
- Marine engineering
- Medical devices
- Construction
- Sanitary products
- Domestic appliances
- Micro and nano-engineering
- Materials
- Lasers
- Nano-technology
- Telecommunications
- Computer networks
- Consumer electronics
- Microprocessor design
- Pharmaceuticals
- Biochemistry
- Biotechnology
- Food chemistry
- Polymers
- Brewing
- Immunodiagnostics
- Pesticides
- Animal health
- Agrochemicals
- Textiles
- Petrochemicals
- Physical chemistry
- Medical diagnostics
- Materials science
- Metallurgy

Appeals

The EPO Boards of Appeal are the final opportunity to achieve the desired outcome for cases before the European Patent Office. This is where our experience and detailed knowledge of how the Boards work and think really counts. In other jurisdictions, our experience and wide network allows us to pursue the right results on behalf of clients where necessary.

Litigation services

We have the expertise to support and advise our clients in any potentially contentious situation. Several of our partners are also Certified Patent Attorney Litigators, meaning that we can also offer cost-effective litigation services.

Opinions

We provide opinions on infringement and validity of granted patents whether held by clients or by third parties. Opinions can range from initial guidance to formal written opinions. Where appropriate, we can also seek a formal opinion from a barrister.

Watching

We can undertake ad hoc or regular watching services to monitor third party patenting activity. This can be by subject area, company name or a combination of both. Results can be provided with or without analysis.

Renewal and annuity

We have a specialised in-house patent renewal and annuity department which ensures the utmost reliability.

Due diligence

We have significant experience in carrying out due diligence exercises as part of potential investments or corporate transactions, and can work with other professional advisers in devising comprehensive strategies.

Reviews and audits

We carry out comprehensive reviews and audits of intellectual property portfolios, including identifying inventions and other potential intellectual property rights.

Assignments and licences

We can help realise the value of intellectual property through assignments and licences and advise on both the practical and legal issues that need to be considered.

"These attorneys build excellent relationships with clients, are very responsive and provide commercial advice."

Chambers & Partners

Trade Marks

"We use Dehns for our trade mark matters, and highly recommend them for efficiency, expertise and cost."

We are responsible for securing trade mark rights for our clients and defending those rights by opposing and cancelling conflicting trademarks. With our substantial trade mark practice, we not only understand trade mark law, but also the technical detail of our clients' products and services.

The range of markets we work in includes: entertainment, computing, publishing, medical products, chemical products, fuel, consumables, toys, consumer products, fashion, engineering, finance, retail, transport and merchandising.

Comprehensive searches

We conduct comprehensive searches of the relevant trade mark registers prior to the client using a new trade mark or trading name, entering a new market, or filing a trade mark application. Our search reports identify any potential problematic trade marks, and we can provide advice on how obstacles might be overcome.

Filing

We file UK and European Union Trade Mark applications, as well as applications for International registration. We offer advice on the most effective strategies, including managing complex filing series with multiple applications across a number of territories. We guide the application through each stage of the process, and provide regular updates.

Renewals

Our renewals service is designed to make sure that maintenance formalities are dealt with in the most reliable, cost-effective and timely manner possible. We monitor clients' deadlines, give advice on renewals and attend to the required actions.

Protection

We have vast experience of securing international trade mark protection. Many clients use us to manage their worldwide trade mark portfolios.

Audits

Our trade mark audit service involves a complete evaluation of the client's trade mark portfolio in order to determine whether the portfolio provides adequate coverage for the client.

As well as these services, we offer cancellation and invalidity proceedings, monitoring and policing of trade marks, assignments, licences and other registrable transactions, and due diligence.

Designs

“We believe in offering our clients seamless and cost-effective services, and we’re always on hand to answer their questions.”

Our clients make a significant investment in creating their designs so it is important that we protect that investment in order to prevent competitors from using an identical or similar design. Design protection is also valuable when our clients consider licensing their design in order to generate revenue. Our attorneys have extensive designs experience which spans the UK, Europe and the rest of the world.

Protecting our clients’ designs

Design protection is available for a wide range of objects. In order to secure the protection of our clients’ designs, we assist them with the filing of a UK or Community design registration. As well as providing protection in the UK or EU, this first filing can serve as a basis for applying later for design protection elsewhere. This system helps to keep initial costs down. Filing a Community design application is particularly cost effective as a single application covers the huge EU market.

We think about exactly what needs protecting to create a valuable IP right in the commercial world.

For example, if a designer has changed part of an earlier product, it may not be appropriate to file for the modified product but rather it may be better to file for the modified part only. Or, if he has come up with a range of products with a common design element, we may advise filing for just that element as a cost efficient route to protection.

Searches and advice

If a new product is to be launched there may be a risk that it will infringe someone’s registered design. To mitigate this risk, we are able to organise searches for conflicting designs in advance of product launch. These can be carried out in the UK or the EU or more widely, depending on where our client wishes to market their design. If a client approaches us having been accused of infringing a design, we can arrange searches to see if we can establish that the design is invalid because of what had already been published when it was filed. We can advise on how best to defend themselves against the infringement claim. If a client comes across an infringement of their design we can advise on the strength of their case and strategies for enforcement.

Unregistered design rights

Unregistered design rights arise automatically in some circumstances. We can advise clients on what unregistered rights they have in their designs and the best way to be sure they can establish these rights when the need arises.

Our attorneys

Our partners and associates are all Chartered and European Patent Attorneys or Chartered and Trade Mark Attorneys. Of our 100+ scientific staff, several are qualified in both patents and trade marks. Experienced attorneys are on hand in all of our offices, including Munich, to advise on all aspects of British, European and international patent, design and trade mark law.

Our attorneys have represented clients in hundreds of oppositions and appeals before the European Patent Office and in many trade mark oppositions and appeals. All of our patent attorneys are licensed to conduct litigation in the Patents County Court, with some also certified to conduct patent litigation in the High Court.

We recruit graduates and post-graduates, many of whom have doctorates, from some of the world's finest universities and train them to qualification. Dehns has an unrivalled reputation for its training and many of our attorneys have been awarded prizes for their exceptional performance in the qualifying examinations.

Our attorneys are regularly asked to provide talks to industry in relation to intellectual property matters as well as contributing articles to a wide variety of media regarding patent and trade mark issues.

"What makes them such a valuable asset to our firm ... is that they combine excellent legal knowledge with human qualities."

International networks and memberships

Networks

Across our seven offices, we offer our clients an extensive network of attorneys, all of whom work as permanent staff.

Particularly where international patents, trade marks and designs are concerned, our international network ensures you benefit from swift communication, and a carefully selected team of native speakers who make our international services seamless and cost-effective.

Working with established international contacts, means we stay ahead of the game of international intellectual property matters, and have a well-developed appreciation for cross-cultural requirements and differences. We are also regularly found presenting at and attending global intellectual property conferences and events throughout the year.

Memberships

Our clients can be assured that they are in safe hands, as each individual attorney is a registered member of various recognised intellectual property organisations and therefore adheres to strict codes of ethics and practice.

The membership organisations and accreditations require each attorney to stay abreast of current and forthcoming changes in intellectual property law, and share their experiences through presenting at intellectual property events.

Examples of some of the internationally recognised organisations of which we are members include:

- Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA)
- European Patent Institute (EPI)
- Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA)
- European Community Trademark Association (ECTA)
- International Trademark Association (INTA)
- International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI)
- International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys (FICPI)
- Marques

London

10 Old Bailey
London EC4M 7NG
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7632 7200
E: mail@dehns.com

Munich

Theresienstraße 6-8
80333 Munich
Germany

T: +49 (0)89 2388 68 60
E: germany@dehns.com

Oslo

Forskningsparken
Gaustadalléen 21
0349 Oslo
Norway

T: +47 400 54 544
E: oslo@dehns.com

Brighton

The Brinell Building
30 Station St
Brighton BN1 4RB
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1273 244200
E: brighton@dehns.com

Oxford

Willow Court
West Way
Oxford OX2 0JB
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1865 305100
E: oxford@dehns.com

Manchester

Fabric Building
30 Queen Street
Manchester M2 5HX
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)161 209 3434
E: manchester@dehns.com

Bristol

33 Colston Avenue
Bristol
BS1 4UA
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7632 7200
E: bristol@dehns.com

Birmingham

2 Snow Hill
Birmingham
B4 6GA
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7632 7200
E: birmingham@dehns.com

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