

LEGAL SERVICES

Mewburn Ellis's legal department advises companies, universities and research organisations on the protection, exploitation, commercialisation and enforcement/defence of all types of IP rights, including patents, trade marks, designs, copyright, database rights and trade secrets. The department comprises two English qualified solicitors, a paralegal and a number of patent attorney litigators. Dr Sean Jauss, a solicitor and partner in the firm, heads the department. He is well regarded in the IP community and is ranked in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal500.



COMMERCIAL SERVICES

- ▶ **Advisory services:** We provide strategic advice on IP rights with the aim of maximising the value or potential of that IP, and to manage risk.
- ▶ **Transactions:** We advise on the transfer and commercial use of IP rights. For example, structuring, drafting and negotiating licenses, technology transfer agreements, assignments, R&D collaborations, revenue sharing agreements, pipeline agreements, options, sponsorships, publishing contracts, merchandising agreements, confidentiality and material transfer agreements, and franchising agreements.
- ▶ **Commercial law:** We advise on business to business commercial law issues, including on standard terms and conditions for the provision of goods or services, international trade arrangements, manufacturing and supply agreements, agency agreements and distribution agreements. We do not advise on consumer law issues.
- ▶ **Competition issues:** We advise on UK and EU competition/anti-trust issues and the application of safe-harbours in relation to IP rights and IP transactions, most commonly under licenses or collaborations.
- ▶ **Regulatory issues:** We advise on regulatory issues applying to the life sciences sector, including marketing and data exclusivity, medicines and novel food marketing approval, CE marking (for example, in respect of medical devices), and the use of human tissue and cell lines.
- ▶ **Clinical trials:** We advise on, draft and negotiate clinical trial agreements, patient consent forms and human tissue agreements.
- ▶ **IT contracts:** We advise on a range of IT and software issues, including drafting and negotiating software licenses, software development agreements, outsourcing and hosting agreements, and website terms and conditions. We also advise on open source arrangements.
- ▶ **Data protection:** We advise on UK and EU data protection compliance and privacy law. As many of our clients are US-based, our advice often deals with the transfer of data to the US.

CORPORATE SUPPORT & DUE DILIGENCE

We advise on IP aspects of corporate transactions, including mergers & acquisitions, business asset purchases, initial public offerings (i.e. stock market flotations), corporate investments and purchases from insolvent companies. Generally this work takes the form of IP due diligence, risk mitigation and portfolio management. Our input enables our clients to maximise the value of their IP and to get in shape for the coming transaction, or helps ensure they know exactly what they are acquiring or investing in.

More specifically, the services we provide include investigating and reporting on IP portfolios and IP contracts, reporting on ownership, infringement and validity, preparing reports for an IPO, freedom to operate and patentability opinions, advising on, drafting and negotiating the warranties and indemnities in the sale or investment agreement or the disclosure letter, and clearance searches.

We often work alongside corporate law firms, in-house legal teams, accountants, investment banks, private equity houses and venture capitalists. The service is offered in conjunction with our patent and trade mark attorneys in order to leverage our firm-wide IP expertise to deliver the support and advice the client needs.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

We advise on pre-litigation strategy and all aspects of UK litigation and dispute resolution involving IP rights, including patents, designs, trade marks, copyright and confidential information. In addition, we advise, draft and negotiate settlement agreements (whether settling UK litigation or EU or overseas patent oppositions) and trade mark co-existence agreements.

PATMA SUPPORT AND FORMALITIES

Finally, we provide various services to support patent and trade mark prosecution. These include inventor assignments and entitlement investigations and, most especially, our multi-jurisdictional patent and trade mark formalities and recordal practice. This practice deals with, inter alia, recording changes of ownership or name licenses and security interests.



CONTACT

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CONTACT US

For more information on Mewburn Ellis LLP and other intellectual property matters, please visit our website at www.mewburn.com; email firstname.lastname@mewburn.com or mail@mewburn.com