

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Crowell & Moring provides a full array of intellectual property (IP) legal services to help companies obtain, manage, and enforce their IP rights whatever their commercial field. Our Brussels-based IP lawyers offer a combination of skill and experience across the IP disciplines including patents, supplementary protection certificates, trademarks, designs, trade secrets and copyrights. With the backing of more than 60 IP lawyers in our U.S. offices, our IP practice is truly international in nature.

A "highly regarded team with a standout reputation in [...] patent, trade mark and design litigation. Also handles transactional IP mandates, including licensing and R&D agreements." Chambers Europe, 2017

Our litigation experience covers the full spectrum of IP disputes. We have particular experience in cross-border issues, and in designing and implementing strategies for both national and complex multi-jurisdictional IP disputes, particularly in Europe and the U.S. In Europe we represent clients at all levels of the civil and criminal court system, up to and including the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and we act before all relevant administrative bodies. We are also well known for our wide experience in arbitration.

"Crowell & Moring is a go-to firm for demanding multi-jurisdictional cases and must-win disputes." IAM Patent 1000, 2017

Our lawyers provide counseling on all aspects of IP, including validity, enforcement, freedom-to-operate and infringement issues. We structure, negotiate, and implement IP transactions, including licensing and R&D agreements; we advise on IP portfolio management procedures and design proprietary information protection programs; and we offer training on IP protection, assist clients in establishing internal policing and enforcement policies, and conduct IP due diligence studies. In cooperation with our U.S.-based Crowell & Moring colleagues, we

counsel clients on trade-related IP matters, focusing on antitrust, international trade, communications, labor and employment, health care, and corporate and government contracts.

"Crowell & Moring is 'an outstanding firm with helpful professionals.'" Legal 500 EMEA 2017

"We particularly value Crowell & Moring's experience, their reputation and their hands-on mentality." Chambers Europe, 2016

Our IP lawyers are regular contributors to handbooks, legal journals and blogs, and they teach students and speak at conferences and seminars throughout Europe. The Brussels IP practice is one of the largest and strongest in Belgium.

OUR SERVICES AND EXPERIENCE

Patents and Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC) Litigation

Highly regarded by clients and competitors alike, our patent practice deals with a wide range of matters and is best known for successfully handling complex, multi-jurisdictional litigation. Recent matters include several pharmaceutical molecules, amino acids, industrial machinery, medical devices, artificial sweeteners, bread spread, and gambling machines. In the life sciences sector, we have developed extensive experience in SPC litigation. Our experience as patent litigators in the life sciences industry has also led to our handling a variety of regulatory issues which often intersect with IP rights, including issues relating to market authorizations, pricing and reimbursement, parallel import and abuse of dominance.

"Challenging multi-jurisdictional patent litigation is the key driver behind trailblazing Crowell and Moring's burgeoning IP practice." IAM Patent 1000, 2016

“[Crowell & Moring’s] resourceful, battle-hardened trial lawyers are hailed for their work for generics manufacturers, which has helped to shape Belgian law and practice.” IAM Patent 1000, 2016

Trademarks and Designs

Our trademark and design practice provides strategic advice to trademark and design owners and assists them in the worldwide prosecution and enforcement of their portfolios. We litigate and represent clients in national courts as well as at the European Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market, and the Benelux Intellectual Property Office, in all matters relating to the validity and infringement of trademarks and designs.

“[Crowell & Moring] has substantial strength in depth in the trademark sphere, acting with equal dexterity in domestic, European and global matters for a diverse clientele.” World Trademark Review, 2017

“Top-flight IP practice [...] Best known for representing generics pharmaceutical companies [...] Increasingly active in the field of trade marks. A popular choice for international companies in the life sciences and media sectors.” Chambers Europe, 2016

Trade Secrets and Know-How

Crowell & Moring has substantial depth and experience litigating trade secret disputes, particularly disputes that have multi-jurisdictional dimensions. In addition, we assist our clients in developing the necessary policies and procedures to guide them through all facets of trade secret preservation and protection strategies, beginning with the initial genesis of an idea through to its development and commercialization.

“An appreciation of how best to protect know-how and prevent the misappropriation of trade secrets is a further strength.” IAM Patent 1000, 2015

Copyrights

We have a long-standing and highly-regarded copyrights practice, which is extremely active in content, software and database protection. We assist our clients in negotiating agreements of all types, ranging from simple license agreements with contractors or employees, through complex broadcasting agreements with film producers to cable re-transmission and digital television agreements with collecting societies and broadcasters. We also have substantial experience litigating copyright disputes, representing publishers, artists, producers, advertising agencies and distributors on all levels, up to and including the CJEU.

Crowell & Moring “has ‘excellent knowledge of the media industry.” Legal 500 EMEA, 2017

OUR INDUSTRY/SECTOR FOCUS

We represent many of the world’s leading technology companies as well as SMEs from diverse industry sectors. Our clients have included large pharmaceutical companies, network operators and service providers, broadcasters, film and television producers and distributors, operators of broadband cable/telephony, internet and digital television operators, social network operators, online retailers, gambling software vendors and online and land based bookmakers, postal services, cosmetics, luxury, fashion, and consumer goods, advertising agencies, architects, authors and performers, and financial institutions and insurance companies.

ABOUT OUR FIRM

Crowell & Moring LLP is an international law firm with approximately 500 lawyers representing clients in litigation and arbitration, regulatory, and transactional matters. The firm is internationally recognized for its representation of Fortune 500 companies in high-stakes litigation, as well as its ongoing commitment to *pro bono* service and diversity. The firm has offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, London, and Brussels.