

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property law is a vital tool in the creation and protection of dynamic business assets and Edwin Coe's intellectual property team combines dedicated IP specialists and heavyweight litigators.

We provide a full service from the acquisition, exploitation and protection of intellectual property, through to its commercial use and the handling of infringement and other contentious issues.

The IP team has considerable expertise in the non-contentious areas of IP, including trade marks, copyright and design rights, technology agreements and licences, exploitation and protection of brands, new brand launches, preparing and negotiating a wide range of commercial contracts and agreements, and advising on IP matters in the context of M&A.

The head of the intellectual property team, Simon Miles, is a solicitor and a UK and European Trade Mark Attorney. Our team comprises a mix of solicitors and attorneys and as such we are able to offer expert advice in relation to all issues relating to brands.

One of our partners, Nick Phillips, has for many years been an Independent Expert appointed by Nominet to determine domain name disputes.

Our sector experience includes electronics, cosmetics, restaurants, charities and not-for-profit, sport and leisure, IT and media, and art and design.

Our reputation for heavyweight litigation also makes us a popular choice for tricky contentious IP matters.

Typically we advise on:

- Trade marks
- Passing off
- Patents
- Copyright and database rights
- Design rights and registered design
- Confidentiality and trade secrets
- Information technology
- Internet domain names.

Our clients range from large enterprises, to SMEs, charities, individuals and entrepreneurs.



'They are very client-focused and take the time to get to know their client's business so they can provide the most tailored services possible.'

Chambers UK 2016

Examples of our work

- We advised a pet food manufacturer in the High Court regarding trade mark and passing off proceedings against a competitor.
- We advised a multinational water company in relation to its worldwide patent litigation. We have been working with US advisers in relation to resisting a motion in the US for discovery and depositions based on UK infringement proceedings. We have also been instructed by this client in relation to the patent infringement proceedings in the UK.
- We advise an international cosmetics company on many ongoing issues including a brands dispute in the US with another cosmetics company over alleged infringement of rights in the shape of a container, clearing the shape of a distinctive new product bottle on a world-wide basis and advising on a refresh of the brand.
- We advised a European sports apparel exclusive licensee on a multi-jurisdictional litigation with a well-known sports brand in relation to various causes of action relating to breaches of an exclusive trade mark licence agreement.
- We advised a famous travel website on the sale of its car-hire broker business to a competitor including the IP aspects of the transaction.
- We advised a well-known media content regulator in a trade mark and copyright infringement and passing off dispute against a regulator in a related field.



They provide a very responsive and commercial service.'

Chambers UK 2017

'Simon Miles is a great communicator.'

Legal 500 2016

'They are very approachable and practical, readily making suggestions of alternative approaches to a problem other than purely legal ones.'

Chambers UK 2016

'Spot-on in the advice they give, and they provide a definite direction for us to follow rather than sitting on the fence.'

Chambers UK 2015

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- We advised a restaurants group on the acquisition of 85 restaurants including those operating under a famous British brand. We manage the international trade mark and designs portfolio.
 - We work with the Design and Artists' Copyright Society (DACS). The firm is on the DACS panel of recommended firms, acting for its members. DACS is the largest royalty fee collection society for artists, collecting revenues for many well-known names from the art world. The firm regularly acts for artists and designers on intellectual property, litigation and private client matters.
 - We acted in the reported case (A Grisbrook v MGN Ltd and Others) for photographer Alan Grisbrook, who took many of the iconic images of the early '80s for a number of newspapers, including Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN). Mr Grisbrook successfully sued MGN in the 1990s after he found that they had infringed his copyright, but discovered in 2009 that it had placed his photographs on an electronic database with a view to selling them. Edwin Coe acted on his successful application for contempt regarding breach of the earlier order.
 - We advise a well-known boutique international licensing agency on the exploitation and protection of intellectual property rights and management of its representative international trade mark portfolios. The agency is the exclusive licensing agent for many famous childrens brands.
 - We advise one of the UK's largest online dating companies on a range of matters including on its worldwide portfolio of trade marks, trade mark and copyright disputes and in relation to a number of commercial agreements and data protection issues.
 - We advise an internet television provider on a range of matters including a dispute with a major European broadcaster.
 - We advise a major restaurant chain on its trade mark portfolio and related intellectual property rights.
- We are ranked for our IP expertise in the 2015 Chambers & Partners UK Directory, with practice head Simon Miles ranked as a leading individual.

Our Team



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