



DHENNE AVOCATS

The French law firm dedicated to patent litigation.

A Paris boutique specialised in patent and intellectual-property litigation, founded in 2018 by Matthieu Dhenne.

LEADERS LEAGUE

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IAM PATENT 1000

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IP STARS

Who we are

Dhenne Avocats is a Paris litigation boutique built on a single conviction: patent disputes are won where law and technology meet. We litigate patents, supplementary protection certificates and trade secrets before the French courts, the Unified Patent Court (UPC) and in arbitration, and we advise on the strategy that surrounds them — from portfolio protection to licensing and regulatory matters, notably in the life-sciences field.

We work as readily for the parties to a dispute as alongside their advisers. Companies — from start-ups to global groups — entrust us with the full life-cycle of a patent matter, from the saisie-contrefaçon to judgment and settlement. Foreign law firms rely on us as French and UPC local counsel, to run seizures, infringement and revocation actions and to coordinate parallel proceedings across Europe. French generalist and corporate firms call on us for the patent and IP support their own clients need — due diligence, licensing, litigation — on a white-label basis, without our ever competing for the client relationship.

Whatever the entry point, the client keeps a single interlocutor and one standard of technical rigour.

Expertise

Counsel

- Audit of patent portfolios and of patent / know-how contracts
- Innovation-protection strategy and patent valorisation
- Non-disclosure, consortium and co-ownership agreements
- FRAND licensing
- Technology-transfer and licence agreements (patents, trademarks, know-how, designs)
- Assignment agreements and IP-related employment / IT contracts
- Regulatory advice, notably in life sciences
- Tailored assistance

Litigation

- Saisie-contrefaçon before the French courts and the UPC
- Patent infringement proceedings
- Patent revocation / nullity actions
- SPC litigation
- Trade-secret protection
- Employees' inventions
- Unfair competition and parasitism
- FRAND / SEP disputes and arbitration
- Protective letters before the UPC

Across every technical field, supported by our partner engineers:

Electronics

IT / Telecommunications

Chemistry

Biotechnologies

Medical devices & pharmaceuticals

Mechanical

Rankings & recognition

The firm and its founder are consistently recognised for patent litigation by the leading independent directories:

Highly noted — Patents: litigation and life-sciences litigation

Leaders League

Recommended (Bronze) — Matthieu Dhenne & the firm

IAM Patent 1000

Patent Star — Matthieu Dhenne

IP STARS

Matthieu Dhenne is the author of a Treatise on Patent Law (LexisNexis, 2024) and of more than one hundred peer-reviewed articles, and a regular contributor to the Kluwer Patent Blog.

Our core values

Commitment

We invest in every case as if it were our own.

Expertise

Deep, current command of patent law and procedure.

Responsiveness

Fast, clear answers when the stakes move.

Combativity

We litigate to win, firmly and fairly.

Creativity

We design the legal strategy the case demands.

Technicality

We speak the language of the invention.

Team

A close-knit team, backed by partner engineers in every technical field in which the firm operates.

Matthieu Dhenne

Founding Partner — UPC Representative

PhD in Patent Law (Université Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas), Master II in Industrial Property (CEIPI, Strasbourg) and LL.M. in International Legal Practice (Bond University, Australia). Former visiting researcher at Columbia University and fellow of the Max-Planck Institute in Munich.

Ranked for patent litigation by Leaders League, IAM Patent 1000 and IP STARS. Author of a Treatise on Patent Law (LexisNexis, 2024). Working languages: French, English, German.

Valentin Morel-Lab

Attorney-at-Law

Acts in IP litigation, primarily patents — infringement, validity, saisie-contrefaçon, applications to withdraw preliminary injunctions and provisional measures, and related trade-secret and confidentiality issues. Earlier experience in IP/IT.

Louise Hülsmann

Attorney-at-Law

Involved in IP litigation, mainly patents. Master 2 in IP and International Trade Law (CEIPI) and a dual degree in Law and Art History (École du Louvre). Prior experience in IP firms and Danone's IP & Media department. French, English, German.

Camille Lesavre

Lawyer

Works on patent litigation and trade-secret protection, in both advice and litigation, on technical and complex industrial-property disputes. Master 2 in Industrial Property Law (Paris-Panthéon-Assas).

Baptiste Larrière

Lawyer

Involved in IP litigation, primarily patents. Master 2 in Industrial Property Law (Paris II Panthéon-Assas); preparing the French bar exam (CRFPA) at the IEJ.

They trust us

"Matthieu Dhenne provides clear, precise advice in an area that is rarely clear: patents and trademarks. He knows how to be pragmatic, depending on the issues at stake."

Gabriele Mohsler —Vice-President Patents, Ericsson

"Matthieu is smart, energetic, entrepreneurial and with a strong scientific background. Plus a multilingual, very nice guy."

Prof. Dr. Tilman Müller-Stoy —Patent attorney, Bardehle Pagenberg

"One of the most brilliant patent litigators I have met in Europe. Very deep legal and technical understanding, with a strong client-focused approach, and able to design successful legal strategies."

Guillaume Ménage —Head of Intellectual Property, Ledger

"We worked together on a patent case with parallel proceedings in Germany and France. I appreciated not only his grasp of the technical aspects — rare for a lawyer — but also his knowledge of German procedure. A highly specialised, precise and innovative lawyer."

Ivan Massonnat —PAI Partners

"One of the leading experts in patent litigation and the organisation of complex, multiple saisies-contrefaçon. Always up to date with the latest case-law."

Pierre-Aimé Despalle —Patent attorney, Huawei

"Matthieu supports and advises the company throughout often lengthy procedures. His constant investment and competence maintain a relationship of trust."

Frédéric Lescure —CEO, Socomore

Selected recent matters

UPC

Acted for a European patentee before the Unified Patent Court in a pan-European infringement action — among the first cases brought by a French firm before the UPC — seeking recall, withdrawal and destruction of the infringing products together with damages. The matter was later stayed to allow negotiations conducted by the firm.

Paris Judicial Court

Represented a manufacturer in an infringement action over its French and European patents against a leading retailer of sports equipment, organising several saisies-contrefaçon. Both the patents and the seizures were upheld despite the defendant's invalidity counterclaim.

Paris Court of Appeal

Acted for a company in the urban-mobility sector against a former partner infringing its patents and engaging in unfair competition and disparagement; the saisies were granted and enforced and a jurisdictional exception upheld.

Trade secrets / biocides

Represented the market leader against five competitors using a patented formula in France and Europe; ran two saisies per competitor, defended the ensuing référé-rétractation and trade-secret challenges, obtained sort-out proceedings to exploit the seized evidence; merits pending, stayed pending licence negotiations.

Advisory

Protective letters before the UPC; preparation of a pharmaceutical leader for saisies following a cease-and-desist letter; audits of know-how, technology-transfer and prototype contracts for a German car manufacturer; client training and on-site assistance during seizure operations.

Contact

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Fees

Our fees reflect the complexity of the matter and the value we add. Depending on the case, hourly rates, capped fees or flat fees can be agreed, and a success component discussed. Every arrangement is set out transparently at the outset. All fees are exclusive of taxes.

