

# The Intellectual Property and Information Technology Group

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CHAMBERS



# Modern



Wilberforce offers a modern approach to problem solving and dispute resolution in the intellectual property and information technology fields. With the focus on providing a top quality service that is tailored to each job, our clients receive realistic advice from experienced lawyers who like to stay ahead of the game.

## The Intellectual Property & Information Technology Group

Wilberforce Chambers has a specialist team of barristers who practise across the fields of law relating to intellectual property and information technology. In this ever-growing area of business, our members are well-recognised for their combination of intellectual capability, advocacy skills, commercial sense and teamwork.

Our IP and IT practitioners take instructions from solicitors, trade mark and patent attorneys, foreign lawyers and in-house counsel, representing a wide array of clients. They appear in the English Courts in cases ranging from urgent injunction applications to lengthy trials; they argue complex points of law in the European Courts; and they appear regularly in the UK Intellectual Property Office, as well as preparing written submissions to OHIM in European trade mark and design cases. They have extensive experience of mediations, arbitrations, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, with a number being qualified as mediators and arbitrators.

Led by Michael Bloch QC, the team includes two former partners of 'magic circle' law firms, who are able to draw on their understanding of the inner workings of instructing firms and the commercial constraints on their clients when deciding how to approach a case. Their inclusion in our team, together with the accessibility of others within Chambers who have broad commercial

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practices, make our barristers uniquely placed to deal with the wider business issues that arise in IP and IT cases as well as the core rights themselves.

Between them, members of Chambers belong to a range of relevant professional associations and industry groups, including AIPPI, the International Trademarks Association, the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys, the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, the Pharmaceutical Trade Marks Group, the Computer Law Group, the Competition Law Association, the Intellectual Property Lawyers' Organisation, and the Chancery and IP Bar Associations. By our active participation in the activities of these groups, and by regularly speaking at their conferences and at commercial seminars, as well as offering in-house training to solicitors and clients and writing articles for IP and IT journals, we ensure that we stay on top of the latest law and practice on an international as well as domestic level.

Wilberforce's IP/IT team is well-established and highly regarded in the field and its members have been described variously in recent editions of the major legal directories and journals as "successful", "impressive", "clever and very popular", "especially user-friendly" and "[to] be trusted to produce a polished piece of work".

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Wilberforce Chambers' IP & IT practice includes the areas listed below.

- **Brand protection and enforcement:** trade mark infringement and passing off litigation, anti-counterfeiting and parallel imports cases, domain name disputes, UK and Community trade mark oppositions, invalidity and revocation proceedings, and general advice on branding strategy.
- **Designs and copyright:** advice on design and copyright protection under UK and European law, as well as international treaties, relating to subject matter as diverse as food packaging, designer-wear, web design, musical performances and television formats.
- **Patents and know-how:** litigation and advice aimed at the protection of investment in technology and know-how, with particular expertise in issues arising out of licensing arrangements.
- **Computer contracts, IP licences and technology agreements:** drafting and interpreting agreements that govern the ownership, use and enforcement of intellectual property rights, from assignments by inventors or writers to their employers or publishing companies, to multi-million pound computer contracts.

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- **Databases, data protection and confidential information:** how to protect or uncover and use information held on electronic and other media, whether concerning trade secrets, commercial data or an individual's private life.
- **EU competition and international jurisdiction:** analysis and interpretation of European Directives and Regulations relating to IP and technology, forum shopping and co-ordination of multi-jurisdictional disputes.

In addition, members of chambers advise on a wide range of commercial issues, contracts and disputes that affect owners of brands and technology, including product launches, comparative and other advertising matters, trade libel and unfair competition.

A comprehensive list of our recent cases and full biographies of all members of the IP and IT group can be found on our website at [www.wilberforce.co.uk](http://www.wilberforce.co.uk).

**For further information about our IP & IT Group, please contact any of:**

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# Teamwork

At Wilberforce we are not prima donnas. We understand the need for teamwork with our instructing solicitors, attorneys, clients and experts.

We listen to our clients' requests and concerns, and we tell them what we think. We do not go off on a tangent, but stay focused on the requirements of the case, working with all the other players to achieve common goals.



Wilberforce Chambers has a reputation for pre-eminence across a range of practice areas traditionally described as 'Commercial Chancery'. In addition to Intellectual Property and Information Technology, we have barristers with expertise in the fields of Banking, Company, Property, Pensions, Private Client, Professional Liability and general Commercial. More information is available on our website at [www.wilberforce.co.uk](http://www.wilberforce.co.uk) and on request from our clerks.

We have an excellent clerking team who are always happy to deal with queries about the Intellectual Property & Information Technology Group and our other practice areas, as well as individual members of Chambers. They approach all queries with care and attention and aim at all times to ensure that we are competitive with fee quotes.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the senior clerking team should you want further information:

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