

MewburnEllis
LLP

Introduction to the Firm

Mewburn Ellis LLP is one of the UK's largest firms of Chartered Patent Agents, European Patent Attorneys, European Trade Mark Attorneys and European Design Attorneys. We serve clients from the UK and all around the world, covering the full range of intellectual property issues: Patents, Trade Marks, Designs, Industrial Copyright and related matters.

The firm offers

A FULL INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AND IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT, DESIGN AND COMMUNITY TRADE MARK SYSTEMS

COVERAGE OF ALL TECHNICAL FIELDS, INCLUDING BIOTECHNOLOGY, COMPUTERS, PHARMACEUTICALS, ELECTRONICS, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND CHEMISTRY

A SPECIALIST TRADE MARKS DEPARTMENT

A TEAM OF IN-HOUSE SPECIALIST LAWYERS HANDLING LICENSING AND TRANSFER MATTERS AND PROVIDING LITIGATION SUPPORT

A COMPETITIVELY-PRICED COMPUTERISED RENEWALS SERVICE

Our History

John Clayton Mewburn began work in London in the 1860s, joining with George Beloe Ellis in the 1890s to form a firm which became Mewburn Ellis & Co. Six members of the Ellis family have been partners in the firm. George Ellis' daughter, Margaret Dixon, became the first woman to practise as a UK patent agent, and her brother, John Ellis, retired from the partnership as recently as 1988.

The last two decades have brought major changes in intellectual property law and practice around the world, and notably in Europe. Over that period Mewburn Ellis has grown considerably, keeping pace with the consequent increase in the quantity and diversity of international work.

We have offices in central London, Bristol, Manchester and Cambridge.

Our People

The Firm

The firm is a limited liability partnership including UK Chartered Patent Attorneys and UK Registered Trade Mark Attorneys.

Patent Practitioners

Most of the partners are UK Chartered Patent Attorneys and European Patent Attorneys, as are a similar number of professional staff members handling patents.

There is no limit to the technical fields in which we handle patent work. Present partners and professional staff have degrees in the fields of engineering (mechanical, aeronautical, electrical and electronic), chemistry, biochemistry, materials science and physics.

Trade Mark Practitioners

All our trade mark specialists are Registered Trade Mark Attorneys and European Trade Mark Attorneys, authorised to act before the Community Trade Mark Office, as are some of our patent practitioners.

Lawyers

Our qualified lawyers contribute expertise in legal issues relevant to intellectual property, in particular the transfer, exploitation and licensing of IP rights as well as support in UK litigation.

Our Service to Clients

Day-to-day handling of European and UK intellectual property rights inevitably brings us special expertise in European/UK intellectual property practice. We believe strongly that our role is to provide a positive service giving the benefit of that expertise to every client, whether British or from overseas.

Our first aim is therefore always to be responsive and alert to the instructions and information which our client provides. We do not carry out instructions passively, but seek positively to make additional contributions using our special expertise. This distinctive approach often leads to beneficial changes in a proposed course of action, and has particular value for overseas clients.

We aim also to treat our clients' intellectual property rights not in isolation, but as part of their legal, commercial and industrial environment, for example in licensing and other technology transfer contexts.

Our Training

The firm believes that it is important always to be training people for the profession, and we are pleased that our training has a reputation for high quality. Most of the present partners and other professional members were trained in the firm, bringing continuity and consistency to our style and attitude. The training is intensive; trainees spend at least three years in the offices of the partners in a close working relationship, and are discouraged from early specialisation. They handle a wide variety of legal and technical situations in the general fields as well as in their own specialist field.

European Patents

The opening of the European Patent Office (EPO) in 1978 heralded a major change in the European patent world. In 1978 many people regarded the new system with great doubt, but the EPO has proved an enormous success. European patents are well respected inside and outside Europe, and have raised the quality of the patent work done by those involved with them. They are now the most important part of our patent work.

Mewburn Ellis LLP has always been enthusiastic about the European patent system; we were publishing information sheets and giving talks and lectures around the world as early as 1976. We continue to produce those information sheets (available on request and on our website) on this and other topics, keeping our clients and associates around the world up-to-date as the system changes from year to year.

This process of learning, teaching and involvement has not stopped. We know that interest and comments from users are needed to influence the development of the European patent system in the right direction, and we know that our involvement has already done so.

Each summer we give a lecture course at our offices. This has now been repeated for more than fifteen years. The courses last for two weeks and aim to familiarise our clients and associates, particularly from Japan and the Far East, with the European patent system.

Community Trade Marks

The Community Trade Mark (CTM) system has already become very widely used. Applications are filed at the Community Trade Mark Office (known as OHIM) and the resulting Community registrations give protection throughout the European Union.

Our trade mark practitioners have obtained considerable expertise regarding the CTM system and are well-prepared to advise our clients. Oppositions are quite common because of the nature of the system and we of course always try to offer a proactive approach to dealing with them, including exploring negotiated settlements where appropriate.

Designs and Copyright

These are increasingly important fields. The UK offers an unusually wide variety of design protection regimes and options for protecting designs in Europe and Internationally also exist. We keep up-to-date and can advise clients on protection by:

REGISTERED DESIGN

UNREGISTERED DESIGN RIGHT

COMMUNITY DESIGN RIGHT

REGISTERED COMMUNITY DESIGNS

INTERNATIONAL REGISTERED DESIGNS (HAGUE SYSTEM)

COPYRIGHT IN INDUSTRIAL ARTICLES

COPYRIGHT IN COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Other Developments

International Trade Mark Registrations

The Madrid Protocol has now been ratified by over fifty countries (including all those in the European Union) and can be a very useful and efficient route for obtaining trade mark protection in many countries.


Community Patents

Year follows year and the Community Patent Convention is still not in force. When this unitary patent is at last available it will extend the range of possibilities for patenting in Europe, since the existing European patent system will largely continue. We are well prepared to inform and advise our clients.

Domain Names

Conflict between domain names and trade marks has become significant for many of our clients in the last few years. Our trade mark practitioners are able to advise on these matters and to take or defend cases under the main dispute resolution procedures.

Portfolio Management

 Our care of our clients' intellectual property portfolios does not stop at obtaining registrations and prosecuting patents.

We offer a full renewals service for all registered rights, and also trade mark and patent watching and searching services so that our clients can receive the earliest possible warning of the activities of their competitors.

We advise on all aspects of conflicts and disputes concerning patents, trade marks, designs, industrial copyright, domain names and copyright in computer software.

We also handle the assignment and licensing of intellectual property and the registration of such transactions at all national and international patent and trade mark offices.

Renewals and Annuities

We are pleased to offer our clients a modern computerised renewal/annuity payment service. We handle many thousands of renewal payments each year and we believe that our charges compare well, while traditional levels of care are still applied. An information sheet giving further details is available.

Website

For further information on our firm and on many aspects of Intellectual Property, please contact us or view www.mewburn.com.

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