

IXAS Conseil is an Intellectual Property law firm based in Lyon, France. The firm was established in 1989 by Michel Gaucherand, and reshaped in 2005 when Martin P. Schmidt joined the firm as a managing partner.

IXAS Conseil is admitted to represent clients before the following offices : French National Intellectual Property Office (INPI), European Patent Office (EPO), Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM).

Through its network of foreign associates, IXAS Conseil can represent its clients everywhere in the world. In certain cases, we can represent our clients directly before the German patent and trademark office. All our consultants are fluent in English and most have a second foreign language. We are able to work directly in English, French, and German, for patent drafting, legal counselling and negotiations as well as in oral proceedings.

IXAS Conseil provides a synthesis of legal accuracy and strategic thinking. IP assets are viewed as business assets which need, directly or indirectly, to provide a competitive advantage to its owner, and to create value.

SERVICES OFFERED

- **Patents** : Prior art search, drafting, filing and prosecution of patent applications, post-grant proceedings (opposition, appeal, limitation) in the following languages : English, German, French.
- **Trademarks, designs, models, domain names** : Trademark clearance search (worldwide), filing, prosecution and registration of applications, opposition and appeal proceedings.
- **Agreements and contracts** : Assignment, license agreements, technology transfer, collaboration agreements, sub-contracting, confidentiality agreements, coexistence agreements etc.
- **Litigation** : Infringement studies (all kinds of IP rights), elaboration of litigation strategies (national and international), alternative dispute resolution (negotiation, arbitration, mediation).
- **Legal advice and counseling in the field of IP law.**
- **Due diligence procedures**, legal and strategic audit of portfolios of IP rights, IP-based business strategies.
- **IP training sessions** (in English, German and French).
- **Audits on management and valuation of IP assets.**

OUR STAFF

ATTORNEYS AND CONSULTANTS

Michel Gaucherand (President of IXAS CONSEIL)

Qualification : French patent and trademark agent, European Patent Attorney (EPO), European trademark and design attorney (OHIM).
Academic training : Chemical engineer (Ecole de Chimie Physique Industrielles, Lyon).
Field of expertise : Chemistry, physics, material science, minerals, polymers, packaging, electrochemistry, mechanical engineering, industrial processes, electricity, nuclear fuel.

Mr. Gaucherand is the founder of IXAS CONSEIL. He has worked for more than 30 years in industry (Rhône Poulenc, Pechiney, Plus-Stauffer), in senior management positions (manufacturing, R&D, IP) and as in-house patent counsel.

Martin P. Schmidt (CEO of IXAS CONSEIL)

Qualification : French patent and trademark attorney, European Patent Attorney (EPO), European trademark & design attorney (OHIM)
Academic training : Dipl. Chem. (Univ. Göttingen), Ph.D Physical Chemistry (Univ. Paris XI), Ph.D Physical Sciences (Univ. Paris XI)
Masters in business law and civil law, Master in economy (Univ. Grenoble)
CEIPI Diploma in IP law (patents, trademarks, designs)
EPI-CEIPI Diploma "Patent Litigation in Europe".
Fields of expertise : Chemistry, physics, material science, metallurgy, industrial processes, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics.

Dr Schmidt joined IXAS CONSEIL as a managing partner in 2005, after having spent more than 20 years in industry (Total, Pechiney, Alcan), in management positions (quality assurance, R&D, IP) and as in-house IP counsel in Alcan's European IP department.

He has authored or co-authored more than 20 technical publications and several legal publications (French, European and US patent and trademark law). He has significant experience in opposition and appeal proceedings before the European Patent Office, where he is pleading in English, German, and French.

He is listed on the WIPO List of Neutrals for mediation and arbitration, and by the French - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry as an arbitrator.

Since 2006, he is a tutor for candidates who are preparing the EPO's European Qualification Examination. Since 2007, he is lecturing IP law at Lyon University.

Daniel Pigasse

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| Qualification : | French patent and trademark agent, European Patent Attorney (EPO), European trademark and design attorney (OHIM). |
| Academic training : | Chemical engineer (Ecole Supérieure de Chimie Industrielle, Lyon), Ph.D Physical Sciences (Lyon) CEIPI Diploma in IP law (patents). |
| Field of expertise : | Mechanical engineering, chemistry, material science, metallurgy, industrial processes, polymer, packaging. |

Dr Pigasse joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2006 as a senior patent attorney after having practised IP law for more than 20 years in industry (Pechiney, Alcan). He has over 35 years of experience (R&D, IP) in the field of polymers, plastics processing and packaging, drafting hundreds of patent applications. He has also significant experience with opposition and appeal proceedings before the EPO.

Vanessa Crespin

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| Qualification : | French trademark attorney. European trademark and design attorney (OHIM). |
| Academic training : | Master in business law, Postgraduate (DESS) diploma in Intellectual Property law (Univ. Grenoble). |
| Field of expertise : | Trademark law, designs, domain names, copyrights, protection of software, legal counseling, contract law. |

Mrs. Crespin joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2005 as a trademark lawyer and legal counsel, after having worked for 5 years in a Paris-based IP law firm. She also has significant experience in contract law.

Luminita Noel

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| Qualification : | French patent attorney. |
| Academic training : | Mechanical engineer (Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest). CEIPI Diploma in IP law (patents). |
| Fields of expertise : | Mechanical and electrical engineering. |

Mrs. Noel joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2008 as a patent engineer, after having worked for 12 years as in-house patent counsel and patent searcher at SEB in France, a major European manufacturer of kitchen equipment. She has drafted and followed up more than a hundred patent applications there. Prior to entering the field of IP, she had spent 7 years as a development engineer in mechanical and electromechanical industries in Romania.

Emmanuelle Rigollet

Qualification : Patent engineer and patent searcher.
Academic training : Engineer (INSA Lyon), Postgraduate degrees in polymeric and composite materials (DEA) and economical intelligence and technical documentation (DESS).
Field of expertise : Physics, chemistry, material science, mechanical engineering, energy conversion, heating and air conditioning systems.

Mrs. Rigollet joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2004 as a patent engineer, after having worked for 5 years in a major strategy consulting firm.

Pierre Picot (Of counsel)

Qualification : Patent engineer and technical advisor.
Academic training : Mechanical engineer (Ecole des Arts et Métiers)
M.Sc. (University of Akron, U.S.A.).
Field of expertise : Mechanical engineering, material science, polymers, recycling, chemical engineering.

Mr. Picot joined IXAS CONSEIL in 1993 after more than 25 years in industry (Dow Chemical) in France, Switzerland and Germany. He serves as an expert to the European Commission (evaluation of R&D projects and technology transfer in the field of recycling of metallic and plastics) and has authored many technical papers and lectures on plastics and recycling. He also has significant experience as an IP strategy analyst.

OUR ADMINISTRATION

Laurence Bricotte Para-legal assistant for patents and trademarks, trilingual.

Gaëlle Gay Accountancy and book-keeping.

OUR OFFICES

Our main office is located 50 metres north of Place Bellecour in the centre of Lyon (Underground lines A and D, Bellecour). Our firm has a secondary office in Marseilles.

The unsecured transmission of confidential documents by internet (e-mail) is at the client's risk. We recommend traditional mail (letter) or facsimile. We can however provide you with reliable means for encryption of electronic mail.

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IXAS CONSEIL has been recommended by Legal500Paris (edition 2008).