



Intellectual Property Law

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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.

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**

IXAS Conseil offers all typical services of IP firms :

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

## **IXAS CONSEIL staff**

IXAS CONSEIL comprises two practice groups :

- (a) « Technical innovation and patents », supervised by Michel Gaucherand,
- (b) « Trademarks, designs, domain names, legal counseling », supervised by Martin P. Schmidt.

IXAS CONSEIL comprises four senior consultants and four junior consultants, some of which belong to both practice groups.

### **Michel Gaucherand (a, b)**

Chemical engineer (Ecole de chimie physique industrielle, Lyon).

French patent and trademark agent, European patent attorney (EPO), European trademark and design attorney (OHIM).

Founded IXAS CONSEIL after having spent more than 30 years in industry (Rhône Poulenc, Pechiney, Plus-Stauffer) in senior management positions (manufacturing, R&D, IP).

- Range of activities : Legal and strategic analysis of IP related problems, patent drafting and prosecution, technology transfer, litigation, audits.
- Technical fields : Chemistry, physics, material science, minerals, electrochemistry, mechanical engineering, industrial processes, electricity, nuclear fuel.

### **Martin P. Schmidt (a, b)**

Ph.D (Univ. Paris), Dipl. Chem. (Univ. Göttingen), CEIPI diploma in IP law,

Master in business law and civil law, Master in economy (Grenoble University).

French Intellectual property attorney (patents, trademarks, designs).

European patent attorney (EPO), European trademark and design attorney (OHIM).

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).

Dr. Schmidt 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.

- Range of activities : Legal and strategic analysis of IP related problems (patents, trademarks, designs, domain names, copyrights etc.), patent drafting and prosecution, trademark law, licensing, due diligence, litigation.
- Technical fields : Chemistry, physics, material science, biotechnology, metallurgy, industrial processes, pharmaceutical products, medical technology.

### **Daniel Pigasse (a, b)**

Chemical engineer (Ecole de chimie physique industrielle, Lyon), Ph.D. (Univ. Lyon), CEIPI diploma in patent law.

French patent and trademark agent, European patent attorney (EPO), European trademark and design attorney (OHIM).

Joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2006 after having practised IP law for more than 20 years in industry (Pechiney, Alcan). He has 35 years of experience (R&D, IP) in the field of polymers and packaging.

- Range of activities : Patent drafting and prosecution, litigation, audits.
- Technical fields : Chemistry, material science, mechanical engineering, industrial processes, polymer chemistry and technology, packaging.

Dr. Pigasse has significant experience with opposition and appeal proceedings before the EPO.

### **Pierre Picot (a)**

Mechanical Engineer (Ecole des Arts et Métiers), M.Sc. (Univ. Akron, U.S.A.).

Joined IXAS CONSEIL in 1993 after more than 25 years in industry (Dow Chemical) in France, Switzerland and Germany. Author of many technical papers.

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).

- Range of activities : Patentability studies, patent drafting, IP strategy analyst, legal and strategic aspects of technology transfer.
- Technical fields : Mechanical engineering, polymeric materials, material science, packaging, recycling, chemical engineering.

Mr. Picot is the author of many technical papers and lectures on plastics and recycling.

### **Vanessa Crespin (b)**

Master in business law, postgraduate (DESS) degree in IP law (Grenoble University)

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.

- Range of activities : Trade mark law, designs, domain names, copyrights, protection of software, legal analysis of IP related problems, contracts.

### **Emmanuelle Rigollet (a)**

Engineer (INSA Lyon), postgraduate degree in polymeric and composite materials, postgraduate degree in economical intelligence and technical documentation

Joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2004 as a junior patent counsel, after having worked for 5 years in a major strategy consulting firm.

- Range of activities : Patent searches, patentability studies, patent drafting.
- Technical fields : Physics, chemistry, materials, mechanical engineering, computer science, heating and air conditioning.

**Hélène Kopff (a, b)**

Chemical engineer (Ecole de Chimie Physique Electronique de Lyon), Dipl. Chem. (Univ. Würzburg), CEIPI diploma in IP law.

Joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2005 as a junior IP counsel.

- Range of activities : Drafting and prosecution of patent applications. Trademark law.
- Technical fields : Chemistry, physics, materials, biochemistry.

**Zahra Mouhoubi (b)**

Master in business law (Toulouse University)

Joined IXAS CONSEIL in 2003 after 4 years as a paralegal in an IP department in an industrial company and in a Paris-based law firm. She is currently preparing the CEIPI diploma in trademark and design law.

- Range of activities : Trademark law.

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Our offices are located 50 metres north of Place Bellecour in the centre of Lyon  
(Underground lines A und D, Bellecour).

The unsecured transmission of confidential documents by internet (e-mail) is at the client's risk.  
We recommend traditional mail (letter) or facsimile.

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