

AA THORNTON

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

It's our people  
that make the  
difference

Client focused | Collaborative | Professional | Flexible

Trade Marks

## About us

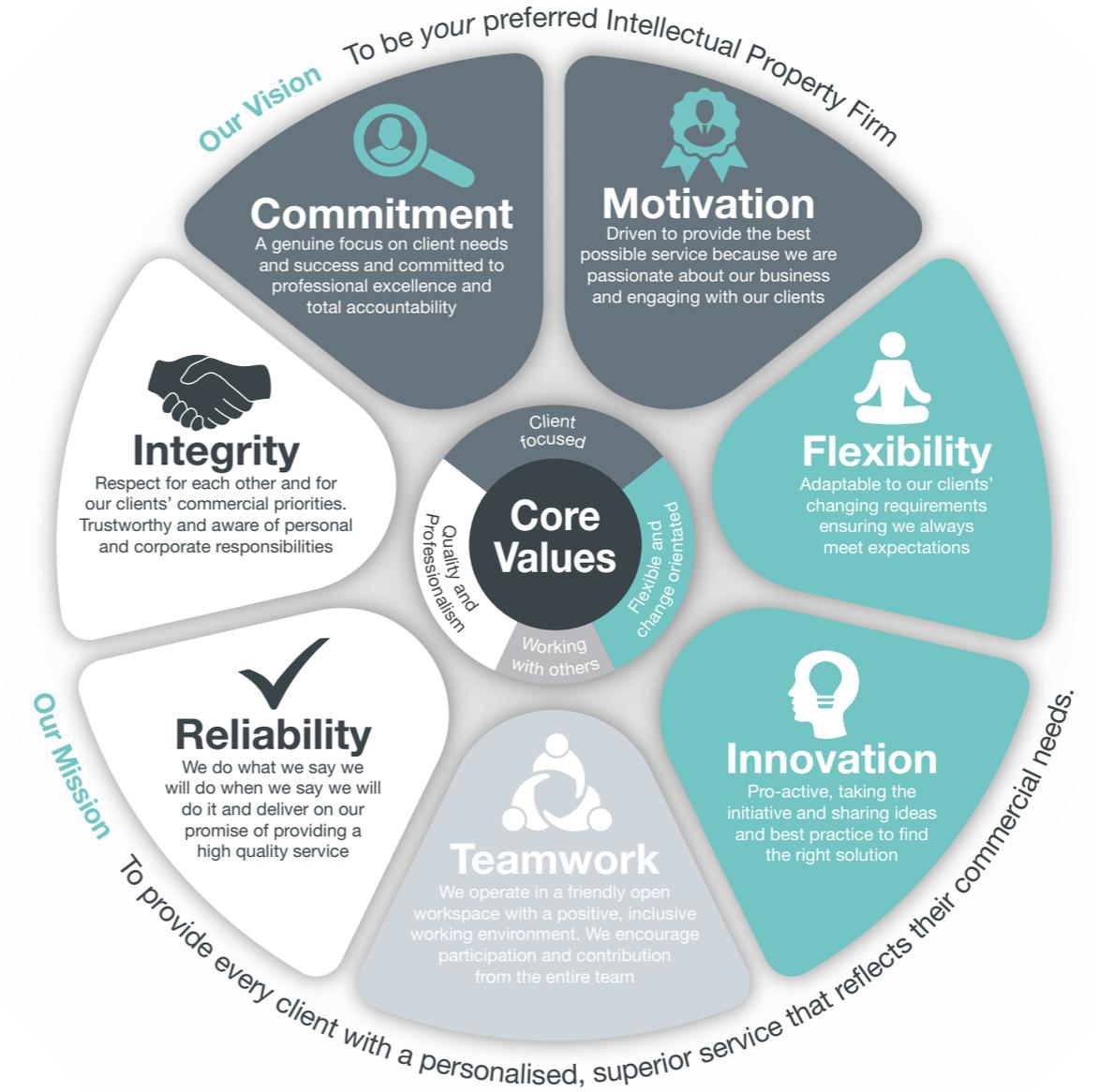
AA Thornton is a leading Intellectual Property firm based in London. Our team of committed and passionate individuals includes patent, trade mark and design attorneys, as well as litigation solicitors, working with clients across a huge range of technologies and commercial fields. We firmly believe it is **our people that make the difference** and this sets us apart from others.

We are delighted to have been consistently ranked by Legal 500 UK as a “Leading Firm”. Our IP professionals are also regularly recommended in WTR 1000 World’s Leading Patent Professionals, Who’s Who Legal and Managing IP’s IPStars.

Our vision is “**to be your preferred intellectual property firm**”, and we are committed to providing every client with a personalised, superior service that reflects their commercial needs.

Our patent and trade mark teams are highly qualified and experienced in all areas of intellectual property – from patents and trade marks, to copyright, design rights and domain names. We have specialist expertise and technical backgrounds that enable us to work with a broad spectrum of industry sectors on a global basis. We advise multinational corporations and SMEs, as well as individuals and universities and ensure that their inventions, brands and designs are expertly protected and their risks are minimised.

## Our values



**IP INCLUSIVE**  
Working for diversity and inclusion in IP

We are delighted to be involved with IP Inclusive, which is an organisation that promotes diversity and inclusion within the various IP professions. AA Thornton were among the first signatories to the IP Inclusive charter, which is part of our ongoing commitment to improving diversity and inclusion. We take an active lead in IP Inclusive, such as the project to promote careers in IP to schools and universities through the “Careers in Ideas” initiative.

## Our clients

We manage substantial IP portfolios for our clients, requiring IP due diligence services, brand management and strategic advice, together with assistance in setting up and implementing IP licensing and ownership structures. Our strong relationships with our clients stem from working closely with their individuals and teams, with regular portfolio reviews and client visits. Our experience and client base spans a number of industry sectors including retail, fashion, food and beverage, automotive, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and we are proud to represent long established brands and household names.

Here is a selection of the clients we represent:



3 Telecoms



Calor Gas



Merck KGaA



Jimmy Choo



Admiral Group



Associated British Foods



Paul Smith



Phase Eight



Primark



STA Travel Group



Twinings



Whistles

## Meet the team

### Vanessa Lawrence Partner, Trade Mark Attorney



Vanessa Lawrence is a Partner and a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney. Vanessa handles a wide range of UK and international trade mark cases, and works across various commercial sectors including fashion, food & beverage, travel and telecommunications.

#### Practice areas:

- Trade Marks
- Design Rights
- Copyright
- Domain Names
- Customs/Anti-counterfeiting

#### Qualifications:

- BSc Hons Science, Nottingham University
- MSc Intellectual Property Law, Queen Mary College, University of London
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney



*"Vanessa Lawrence is 'a true shining star', who has 'exceptional knowledge of trade marks' and delivers 'commercially sensible solutions in terms of results and budget'."*

**Legal 500**

## Ian Gill

Partner, Trade Mark Attorney



Ian Gill is a Partner and a UK Chartered Patent and Trade Mark Attorney. Ian is also a European Patent, Trade Mark and Designs Attorney. Ian specialises in contentious and non-contentious issues relating to trade marks and designs and is also Partnership Chair.

**Practice areas:**

- Trade Marks
- Patents
- Design Rights
- Copyright

**Qualifications:**

- BEng Aeronautical Engineering, Bristol University
- MSc Intellectual Property Law, Queen Mary College, University of London
- UK Chartered Patent Attorney
- European Patent Attorney
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney

## Rachel Havard

Partner, Trade Mark Attorney



Rachel Havard is a Partner and a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney. Rachel handles a wide range of UK and international trade mark cases, and has significant experience of clearing trade marks for use and registration, and in negotiating and drafting trade mark co-existence agreements. Her portfolio of clients covers a variety of sectors, including fashion retail, automotives and pharmaceuticals.

**Practice areas:**

- Trade Marks
- Design Rights
- Copyright

**Qualifications:**

- LLB Hons Law, University of Glamorgan
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney



*“Trademark and design pro Ian Gill has technical and tactical acumen in abundance”*

**Legal 500**



*“Rachel Havard is ‘very thorough’ and ‘recommended for her handling of a wide range of UK and international trade mark cases’.”*

**Legal 500**

## Geoff Hussey Partner, Solicitor



Geoff Hussey is a Partner and Solicitor whose practice areas are IP litigation, and commercial IP. His experience includes acting for a broad range of clients in many sectors including life sciences, electronics, telecoms, chemicals, aviation, food & beverages and financial services. Geoff's IP litigation practice relates to all forms of intellectual property and a wide range of industries.

### Some of Geoff's notable cases include:

- EMI v BSKyB (*NOW TV trade mark infringement*)
- easyGroup v easyJet (*airline brand licence dispute*)
- ScanSafe v MessageLabs (*internet scanning software reverse passing off*)
- Smith & Nephew v ConvaTec (*wound dressing patent validity/infringement*)

### Qualifications:

- BSc Human Genetics, Nottingham University
- Post-graduate Diploma in Law and LPC, Nottingham Law School
- Diploma in Intellectual Property Law & Practice, University of Bristol
- Solicitor in England & Wales

## Sarah Darby Partner, Trade Mark Attorney



Sarah is a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney. Sarah handles trade marks, designs and copyright in the UK, EU and worldwide.

Sarah advises on all types of trade mark matters from the inception of a brand and checking its availability to obtaining registrations, commercialisation of rights and enforcement of rights in opposition actions, cancellation actions and litigation.

Sarah also deals with domain name registrations, purchases and complaints, as well as customs and counterfeit issues. Sarah advises both domestic and international clients, in industry sectors such as food & beverages, luxury goods, agriculture, gaming and sports.

### Practice areas:

- Trade Marks
- Copyright
- Design Rights
- Domain disputes and acquisition

### Qualifications:

- BA Hons English Literature, Selwyn College, Cambridge
- Certificate in Intellectual Property, Queen Mary College, University of London
- Qualified as a UK Chartered Trade Mark attorney in 2010
- European Trade Mark and designs attorney



"Following the arrival of IP litigator Geoff Hussey, who joined from Bird & Bird LLP, the team is increasingly handling high-stakes contentious patent cases."

Legal 500



**Louise Foster**  
Senior Associate, Trade Mark Attorney

Louise Foster is a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney handling trade marks, copyright and domain name cases in the UK, EU and overseas. Louise's client base operates in sectors such as fashion & clothing, food & beverages, travel, and also includes providers of software products and solutions applied across a range of industries.

**Practice areas:**

- Trade Marks
- Copyright
- Design Rights
- Domain disputes and acquisition

**Qualifications:**

- BA Jt Hons German & Russian, University of Nottingham
- Postgraduate Certificate in Trade Mark Law and Practice, Queen Mary, University of London
- Professional Certificate in Trade Mark Practice, Nottingham Law School
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney



**Nidhi Mukhuty**  
Associate, Trade Mark Attorney

Nidhi Mukhuty is a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney handling trade mark, design and copyright cases for clients in a diverse range of industries, with a particular focus on the clothing, food & beverages, oil & gas, hospitality, finance, automotive and publishing industry sectors.

**Practice areas:**

- Trade Marks
- Design Rights
- Copyright

**Qualifications:**

- BSc in Chemistry & Botany, India
- Postgraduate Certificate in Trade Mark Law and Practice, Queen Mary, University of London
- Professional Certificate in Trade Mark Practice, Nottingham Law School
- Advocate in India
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney



**Suzanne Power**  
Associate, Trade Mark Attorney

Suzanne Power is a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney. Suzanne's clients operate in industry sectors such as fashion, healthcare & pharmaceuticals, finance and food & beverages.

**Practice areas:**

- Trade Marks
- Design Rights
- Copyright

**Qualifications:**

- BA Hons French & Linguistics, Jesus College, University of Oxford
- Postgraduate Certificate in Trade Mark Law and Practice, Queen Mary, University of London
- Professional Certificate in Trade Mark Practice, Nottingham Law School
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney



**Sarah Neil**  
Associate, Trade Mark Attorney

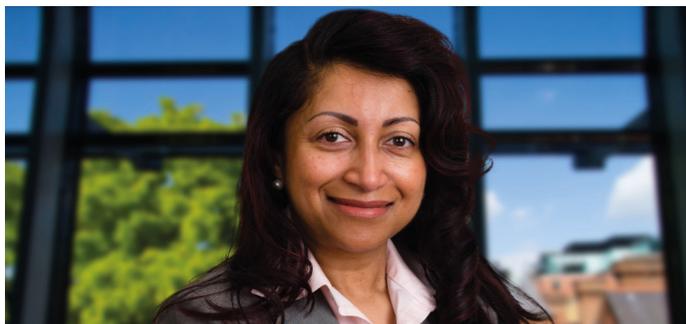
Sarah Neil is a UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney and European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney. Sarah's clients operate in industry sectors such as fashion, telecommunications and travel and tourism.

**Practice areas:**

- Trade Marks
- Design Rights
- Copyright
- Domain Names disputes

**Qualifications:**

- BA Hons Law, University of Cambridge
- Postgraduate Certificate in Trade Mark Law and Practice, Queen Mary, University of London
- Professional Certificate in Trade Mark Practice, Nottingham Law School
- UK Chartered Trade Mark Attorney
- European Trade Mark and Designs Attorney



**Varuni Paranavitane**  
IP Litigation Associate, Solicitor

Varuni is an IP solicitor advising on trade mark, design, copyright and patent matters. She has IP experience in a variety of industry sectors including fashion, life sciences, digital media, sports and food. Varuni's practice also includes non-contentious brands advisory work, enforcement strategy, settlement and co-existence strategy advice as well as advice in relation to commercial transactions.

**Some of Varuni's notable cases include:**

- Radley v Poundworld (IPEC)
- Catchup TV v Gzero (High Court)
- Natures Way v Natures Way Ltd (IPEC)
- Group Lotus PLC v 1Malaysia Racing Team (High Court)

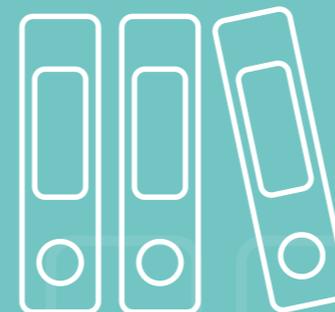
**Qualifications:**

- BSc, Imperial College
- PhD, King's College, Cambridge
- LLB, College of Law
- PGDip in Intellectual Property Law and Practice, Oxford University
- Qualified as a Solicitor in England and Wales in September 2011

“  
*a fantastic resource which you can rely on totally for trademark matters in Europe*  
”

Trademark Review (WTR) 1000

## More about our services and expertise



**Trade Mark, Design & Copyright Portfolio Management**

Our patent and trade mark attorneys regularly advise on IP portfolio management, with a focus on alignment with each client's overall corporate objectives and strategy.

We understand the need to review expenditure, IP asset value and portfolio management decisions on a regular basis, and to check alignment with the current business objectives and market conditions. We approach this with a desire to understand your business needs and to provide a solution that achieves your objectives efficiently and cost-effectively.



**Patents**

Our patent attorneys have a wealth of experience in all aspects of patent law, and can advise across a wide and diverse range of technical areas.

- Chemistry, Biotechnology & Pharmaceuticals
- Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Telecoms & IT
- Engineering, Physics & Mechanical Devices

Whether you are a sole inventor or large corporation, protecting your ideas is vital. Our European and UK Patent Attorneys can act on your behalf, presenting your case to the UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO). Thanks to our network of associates overseas, we can advise on different patent laws and protect or defend you anywhere in the world.



## IP Transactions, Ownership & Licensing

We regularly advise clients in relation to commercialising their IP. When entering into negotiations for contracts involving IP it is important that clients' interests are protected and that the appropriate rights are secured in the transaction.

We have the experience and focus to help guide you through what is a technical legal area to achieve a result that meets your commercial aims for all of your non-contentious IP requirements.

### Our services include:

- Drafting assignments and licences
- IP contract reviews
- IP due diligence
- IP audits
- Developing IP ownership and licensing structures
- Dispute settlement agreements
- Recording transactions at Intellectual Property Offices



## IP Strategy & Audits

We will work with you to put in place effective strategies for the protection and commercialisation of your intellectual property (IP).

### Our services include:

- IP audits
- IP due diligence
- IP portfolio management and maintenance advice
- Project reviews to identify potential IP
- Strategy reviews
- IP Litigation strategic advice
- Marketplace and competitor surveillance
- Advice on upcoming Unified Patent Court opt-outs
- Parallel imports – advice, reviews, procedures



## IP Litigation

Our IP litigation and legal department advises on all aspects of IP law. Our experience and expertise ranges from dealing with small IP disputes (often resolved in negotiation), to hard-fought high-value IP litigation and coordinating parallel actions in other jurisdictions.

Our litigation approach is, where appropriate, for IP solicitors to work closely with our patent or trade mark attorneys to provide a coordinated approach to both enforcement and protection – ensuring the best possible resolution of IP disputes. The strength of our collective technical expertise also ensures that we can understand the necessary complexities involved in each case.

### Our services include:

- IP portfolio and litigation strategies
- Patent litigation
- Trade mark, copyright and design right litigation
- Arbitration and mediation
- Licensing disputes
- Coordinating with local counsel in parallel actions around the world
- Settlement advice



## IP Due Diligence & Freedom to Operate or Freedom to Use

We have considerable experience advising clients in relation to commercial due diligence activities across the full spectrum of intellectual property (IP) rights. Clients value our commercial focus and attention to detail in helping them to evaluate and realise new business opportunities.

### Our services include:

- IP due diligence for clients seeking to commercialise their own IP
- IP due diligence for clients seeking to acquire third party IP
- Freedom-to-operate or freedom-to-use assessments



Follow us on LinkedIn:  
AA Thornton

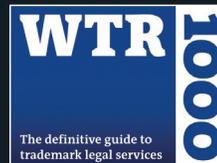


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The information in this booklet is general information only and is not intended to constitute legal advice. If you wish to explore protection and associated costs for any of the types of intellectual property discussed, please contact one of our patent, trade mark or design attorneys. November 2018.