



AA THORNTON

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology

It's our people that make the difference

About us

We are a leading Intellectual Property firm based in London and Munich. 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 provide the full range of IP services to clients around the world, from prosecution to litigation, in patent law, trade mark, design and copyright law.

Having an excellent understanding of our clients' industries and the challenges they face is key to us delivering commercial, insightful legal advice. Our highly qualified industry teams are made of attorneys and solicitors who work together to share knowledge and experience. We firmly believe *it's our people that make the difference* and that this sets us apart from others. Simply stated, we speak our clients' technical language!

We offer a completely bespoke service at a competitive price. We pride ourselves on our genuine desire to understand the way clients want to work with us, and provide every client with a personalised, superior service that reflects their commercial needs. Our advice is always in-depth, commercial and accessible. We ensure that your inventions, brands and designs are expertly protected and your risks are minimised.

We have a wealth of experience in all aspects of patent law and can advise across a wide and diverse range of *innovations* and technical areas. Whether you are a sole inventor or large corporation, protecting your ideas is vital and we have the leading knowledge to help you. We work seamlessly with legal counsel, R&D, Business Development, Regulatory and Commercial Affairs departments to become an integral part of your team.

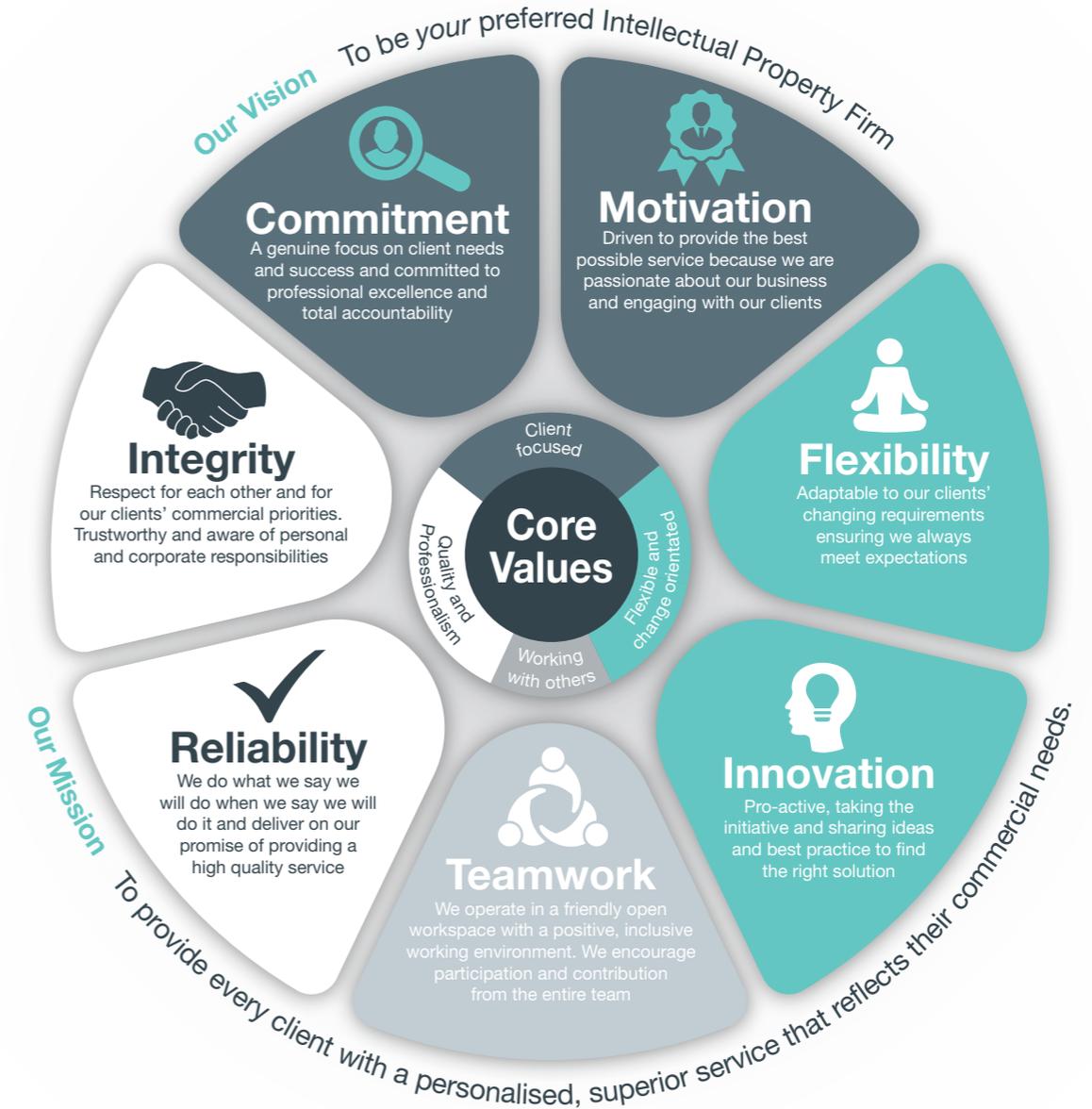
Our attorneys and lawyers regularly speak at conferences, and publish articles in leading magazines. We are passionate about innovation and enjoy nothing more than working on new or complex technologies.

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.



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 values



Our expertise

The firm's Chemistry, Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals team enjoys an international reputation, and benefits from attorneys and solicitors from a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds. A number of our professionals have previously held in-house positions within the pharmaceutical industry and we actively leverage this experience across the team.

The diverse professional skill set of our team members means that we are well placed to provide advice on both contentious and non-contentious issues across the full spectrum of patent matters. Collectively, we are proud to have represented a wide range of companies within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, from universities and SMEs to large multi-national corporations.

We are a friendly and approachable team with an open and collaborative working style. Clients tell us that they value our understanding of their businesses, and the holistic approach that we take to the assessment of the legal, commercial and regulatory issues which affect them.

We work regularly alongside in-house legal counsel, but are equally comfortable liaising directly, for example with colleagues in R&D, Business Development, Regulatory and Commercial affairs. Quite simply, our aim is to integrate seamlessly as a trusted adviser upon whom anyone can call.

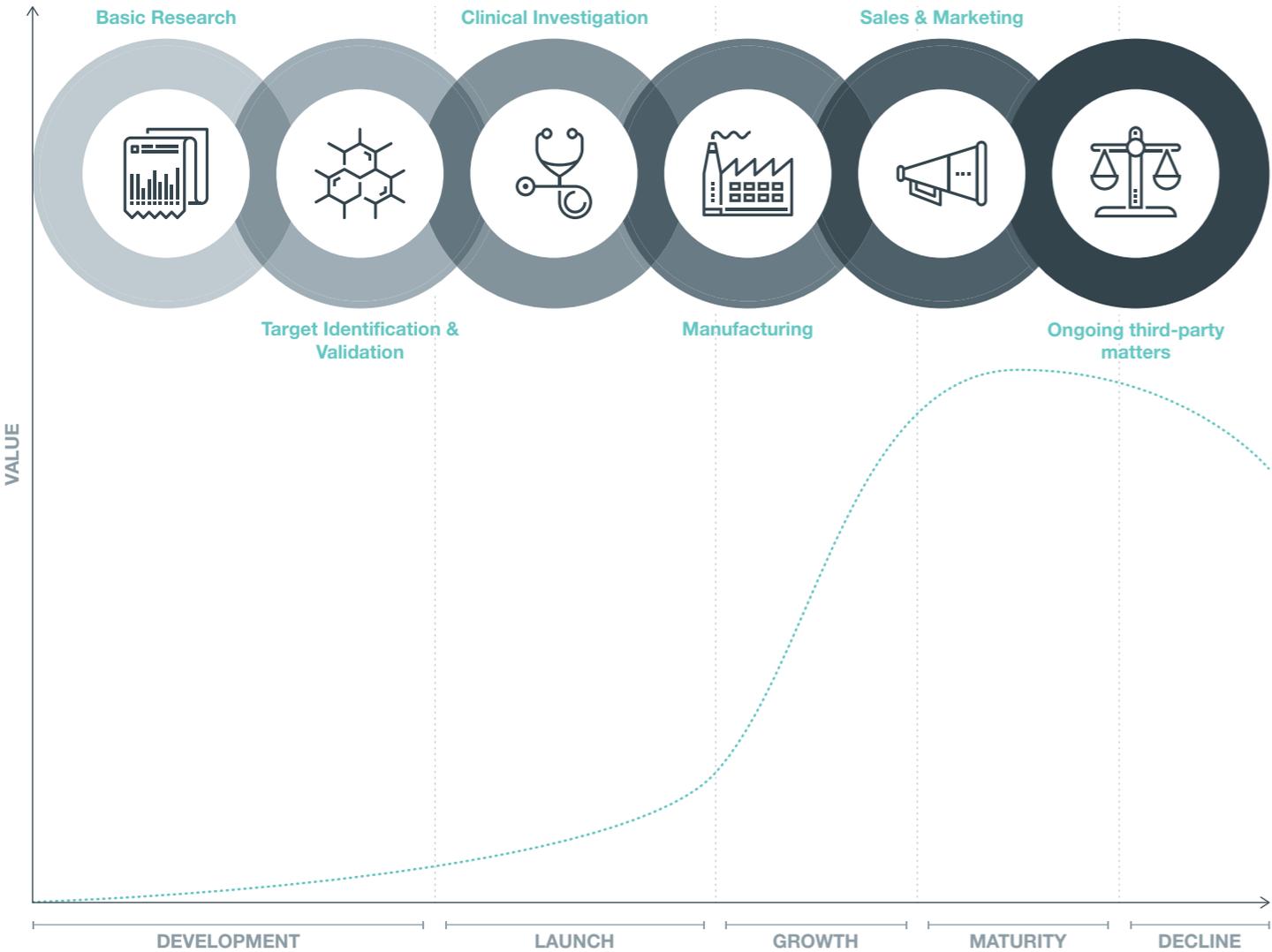
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The team is increasingly handling high-stakes contentious patent cases

- Legal 500

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Our support to you at each stage of your product life cycle



Basic Research

- Subject-matter searches
- Competitor landscaping
- Identify potential alliances
- Freedom-to-operate advice
- Ownership/entitlement determinations
- Agreements and advice regarding alliances

Clinical Investigation

- Continued patent prosecution
- Global strategic programme
- Additional and defensive patent applications
- Uses, formulations, dosage regimes, batch processes
- Updated freedom-to-operate/validity opinions

Sales & Marketing

- Patent term extension/restoration activity: SPCs, US Bolar/Waxmann-Hatch, etc.
- Data/market exclusivity considerations
- Competitor IP response scrutiny
- Patent maintenance & renewals
- Portfolio status reports
- Litigation – enforcement

Target Identification & Validation

- Validity and patentability advice
- Patent drafting
- IP strategy advice
- Patent filings – priority and global
- Product, process, formulation, use protection
- Further freedom-to-operate/entitlement opinions

Manufacturing

- Additional patent applications: full-scale manufacturing processes – conditions, apparatus techniques, packaging
- Specific label protection
- Updated freedom-to-operate review

Ongoing third-party matters

- Follow-on/improvements
- Patent strategy
- Licensing/strategic alliance IP support
- Due diligence/audits
- Venture capital support
- Enforcement – infringement/entitlement
- Litigation – oppositions/revocation

Our key team members



Craig Turner
Partner,
Patent Attorney

Craig is a Partner and has a wide-ranging practice covering both contentious and non-contentious patent work in the fields of pharmaceuticals, chemistry, biotechnology, and chemical engineering. His clients include large corporations in the pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and oil and gas industry sectors, as well as SMEs. Craig's work also includes antibody technology and he is currently actively involved in litigation in this field. He has considerable experience in both EPO patent opposition and appeal work, particularly for pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and in giving freedom to operate advice. He also handles Supplementary Protection Certificates in respect of pharmaceuticals.

A selection of Craig's key clients include:

- Cipla Ltd
- Neolab
- Meda Pharma
- Teva
- Hovione International Ltd
- RSR Limited
- BenevolentAI



Lawrence King
Partner,
Patent Attorney

Lawrence previously worked in-house within the Intellectual Property Department of **GlaxoSmithKline** for eight years, and is particularly valued by clients for his understanding of the role of in-house counsel and the commercial application of intellectual property in the life sciences field. Lawrence's existing practice includes drafting and prosecuting patent applications for a broad range of technologies on a worldwide basis. Lawrence also has considerable experience of providing strategic advice in respect of patent infringement and validity, handling patent opposition matters, and undertaking due diligence assessments of third party IP for licensing and acquisition purposes.

A selection of Lawrence's key clients include:

- Bial – Portela
- Hovione International
- Cipla Ltd
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Company (CPCChem)
- Associated British Foods Plc



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 pharmaceuticals and biotechnology (where he has natural focus as a result of his technical background), chemicals, electronics, telecoms, aviation, food & beverages and financial services.

Geoff has extensive experience in patent litigation before the UK Patents Court, Court of Appeal, and in EPO patent oppositions concerning pharmaceuticals and medical devices including the coordination of parallel proceedings across many jurisdictions in Europe and the US. Geoff's contentious IP experience also covers design rights as well as trade marks, passing off, copyright, and breach of contract disputes involving IP.

Some of Geoff's notable life sciences cases include:

- Napp Pharmaceuticals v Dr Reddy's & Sandoz (buprenorphine patch patent infringement)
- Smith & Nephew v ConvaTec (gel-forming silverised wound dressing patent validity, infringement and EPO opposition)
- GE Healthcare v PerkinElmer (scintillation proximity assay patent revocation and entitlement)



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, oil & gas and automotives, but she has enjoyed much involvement in the clearance and protection of pharmaceutical trade marks.

Rachel is a member of PTMG (Pharmaceutical Trade Marks Group) as well as INTA (International Trademark Association) and is a regular attendee of their conferences.

A selection of Rachel's key clients include:

- Hovione Scientia Limited
- Hovione FarmaCiencia S.A.
- Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
- Mayne Pharma International Pty Ltd



Varuni Paranavitane
Associate IP Litigator,
Solicitor

Varuni qualified as a solicitor in 2011 and was involved in a global patent litigation co-ordination project for [Novartis](#) for several years during her time at Bristows. She has also gained experience in UK high court actions. Varuni has advised on both regulatory law aspects from a medical devices point of view and on life sciences corporate transactions from an IP perspective. She has published articles on various aspects of IP law in the pharmaceuticals sector, such as on patentability of DNA.

Varuni began her career studying Biochemistry at Imperial College and followed on to a PhD and research career studying cell signalling pathways at Cambridge University. She identified a novel signalling protein involved in the kinase pathways which impact upon cancer and cell survival, and published her research in peer reviewed journals. She sits on the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee of the UK BioIndustry Association.



Leonita Paulraj
Associate,
Patent Attorney

Leonita began her patent career in 2000 and joined A.A. Thornton (London) in 2010. In 2013 she fully qualified as a UK and European patent attorney.

Leonita has specialist expertise in pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and life sciences, and has considerable experience in both EPO patent opposition and appeal work, particularly for pharmaceuticals. Leonita is also a qualified Indian Patent Attorney and has about eighteen years of experience in providing patent development and strategic advice; drafting and prosecuting patent applications; and filing and defending oppositions at the EPO and IPO respectively.

Leonita has life science background and apart from handling cases in biotechnology relating to antibodies and cancer treatment, she also has experience in plant biotechnology including agriculture and medicine. Leonita's key clients include: [Hovione International Ltd](#), [Cipla Ltd](#) and [Ohio State University Research Foundation](#). Her past clients in India include [Hoffmann-La Roche AG](#) cases, [Schering Plough](#), [Novartis AF](#), [Aventis Pharma \(Sanofi\)](#), [Syngenta](#) and [Bayer Crop Science](#).



Chris Burnett
Associate,
Patent Attorney

Chris began his career in 2003, and joined AA Thornton in 2013, having previously worked in two other private practice firms. Chris has extensive experience in the pharmaceutical, life science and oilfield sectors, particularly in terms of patent prosecution and providing infringement and validity advice. Clients that Chris has advised recently include [Cipla](#), [Hovione](#) and [King's College London](#). Chris' technical background has also enabled him to advise on medical devices that incorporate activated carbon.

Chris holds a degree in Biochemistry from Edinburgh University, where he spent his final year project investigating a putative iron binding protein of E. Coli, and an MSc in the Management of Intellectual Property. In addition to his case work, Chris is involved with outreach schemes that promote the patent profession.

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AA Thornton's unique combination of skilled technical know-how and unquestioned legal expertise have made them my go-to European firm for over a decade.

- Wick Phillips Gould & Martin LLP

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More about our services and expertise



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 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



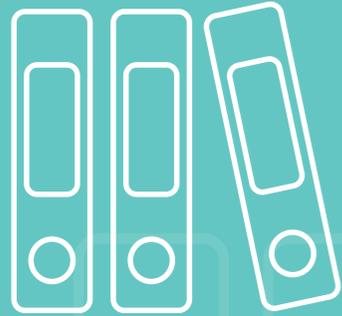
IP Litigation

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



Trade Mark, Design and 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.



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 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





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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. February 2019.