

It's our people  
that make the  
difference

Client focused | Collaborative | Professional | Flexible

## Patents

# 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, 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. 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.

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 values



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 expertise

The firm’s Patent practice enjoys an international reputation, and benefits from attorneys from a wide range of professional and academic backgrounds.

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.

A number of our professionals have previously held **in-house positions** within a number of industries such as Pharmaceuticals or Automotive, and we actively leverage this experience across the team. We operate in many different industries from oil and gas to automotive to pharmaceuticals, or medical devices and agriculture, to name just a few. Having an excellent understanding of our clients’ industries and the challenges they face is key to us delivering commercial, insightful legal advice.

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.

“

(AA Thornton are) among the very best patent attorneys that I have worked with anywhere in the world.

- Client quote,  
Chambers & Partners

”

# Engineering, Physics and Mechanical devices



Our Engineering, Physics & Mechanical devices team advises across a range of industries including Medical Devices, Automotive, Oil & Gas and Agriculture. Some of the team have previously worked in-house at **Rolls Royce**, **Bentley Motors**, **British Aerospace Defence**, and also **GSK** and **Novartis**.

The team are highly skilled in a very wide range of technology areas, including:

- Aerospace
- Aerodynamics
- Automotive engineering
- Electro-mechanical engineering
- Heat transfer technology
- Fluid dynamics
- Medical devices
- Oil & gas exploration
- Medicament dispensing devices
- Automated cow milking machinery
- Heat exchangers
- Separator devices
- Hand-held power tools
- Personal hygiene
- Hair treatment devices

Clients of the team include **Halliburton**, **Bosch**, **Atkins**, **DeLaval**, **BorgWarner** and **AB Agri Limited**.



**Adrian Bennett**  
Partner,  
Patent Attorney

Adrian heads our Engineering, Physics and Mechanical devices team. He regularly leads EPO opposition hearings both at first instance and at appeal, and has many years of experience in the original drafting of patent applications. His technical areas of expertise include fluid mechanics, oil and gas exploration technology, hand-held power tools, engine design, control systems, aerodynamics and aircraft design. Adrian is currently the Chair of the partnership.

“AAT has provided all the necessary professional services and support we would expect and more from such a company.”

- **John Abrahams, Co-founder – Hiplok**

## Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Telecoms & IT



Our Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Telecoms & IT team advises comprises attorneys with a real depth of expertise in this industry, from computer systems and software to electrical engineering, telecoms and microelectronics. The team has considerable experience of advising on the threshold of patentability in the UK and Europe for computer-implemented inventions. Some of the team have previously worked in-house at [Canon](#) and [IBM](#).

The team are highly skilled in a very wide range of technology areas, including:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Communications technologies
- Computer software
- Computer systems
- Electric motors
- Electrical engineering
- Electromagnetic sensors
- Electronics
- Fuel cells
- Measurement and testing systems and instrumentation
- Security systems
- Semiconductors
- Smart metering

Clients of the team include [Bosch](#), [Servomex](#), [Allegro Microsystems](#), [IBM](#) and [CK Hutchinson](#).



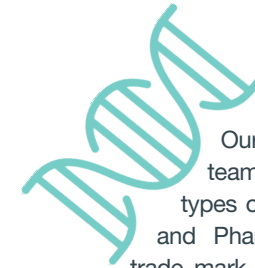
**Mike Jennings**  
Partner,  
Patent Attorney

Mike heads our Electrical Engineering, Electronics, Telecoms & IT team. Mike has vast experience in patent prosecution, oppositions and appeals, with specialist technical expertise in physics-related technologies including computer-related inventions such as computer simulation and modelling in complex environments. Mike formerly worked in-house at [IBM](#), where he worked across the whole range of [IBM's](#) technologies from computer architectures to microelectronics, including communications and data storage, software and IT-based services inventions.

"AA Thornton maintains its position among the elite patent practices in the nation"

- Legal 500

## Chemistry, Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical



Our Chemistry, Biotechnology & Pharmaceuticals team has extensive experience in advising on all types of IP issues relevant to the Chemistry, Biotech and Pharma sectors, including patent prosecution, trade mark issues, the interface with regulatory matters, design protection and enforcement, as well as contentious work, including oppositions and litigation. Some of the team have previously worked in-house at [GSK](#), [Novartis](#) and [Johnson Matthey](#).

The team boasts a variety of educational backgrounds. We have specialist expertise in the following areas:

- Agrochemicals
- Biotechnology, biopharmaceuticals & biosimilars
- Life sciences
- Nanotechnology
- Oil, gas & consumable fuels
- Patent term extensions, including supplementary protection certificates
- Petrochemicals
- Polymers & materials
- Regulatory data protection
- Renewable energy & biomass processing computer software
- Solid-state chemistry & semiconductors
- Surgical & medical devices
- Synthetic chemistry & catalysis

Clients of the team include [Halliburton](#), [Cipla](#), [Novartis](#), [Bial](#), [Hovione](#) and [Sandoz](#).



**Craig Turner**  
Partner,  
Patent Attorney

Craig heads our Chemistry, Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical team. He has considerable experience in EPO patent opposition and appeal work, particularly for pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and in giving freedom to operate advice. He also has extensive experience in the oil and gas industry, healthcare services, biotechnology, agrotechnology, surgical devices and SPCs.

"Halliburton has worked with AA Thornton & Co. for nearly 40 years. Their expertise in the oil and gas sector has been invaluable to help us achieve our commercial objectives."

- Halliburton counsel

# Litigation team



Our Litigation team is friendly and approachable with an open and collaborative working style. 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.

The team’s experience spans a wide number of industries, some of the technologies they have represented include:

- Automotive engineering
- Comparison website services
- Cosmetics
- Fashion and fragrances
- Gaming
- Health and wellbeing
- Insurance
- Medical Devices
- Pharmaceuticals
- Power-tools
- Quantum computing software
- Green tech
- Traffic warning signs
- Travel and insurance

Clients of the team include [Virgin](#), [Admiral](#), [Associated British Food](#), [Bosch](#), [Cambridge Quantum Computing](#), [Adolf Nissen](#) and [Ulisses](#).



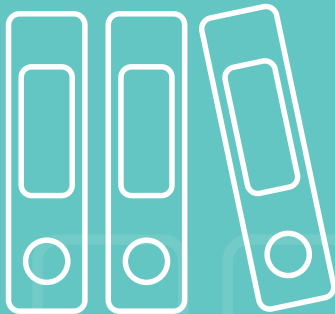
**Geoff Hussey**  
Partner,  
Solicitor

Geoff Hussey heads our Litigation team and has extensive experience in patent litigation before the UK Patents Courts and in patent oppositions particularly in relation to pharmaceuticals, medical devices, chemicals and electronics. His contentious practice also covers trade mark and passing off litigation, design right and copyright litigation and disputes involving trade mark licences.

“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**

# 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

Because of our people we are consistently ranked as ‘top tier’ and ‘leading’  
by our peers and clients:

The Legal 500 | Chambers & Partners | WTR 1000 |  
Managing IP Stars | The Financial Times

### Contact us

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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. July 2020.



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