



Cambridge

Our Cambridge office provides legal advice on corporate and intellectual property matters, particularly to technology companies and those investing in those companies. Through our London office we are able to access lawyers specialising in the full range of legal disciplines.

The characteristics of our service are:

- it is partner led, whilst work is done at the level which achieves the appropriate balance between the experience of the lawyers and costs, a partner will always be involved
- a pro-active approach, we seek to provide solutions not obstacles, we do not prepare documents in a vacuum and are not slaves to a precedent system
- a pragmatic approach, whilst always advising our clients as to what we believe to be the best legal solution, we are mindful that commercial realities mean that getting most of the way there is often sufficient, we will not argue legal points for their own sake
- a forward looking approach, many transactions are stepping stones to larger ones, so we will always seek to highlight any actions which could obstruct future expansion. To do this, we try to ensure

that we have a broad understanding of all of the major types of transactions our clients could encounter.

Our client base ranges from start-ups to fully listed companies, from individual investors to significant investment funds.

Many of our clients have overseas parent companies, particularly in the US. As a result we have extensive contacts with all of the major US and European technology law firms whose advice we can readily access for our UK clients.

The firm has been ranked top equal for intellectual property law in the UK since 1990. A number of our lawyers have IT and science degrees, many have worked in-house and/or been seconded to technology companies. The combined strength of our corporate and intellectual property lawyers, including our knowledge of international intellectual property rights and our extensive international connections, make us ideally placed to service the needs of technology companies.

Our corporate services

The main areas upon which we provide corporate advice are as follows:

- Corporate finance - advising private and public companies on fund raising including those listed on the London Stock Exchange or Alternative Investment Market
- Private equity - acting for companies raising first and subsequent rounds of finance and also for investment funds and institutions; including advising on management buy-outs and buy-ins
- Mergers and acquisitions - we advise on the sale and purchase of both private and public companies or their assets, a significant proportion of these transactions are cross border
- Inward investment - we have developed significant expertise advising those wishing to establish a business in the United Kingdom, particularly from the US
- Partnership - we advise those collaborating through partnerships, including those raising funds through limited partnerships
- Competition, regulation and trade - we advise on both UK and EU competition, anti-dumping and merger controls with particular emphasis on Far Eastern and US based clients trading in Europe
- General commercial work - this work ranges from standard commercial contracts to complicated joint venture agreements, from director's liabilities and responsibilities to corporate governance
- Corporate tax - our tax lawyers regularly advise on the corporate transactions described above
- Share options - we have a very wide experience in advising clients on establishing share option schemes, including what structures are typical within particular industries
- Financial services - we advise on all aspects of financial regulation
- Company secretarial - we have a dedicated group providing company secretarial services.

Our intellectual property services

Our intellectual property lawyers are grouped around the following sectors:

- Technology, Media and Telecommunications ("TMT") - lawyers in this group advise on matters such as out-sourcing, supply, procurement and exploitation of software and/or hardware; on-line trading, licenses and distribution;

telecommunications regulations, cable capacity and inter-connection arrangements.

- Healthcare - on the non-contentious side lawyers in this group advise on matters such as strategic alliances, licensing, partnering arrangements, clinical trial issues and UK and EU regulatory issues; on the contentious side the lawyers advise on enforcing and protecting patents and other intellectual property rights on a global basis.

Our clients range from start-ups to multi-nationals and in addition to the above specific examples we provide the following services across all sectors:

- Intellectual property protection plans covering the whole range of potential rights, including copyright, database rights, patents, trademarks, rights in confidential information and semi-conductor typography rights. Wherever possible our advice will be pro-active, but if we have to react to a potential breach of a client's rights our lawyers have the experience to provide an immediate response.
- Due diligence, whether to establish that a start-up has any rights to develop or that an IPO candidate is entitled to exploit its intellectual property rights.
- Data protection, we can undertake audits, provide staff guidelines and on-line privacy/data protection policies and advise on the use of financial information and medical information.

In addition we regularly use our colleagues in the Employment and Pensions, Finance and Projects, Commercial Property and Insolvency and Corporate Recovery Groups.

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Based in the UK, France, Germany, Brussels and Dubai, as well as representative offices in Alicante, Beijing and Shanghai - Taylor Wessing LLP provides the full range of legal services to major corporations, financial and public institutions, growing enterprises and wealthy private clients.

Taylor Wessing has an enviable track record in serving knowledge-based and technology-orientated businesses. A market leader in intellectual property, the firm also has a strong market presence in corporate, finance and real estate.

A number of the lawyers in our Technology Group have science degrees and many have worked in-house and/or been seconded to technology-based companies. The combined strengths of the team, including our knowledge of international intellectual property rights and our extensive international connections, means we are ideally placed to meet the needs of companies in the sector.

Our services

- **Corporate** - M&A, IPOs, Private equity, Tax, commercial law, inward investment, Funds
- **Intellectual property** - Patents, Copyright, Trade marks
- **Finance & projects** - Banking, Structured finance, Major projects

- **Dispute resolution** - Litigation, Arbitration, Mediation
- **Reconstruction and corporate recovery** - Restructuring, Work-outs, Formal insolvency
- **Real estate** - Investment, Development, Finance, Planning & environment
- **Employment & pensions** - Employee benefits, Human resources, Pensions, Pensions litigation
- **Competition** - EU law and anti-trust
- **Regulatory** - Public law, Financial services
- **Private client** - International asset protection, Tax and succession planning
- Licensing
- Competition law
- IP protection strategies
- Outsourcing
- Data protection
- Mediation
- Arbitration
- Litigation
- Property
- Construction and engineering
- Tax planning (domestic and offshore)

Specialist services

- Private and public offerings
- Debt, mezzanine and equity funding
- Securitisation
- Mergers and acquisitions (domestic and international)
- Inward investment
- Company start-ups
- Strategic alliances and partnering
- Corporate tax
- Employment and immigration
- Employee incentive/stock option schemes
- Life sciences
- Telecoms
- Information Technology
- Financial services
- Funds creation



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