Sergio Napolitano - General Counsel & Executive Director for International and Legal, Medicines for Europe

Sergio Napolitano is General Counsel and External Relations Director at Medicines for Europe. At Medicines for Europe since January 2013, in 2018 he was nominated in a list of the 50 most influential people worldwide in IP law, policy and business. Before joining Medicines for Europe, Sergio Napolitano worked in the Directorate General for External Policies of the European Parliament and at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU on multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, EU investment policy and IPR. Sergio Napolitano holds a degree in Law from the University of Naples Suor Orsola Benincasa and a LL.M. on EU and European Public Law from the University College of London (UCL).

Charlotte Weekes – Partner, Head of Life Sciences, UPC Representative, Pinsent Masons

Charlotte Weekes is a partner with more than 20 years' experience working with businesses in the life sciences sector. She has represented clients in the High Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal (England and Wales), the UK Supreme Court and the ECJ in business-critical patent and SPC litigation. Many of these precedent-setting cases have also had parallel proceedings running across the European Union. Ms Weekes has a good understanding of the technical and commercial aspects of her clients' businesses, ensuring that her advice is strategic and meets commercial goals. In 2020, Ms Weekes was named as one of Managing Intellectual Property's IP Stars Top 250 Women in Intellectual Property.

Ingeborg Simonsson, Judge - UPC Court of Appeal & Member of UPC Presidium

Ingeborg Simonsson is a Judge in the Unified Patent Court (UPC), Court of Appeal, and a Member of the Presidium of the UPC. Prior to this she was a full time judge in Swedish courts since 2008, where in 2020 she was appointed Judge in the Svea Court of Appeal and the Patent and Market Court of Appeal. Before becoming a judge, she did full time research and teaching at Stockholm University, where since 2009 she holds a degree of doctor of European law and associate professor (docent).

Trevor Cook - of Counsel, Bird & Bird

Trevor Cook is Of Counsel at Bird & Bird LLP. He is an English solicitor with 50 years' experience of intellectual property litigation. He was a partner in Bird & Bird LLP from 1981 to 2013 and in Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP from 2014 to 2022. He is Chair of the British Copyright Council, was for several years President of the UK group of AIPPI, and is on the WIPO list of arbitrators. In addition to countless articles and book chapters Mr Cook has authored the following books: A User's Guide to Patents; Pharmaceuticals Biotechnology and the Law; EU Intellectual Property Law; A European Perspective as to the Extent to Which Experimental Use, and Certain Other, Defences to Patent Infringement, Apply to Differing Types of Research and The Protection of Regulatory Data in the Pharmaceutical and Other Sectors. He is co-author of Practical Intellectual Property Precedents and International Intellectual Property Arbitration. He is editor of Sterling on World Copyright Law; Trade Secret Protection - A Global Guide and The Patent Litigation Law Review and is one of the general editors of The Modern Law of Patents.

Virginie Fossoul - Legal Officer, DG Grow, European Commission

Virginie Fossoul is a team leader in the EC Intellectual Property Unit (DG GROW). Her areas of expertise include international and multilateral negotiations, patents (Patent Package, Unitary Patent), trade secrets and IP enforcement. Virginie is in charge of the WIPO team and has negotiated on behalf of the EU the two 2024 WIPO Treaties (Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge and the Riyadh Design Law Treaty). Before joining DG GROW, Virginie worked at the EC Copyright unit (DG CONNECT) where she was part of the team drafting and negotiating the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market. Previously, Virginie worked as an IP lawyer in a Brussels-based law firm and as a researcher at the Brussels University (ULB).

George Moore - Assistant General Counsel, Europe IP, Ex-NA IP Litigation, Viatris

George Moore is Assistant General Counsel - Europe IP, Ex-NA IP Litigation, at Viatris. He currently leads the IP team at Viatris for Europe and the IP Litigation function for all ROW matters. He is a qualified solicitor (England & Wales) with a masters' degree in chemistry. He has over 16 years in-house pharmaceutical experience, having worked at Apotex in Canada and Sandoz in Germany. He previously worked in private practice in the UK, training and qualifying at Bristows, before then working at Allen & Overy.

Heli Pihlajamaa - Principal Director Patent Law and Procedures, European Patent Office (EPO)

Heli Pihlajamaa is Principal Director, Patent Law and Procedures at the European Patent Office in Munich, Germany. She is responsible for all patent law and procedures-related matters under the EPC and PCT, including operational developments, simplification and digitalisation of the procedures as well as policy aspects related to patentability. The principal directorate also deals with the Unitary Patent-related tasks assigned to the EPO. Heli studied Law at Helsinki University and at Max Planck Institute in Munich and has written books and articles on patent law.

Catherine Drew - Partner, Pinsent Masons

Catherine is a life sciences specialist, with approximately 20 years' experience advising clients on patent and regulatory matters. In particular, Catherine assists clients with pan-European patent litigation concerning blockbuster medicinal products, and administrative litigation concerning regulatory exclusivity and other rights pertaining to those medicinal products. Catherine's clients are large multinational pharmaceutical companies, often in the generic or biosimilar space. Catherine has represented clients before all courts in the UK, and before the European General Court and CJEU in pharmaceutical patent and regulatory exclusivity matters, including representing large global pharmaceutical companies and industry bodies. Recent highlights include:

- Advising in patent revocation proceedings in respect of the biosimilar product Herceptin (trastuzumab) and a subcutaneous formulation of the same.
- Advising on the first of its kind litigation before the EU General Court to enforce orphan exclusivity in respect of a gene therapy product.
- Acting for an Intervener in the Orion v Commission case before the EU General Court which considered the competence of the Commission in assessing the validity of marketing authorisations for reference medicinal products.
- Advising in successful proceedings, at first instance and appeal, resulting in the revocation of patent protection in respect of Xarelto (rivaroxaban) a multimillion pound blockbuster anticoagulant drug marketed by Bayer.

- Advising in proceedings seeking to revoke patent protection for Xtandi (enzalutamide) the most valuable product currently marketed by Astellas.
- Advising in patent revocation proceedings in respect of the biosimilar medicine Stelara (Ustekinumab) marketed by Janssen.

Catherine has been shortlisted as Patents Practitioner of the year in the Managing IP EMEA Awards, in recognition of her market leading work in the space. She was described last year as being "considerably experienced in handling blockbuster medical products for multinational pharmaceutical companies".

Florian Schmidt - Deputy Head of Unit DG SANTE, European Commission

Florian Schmidt is the deputy head of unit of the Commission's pharmaceutical unit D.1 in the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). He is a lawyer by training and joined the Commission in 2004. He worked in several DGs before joining DG SANTE. Amongst other things, he was involved in the implementation of the pharmacovigilance legislation and followed the paediatric regulation. He worked on the development of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe from its initiation a few years ago and is part of the team that prepared the reform of the EU pharmaceutical legislation and negotiated it with the European Parliament and the Council.

Yannis Natsis - Director, European Social Insurance Platform

Yannis Natsis is the Director of the European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP), the umbrella organisation bringing together 45 national statutory social security institutions from 19 EU countries and Switzerland. ESIP is the voice of social protection and security in Europe or as Yannis puts it one of Europe's truest treasures. He also leads the Medicine Evaluation Committee (MEDEV), a network of 25 national authorities from 23 EU Member States and Norway bringing together all the relevant institutions (national HTA agencies and social health insurers-payers) responsible for the assessment, pricing and reimbursement of medicines in Europe. Based in Brussels, Yannis brings over 12 years of experience in EU advocacy and policymaking. From 2019 to 2021, he served as a Member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), appointed by EU Member States. Since 2018, he has also been a Board Member of the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG), Europe's leading health policy platform. Before joining ESIP in 2022, Yannis spent six years at the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), where he designed and led advocacy strategies to improve access to affordable medicines. Earlier in his career, he worked with the TransAtlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) on health and pharmaceutical policy. He began his professional life in Greece as an investigative journalist, working for the acclaimed TV programme Fakeli and contributing to the daily newspaper Kathimerini. Yannis holds a Master's degree in International Conflict Analysis from the University of Kent and a Bachelor's degree in European Studies from Pantion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece. A Greek national, he is fluent in Greek, English and French.

Beatriz Díaz de Escauriaza - Head of IP Legal, Insud Pharma

Beatriz is currently Head of the IP Legal Practice at Insud Pharma Group, a diversified biopharmaceutical business based in Madrid, Spain, that she joined in 2017. In her role as Head of IP Legal, Beatriz is involved and advises the business in all IP issues related to the development, production and launch of products into the market, both from the generic and innovator perspective. She is also a member of the International Trade and IP Committee of the International Generics and Biosimilars Association (IGBA). Before joining Insud Pharma, Beatriz worked in private practice as a patent litigator in Madrid with Bird & Bird where she specialized on pharma patent litigation and intervened before the European authorities, having also acted before the European Court of Justice at Strasbourg. Beatriz holds a degree in Law and a Master Degree in Intellectual Property by the University of Alicante (X Magister Lvcentinvs).

Polyxeni Kyriopoulou - Head of Legal, Elpen Pharmaceuticals

Xenia is a dual-qualified lawyer, admitted to Athens and Berlin Bar Associations. She currently serves as Head of Legal at Elpen Pharmaceutical Co. Inc., one of largest pharmaceutical companies in Greece, with a diverse product portfolio and a strong export presence across major European and international markets. Prior to joining Elpen, Xenia spent six years at the Berlin-based Aristo Pharma, gaining extensive experience in the pharmaceutical sector. She brings over a decade of in-house legal expertise, having worked in both Greece and Germany. In her current role, Xenia leads a business-oriented legal team that supports the company's strategic objectives. Her areas of focus include complex contract negotiations, export activities, market access initiatives for the Greek market, intellectual property (IP), legal compliance, and corporate governance."

Ulla Schwager - Head of Unit, DG Competition, European Commission

Since February 2025, Ulla Schwager had held the position of Head of DG COMP's unit E1 in charge of antitrust enforcement in the pharmaceutical sector. From 2021 until 2025, Ulla headed the DG COMP's unit D.4 in charge of merger control in several sectors, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Since joining DG COMP in 2012, Ulla has worked in various positions in the field of EU merger control, ranging from handling of merger cases in the area of information, communication and media, managing of merger cases in basic industries, manufacturing and agriculture to merger case support and policy. Prior to joining DG COMP, Ulla worked for nearly 4 years as associate expert in UNCTAD's competition and consumer policy branch, supporting developing countries and economies in transition in the design and implementation of competition law and policies. At the start of her professional career, Ulla worked for 2.5 years as a

German qualified lawyer in the Brussels antitrust, competition and trade practice of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, LLP. As a graduate of the Franco-German legal studies organised by the university of Cologne and Paris1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Ulla holds a maîtrise en droits français, and an LL.M of the university of Cologne. She subsequently passed the two German legal state exams in Berlin.

Since March 2020, Julia has been the Global Head of IP for Sandoz, a leading generic and biosimilar company in the process of being spun-off from Novartis. After leaving private practice in Australia in 2002, Julia has been in-house counsel for generic pharmaceuticals including at Mayne Pharma and Hospira Inc, before joining Sandoz in 2008. In her previous roles with Sandoz, she led the global IP litigation function and was proud to be part of the first wave of US biosimilars litigation, culminating in the landmark US Supreme Court decision, Sandoz v Amgen. She has maintained a keen interest in IP strategy and litigation worldwide, including cases arising under the Hatch-Waxman and BPCIA legislation in the US, PM(NOC) regulations in Canada and litigation arising from patent linkage systems around the world. She is particularly excited about the opportunity to shape the new Sandoz IP strategy, including taking a more active role in shaping global IP policy, having started at Sandoz in European public affairs.

William McNichol - Adjunct Professor of Law, Rutgers Law School, Villanova University

Prof. McNichol has been a member of the Rutgers Law School faculty since 1999. He brings to the classroom his experience as a leading member of the U.S. Intellectual Property bar for 40 years. He has represented clients in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries in patent disputes. He has also represented a variety of clients in trademark, trade secret, and copyright cases in trial courts nationwide, as well as in the court of appeals. He has lectured throughout Europe, South America, Asia, and the United States on the acquisition and enforcement of intellectual property rights. Prof. McNichol is a member of the bars of New York, Washington, and the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. He has been listed as one of the Best Lawyers in America, and as one of Chambers Leading Lawyers for Business USA 1996 – 2013. He earned his B.S, M.S. and J.D. degrees from Villanova University.

Brian Malkin - Partner, Spencer Fane LLP

Brian Malkin streamlines processes for clients navigating the complex intersection of patent law and food and drug law, leveraging unique public and private sector experience, in-depth creative and strategic analysis, and advanced negotiation tactics to meet and exceed stakeholder expectations. This skill set is evident across Brian's focus areas, which include U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and patent litigation for FDA-regulated manufacturers and pharmacies, patent prosecution for life sciences companies, and robust regulatory counsel for products spanning human and animal drugs and biologics, medical devices, foods and dietary supplements, tobacco products, and cosmetics. His practice also includes wellness products and emerging areas such as artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled or generated products and regenerative medicine as well as state-regulated products such as cannabis and psychedelics.

Jeremy C. Lowe – Partner, Spencer Fane LLP

Jeremy Lowe leads the Spencer Fane Hatch-Waxman and Biologics Litigation group, which provides strategic counsel on regulatory compliance, Hatch-Waxman litigation, BPCIA litigation, and Federal Circuit appeals. Boasting more than 24 years of experience as a trial and appellate attorney, he works with both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts to consistently achieve favorable outcomes. Recognized for his exceptional legal acumen, Jeremy has successfully represented clients before multiple U.S. district courts, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. His notable victories include defending a multibillion-dollar jury trial and achieving a landmark ruling that reshaped 150 years of double patenting law. Jeremy's undergraduate degree in chemical engineering and capacity to understand high-level STEM materials have laid the foundation for exceptional legal services and outcomes. He prioritizes honest and transparent communica-tion with clients, proactive and ethical legal strategies, professional relationship maintenance with opposing counsel, and winning by all means necessary.

Rodrigo Osorio - Head Legal and Compliance Region Europe & International, Sandoz

Rodrigo "Rodrigo Osorio is the Head Legal and Compliance Europe and International Regions of Sandoz AG. Based in Basel, he joined Sandoz 13 years ago and held a number of roles of increasing responsibility (Head Legal Spain, Western Europe, Middle East Africa and Novartis Social Business). Prior to joining Sandoz, Rodrigo was a corporate lawyer and litigator during 7 years at Tier 1 law firms in Spain specialized in the healthcare sector (Garrigues, Faus&Moliner). Rodrigo is an attorney at law admitted to the Barcelona Bar, holding an LLM in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Geneva University). Rodrigo is passionate about increasing access to medicines for patients around the globe and worked as legal advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR –Geneva-).

Amanda Ebbutt – Partner, Winston Taylor

Amanda is a partner specialising in patents with expertise in the life sciences and healthcare sectors. Amanda specialises in representing companies in patent proceedings in the UK and before the Unified Patent Court. This has included some of the earliest UPC preliminary injunction decisions in the life sciences sector. She co-ordinates multi-jurisdictional patent litigation for blockbuster small molecule and biosimilar products across a range of therapeutic areas.

Christian Dekoninck – Partner, Winston Taylor

Christian co-head's the Patents & Innovation team in Belgium and the Netherlands. Christian specialises in patent litigation and advice with a focus on the life sciences sector. He has represented a wide range of clients from multinational companies to SMEs in infringement and nullity proceedings before the Unified Patent Court and national courts. Clients value in particular his experience advising on IP issues specific to the life sciences industry, such as the interface between IP and regulatory issues, including supplementary protection certificates, the Bolar exemption and data exclusivity. Christian also assists clients in matters relating to copyrights, trademarks, and design rights. Operating in English, Dutch and French, Christian can assist clients in litigation before Belgian, Benelux, and European courts, including the Unified Patent Court.

Verena Bertram - Partner, PENTARC Rechtsanwälte PartG mbh

Verena Bertram worked for fifteen years as a lawyer specializing in patent litigation at the Munich office of an international law firm before joining the newly founded patent boutique PENTARC in 2025. She specializes in international patent disputes in the fields of life sciences, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical devices, but also has many years of experience in the field of IT. Verena advises national and international companies in patent infringement and nullity disputes before German courts and the Unified Patent Court and has extensive experience in multinational and cross-border patent litigation. In addition to handling litigation, she develops strategic and pragmatic solutions to her clients' challenges, with a particular focus on negotiating licensing and R&D agreements.

Cindy Chang – Senior Associate, Gemini

Cindy Chang is a Senior Associate at Gemini and leads Gemini's biotech counseling services. Her practice at Gemini involves advising companies in all aspects of intellectual property law, from patent prosecution and portfolio development, freedom to operate and design-around analyses, and preparing for and managing intellectual property litigation. Cindy has extensive experience with intellectual property issues in various industries and served as in-house IP counsel at a large pharmaceutical company. She has been trained in biology and medicine and brings a deep technical understanding to legal issues in the biopharma space. As in-house counsel, Cindy provided legal counsel on various patent-related issues, including providing freedom to operate and design-around analyses to support product selection and pipeline management, drafting IP provisions in commercial agreements, identifying patentable subject matter, patent prosecution, and advising on Hatch-Waxman and BPCIA litigation. She also provided counsel on regulatory issues relating to ANDA and 505(b)(2) submissions. Prior to practicing law, Cindy studied cancer biology while pursuing a dual-degree MD/PhD program, researching the mechanisms underlying Yap1-driven development of hepatocellular carcinoma. She is trained in medicine, molecular genetics, and immunology.

Jules Fabre - Partner, Taylor Wessing

Jules Fabre heads Taylor Wessing's patent department in Paris. He specialises in intellectual property, with a particular focus on patent and regulatory matters in the Life Sciences and pharmaceutical sector. He has extensive experience handling complex French and cross border patent and SPC litigations, both in private practice and in¬house and is often instructed by clients to handle the pan-European co-ordination of their patent litigations and market access strategies, in addition to representing them before French courts and the UPC. Jules was involved in the first ever branded versus generic patent litigation brought before the UPC. In addition to his previous experience in other international law firms

(Hogan Lovells, Linklaters, Pinsent Masons), Jules was a Senior Counsel in the European IP and Regulatory Litigation team of a Teva Pharmaceuticals in London, where he coordinated pan-European launch strategies, patent litigations and settlements. This brings an in-depth understanding of the industry from the inside, which enables Jules to provide sound and commercially relevant advice, and a detailed knowledge of patent litigation in the various European jurisdictions. Jules is Unified Patent Court (UPC) representative.

Marina Jonon - Counsel, Taylor Wessing

Marina is a Counsel in the patent department in Paris. Marina assists French and international clients with pre-litigation and litigation matters involving patents in various fields, notably in the life sciences sector, mechanics and consumer electronics. She deals with all procedural aspects, including preliminary injunctions, seizures, revocation and infringement actions, mediation and expertise. She represents clients before both French courts and the Unified Patent Court.Additionally, she advises clients on regulatory issues in the healthcare sector and supports them in transactional matters.

Theodore Loukopoulos - Deputy Managing Partner, KLC Law Firm

Theodore Loukopoulos is Deputy Managing Partner at KLC Law Firm. He has graduated both Business Administration and Finance school of University of Piraeus and Law School of University of Athens. He has been consulting pharmaceutical companies in various projects and day to day matters for more than 15 years. For more than 5 years he was externally leading the legal department of a multinational pharmaceutical group with commercial and manufacturing activities in Greece. He has extensive experience in Patent and Commercial litigation , M&A, corporate and business law and commercial agreements. His experience includes some of the landmark M&A transactions in the pharma sector in Greece since 2011. Additionally, he has acted as lead litigator in some of the most influential pharma patent litigation in Greece, for several blockbuster drugs.

Pietro Cappabianca, PhD - IP Policies Consultant, Medicines for Europe

Pietro Cappabianca holds a Master's Degree in Law from University of Naples Federico II and he is qualified to practice law in Italy. Following an early research experience in the project "Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Access to Advanced Diagnostics in Multiple Sclerosis" at University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, he pursued a PhD at University of Naples Federico II, with a dissertation focused on strategic patenting practices in the pharmaceutical market. Pietro Cappabianca is currently serving as IP Policies Consultant at Medicines For Europe. Prior to this role, he worked in the Legal Affairs departments of two of Italy's leading listed companies, gaining experience in corporate, legal and regulatory matters.

Kristof Roox - Partner, Crowell & Moring

Kristof Roox is co-managing partner of Crowell & Moring's Brussels Office. He is a partner in the Intellectual Property Group and focuses on IP litigation, and in particular on complex patent litigation in the life sciences sector. With 30 years of experience, Kristof has an impressive reputation before the Belgian civil and administrative courts, and also litigates before regulatory authorities and in the European courts. He also deals with litigation before the new Unified Patent Court. He is widely respected for his pragmatic and creative approach to solving business disputes and for his to-the-point counselling. In addition to traditional IP litigation and counselling, Kristof is widely recognized for his thought leadership in relation to the regulatory aspects of life sciences. He advises companies and trade associations on all regulatory, IP and commercial issues, including launch and marketing strategies, food supplements, pharmaceutical marketing practices, promotional practices, rebates, pricing and reimbursement, distribution models, OTC-products, publicity, medical devices, health care reforms, and competition law aspects. Kristof is experienced in the interplay between antitrust and patent questions. As an experienced litigator in a wide range of commercial and civil matters, Kristof covers all aspects of dispute resolution, including ADR. With his deep knowledge of private international law issues, he often tackles complex multi-jurisdictional questions and is known for his extensive knowledge of procedural law issues.

Dr. Martijn de Lange - Patent Examiner, Netherlands Patent Office

Since 2003 Martijn de Lange has examined applications for supplementary protection certificates (SPCs), SPC extensions and patents. He also defends the Patent Office at the Dutch courts when appeals against decisions on SPCs are filed. He is involved in the drafting of the observations of the Netherlands government in SPC cases before the Court of Justice of the European Union and in the negotiations on the reform of the SPC Regulation in the Council.

Solène Jouan - Policy Officer, European Patients' Forum (EPF)

Solène Jouan joined EPF in January 2025 as a Policy Officer. In her role, she is responsible for EPF's policy and advocacy work on the topic of access to treatments and EU healthcare budget. She is also leading the EPF Universal Access Working Group (UAWG). Before joining EPF, she worked for EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe, contributing to European and international policy development for people living with rare diseases. She started her career working at the Human Rights Action Unit of the European Parliament monitoring the situation of former Sakharov Prize Laureates and following developments in the area of human rights. She then joined a health policy consultancy in Brussels, where she was involved on a variety of EU health policy files, including cancers, rare diseases, digital health and non-communicable diseases. Solène is a jurist and holds a double Bachelor's degree in Law and Languages (English-Chinese) from the University of Grenoble and a Master's degree in EU law from the ULB University of Brussels and the Faculty of Law of Strasbourg.

Sascha Stolzenberger – Head of Biotech Intellectual Property, Gedeon Richter

Dr. Sascha Stolzenberger is Head of Biotech Intellectual Property at Gedeon Richter Pharma GmbH and a European Patent Attorney He is responsible for the global patent function of Gedeon Richter's Biotech Business Unit, which covers the company's biosimilar development portfolio of monoclonal antibodies and recombinant proteins, innovative biologics in the field of women's healthcare, and the CDMO activities. In this role he is also a member of the Biotech Business Unit Leadership Team. Sascha has more than 20 years of in-house pharmaceutical patent experience in the generics and biosimilar industry, including earlier positions at BioGeneriX AG (ratiopharm group). He is a member of the Medicines for Europe Legal Affairs Committee and holds a Dr. rer. nat. in molecular biology from the University of Würzburg.

Cécile Teles - Head of IP, Zentiva

Cécile is the Head of Intellectual Property at Zentiva, where she leads the company's global IP strategy. Her career spans key in-house roles at Sanofi (innovator pharmaceuticals) and Merck Serono (biologics), and she brings deep expertise in generics, particularly in product launches, transactions, and litigation that she gained at Zentiva. She is a qualified European Patent Attorney, holds a CEIPI Certificate in Patent Litigation, and a Master of Laws from France.

Robert Vidal - Partner, Bristows

With over 25 years' experience, Robert enjoys helping clients resolve competition law investigations, disputes, merger control and UK national security issues. Robert is particularly recognised for his expertise in life sciences where he has .advised on all of the key "pay for delay" cases initiated in the UK and EU. He has advised on numerous competition law litigation cases from both a defendant and claimant perspective with a focus on abuse of dominance and the interplay between competition law and IP. Robert also advises on both EU and UK merger control and has an outstanding track record in terms of securing approval from regulators in difficult cases. He has attended numerous "dawn raids" by both the European Commission and the CMA in multiple sectors including pharmaceuticals, and medical devices. Legal 500 2026: "Robert is a formidable force in the EU and Competition law world and the Competition Litigation world. He is hugely experienced in litigation both domestically and before the EU Courts".

Heli Pihlajamaa - Principal Director Patent Law and Procedures, European Patent Office (EPO)

Heli Pihlajamaa is Principal Director, Patent Law and Procedures at the European Patent Office in Munich, Germany. She is responsible for all patent law and procedures-related matters under the EPC and PCT, including operational developments, simplification and digitalisation of the procedures as well as policy aspects related to patentability. The principal directorate also deals with the Unitary Patent-related tasks assigned to the EPO and monitors the jurisprudence of the UPC . The tasks further include drafting and vetting Rule changes and revising the Guidelines (EP, EPO-PCT and UP). Ms Pihlajamaa studied Law at Helsinki University and at Max Planck Institute in Munich.

Corinna Sundermann - Senior Vice President, IP Management, Fresenius Kabi

Corinna Sundermann is heading the IP department (ex US) of the Pharmaceuticals, Nutrition and Sustainability Division at Fresenius Kabi. She joined Fresenius Kabi in 2008 as a manager and built the IP department from 1 to 40 FTE since then. Focus concerning patents is on both branded and generic products. Characteristic for the department is, to a certain extent, internal handling of opposition with a remarkable success rate. She has been elected as a full member to the epi council in 2026. Before joining Fresenius Kabi, she worked 10 years for an originator company, 5 years as a Head of Combinatorial Chemistry, 5 years in the IP department and is European Patent Attorney since 2006. She holds a Dr. rer. nat. from the University of Jena and a diploma in chemistry from the University of Frankfurt.

Matthew Royle - Partner, Winston Taylor

Matthew specialises in patent litigation, opinion work, supplementary protection certificates (SPCs), paediatric extensions and regulatory advice. Matthew has a strong science background, holding a PhD in molecular immunology, meaning he gets to grips with the scientific facts of a case quickly. A leading individual in Chambers, Legal500 and many other directories, Matthew has particular experience of acting for clients in the pharmaceutical, biotech and life sciences sectors. He regularly co-ordinates pan-European litigation and has been involved in several early hearings in the UPC (including in The Hague, Düsseldorf, Munich, Paris and Nordic-Baltic (Stockholm) local and regional divisions) as well as national proceedings in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Norway.

Ingrid Sollerer - General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer, Sandoz

Dr. Ingrid Sollerer is General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Sandoz. She joined Sandoz GmbH, Austria in April 1998 and moved on to Novartis International AG in Basel, Switzerland where she held the position of a Senior Corporate Counsel, Mergers & Acquisitions and Competition Law from 2001 to 2007. Since 2008 she was heading the Legal Departments for Western Europe, Middle East/Africa, the global Business Units Oncology Injectables and Anti-Infectives and holding the position of the Global Head Legal Biopharmaceuticals and Deputy General Counsel at Sandoz. In 2016 she joined Novartis Oncology as Global Head Legal Transactions and Cell&Gene in East Hanover, USA before rejoining Sandoz in 2019 in her current position. Ingrid holds a degree of law from the University of Innsbruck, a Diploma of international law at the University of Seville/Spain and obtained a doctorate in law (PhD) in 2001 at the University of Innsbruck.

Agnieszka Deeg-Tyburska - General Counsel, Board Member, Polpharma

Agnieszka Deeg-Tyburska works as the General Counsel of Polpharma since 2015. Currently she manages Legal, Compliance, Security and Patent teams. She is a Board Member of Polpharma since 2023 and is highly involved in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy of the Company. Agnieszka is also the Vice-President of the Legal Committee of Medicines for Europe and also holds the title of a Certified CERP Mediator. She has been associated with the pharmaceutical industry for many years, representing generic and innovative producers. In her so far career, Agnieszka has extensive experience in the field of large and sophisticated transactions, with particular emphasis on acquisitions of public companies, investment transactions of venture capital funds, representing international financial institutions in the acquisition of Polish banks and leasing companies. She also prepared MBO and LBO structures.
She has represented a number of financial institutions and borrowers in loan programs, issues of debt securities and financial leasing transactions. Email: agnieszka.deeg-tyburska@polpharma.com

Tomos Shillingford - General Counsel, Insud Pharma

Tomos Shillingford is the General Counsel of Insud Pharma, where he leads the global legal function supporting the group's international pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical businesses. He manages a multidisciplinary team of 22 lawyers working across corporate, M&A, commercial, regulatory and IP. Tomos is a triple-qualified lawyer (England/Wales, Australia and Spain) with an undergraduate degree in Biochemistry. He worked for Bird & Bird in London and Herbert Smith Freehills in Melbourne before moving in-house and into the generic pharmaceutical industry 17 years ago. Tomos has expertise in patent litigation, having managed various prominent European cases whilst Director of IP Litigation at Actavis and then Allergan. Tomos also has an interest in the intersection between competition law and IP, and was involved with a groundbreaking case in Spain in this area for Insud Pharma. Tomos lives in Madrid with his wife, four children and two dogs.

Antje-Katrin Weigelt - SVP-General Counsel & Head of Governmental Affairs Europe, Teva

Antje-Katrin Weigelt, based in Amsterdam, NH, NL, is currently a SVP - General Counsel and Head of Governmental Affairs Europe at Teva Pharmaceuticals. Antje-Katrin Weigelt brings experience from previous roles at Teva Pharmaceuticals, Gilead Sciences, Novartis Oncology and EHLERS, EHLERS & PARTNER RECHTSANWALTSGESELLSCHAFT MBB. Antje-Katrin Weigelt holds a Staatsexamen @ Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Mark Ferguson - General Counsel, Europe, Viatris

Mark leads the European Legal Team at Viatris, bringing over two decades of experience at the Magic Circle and in-house. In addition to Europe, Mark has also practiced extensively in Asia, North and Latin America, and India.

Steffen Saltofte – CEO, Zentiva and President, Medicines for Europe

Steffen Saltofte is an experienced international executive with expertise in healthcare and manufacturing and a strong track record of leading complex organizations through periods of transformation. As Chief Executive Officer of Zentiva Group, one of Europe's leading manufacturers of generic, biosimilar, and value added medicines, he has guided the company through a challenging environment characterized by supply chain disruption, inflationary pressure and increasing regulatory complexity. Steffen was previously CEO of pharmaceutical company, Acino, and prior to this, held senior roles at Boehringer Ingelheim, Merial, Syngenta, and Maersk Line. With more than 5,400 employees and European production sites in the Czech Republic and Romania, Zentiva plays a critical role in supplying essential medicines to European healthcare systems. Under Steffen's leadership, the company has strengthened its focus on resilience, security of supply and operational excellence, ensuring reliable access to high quality, affordable medicines for millions of people across Europe. Steffen also serves as President of Medicines for Europe, where his main areas of focus are Health Security & European Manufacturing, Access & Affordability, Regulatory Modernization, and Sustainability & Responsibility. He engages closely with European and national institutions and policymakers, advocating for balanced frameworks that safeguard the accessibility, affordability, and availability of medicines. A purpose driven leader, Steffen is known for combining strategic clarity with a strong commitment to people and partnerships, and for fostering constructive dialogue between industry and policymakers to help strengthen Europe's healthcare systems. Steffen holds an MBA from IMD and bachelor's degrees from Copenhagen Business School and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers.