

Members of The Designs Group



JOHN LAWRENCE

John has 30 years' experience active in designs both in UK and EUIPO. He has lectured in the UK and internationally on EU designs and design IP issues and strategic planning. During his career, John has filed around 2000 designs, revoked designs at EUIPO and handled designs litigation at IPEC. He was also a key member of a team involved in high court automotive body panel litigation.

John's experience includes giving freedom to operate opinions on designs, negotiating acquisition of designs as a solution to freedom to operate issues, advising clients on licenced designs and creating innovative design protection strategies for traditionally design-light sectors (e.g. screenshots, user operated icons, brands and user-experienced environments). He has also managed IP design-around projects and trained in-house engineers on design-related IP issues. John works with clients across many sectors including aerospace, automotive, food and drinks, packaging, toys and gaming, ICT and medical devices. He regularly advises US law firms on EU design law issues.



CARRIE JOHNSON

Carrie is a patent and design attorney with 14 years of experience. She enjoys advising clients on how to protect both the technical and visual aspects of their innovations, in a practical and strategic manner. Her expertise spans patents, registered and unregistered design rights and copyright and her clients range from private individuals, to small and large companies, universities and patent attorneys across the world. She regularly prepares, files and prosecutes patent and design applications in the UK, Europe and further afield. She is also experienced in handling more contentious matters such as validity and infringement of IP rights.

Carrie's experience spans areas such as vehicle safety, medical devices and healthcare, packaging, optical devices, fluid flow systems, IT, furniture and various consumer products. She enthusiastically heads Barker Brettell's design and copyright group and also sets and marks the design and copyright examination paper taken by trainee patent attorneys.



NICHOLAS BRADDON

Nicholas understands that there is value in the distinctive appearance of products and the consequent commercial importance of having good, cost-effective design protection in place. He advises clients in relation to registered designs, unregistered design rights and ancillary copyright-related issues. He has obtained registered designs for clients in the UK, EU and in other jurisdictions. Nick has experience of using the international (Hague) system for registering designs in multiple countries. Clients to have benefited from Nicholas's advice in relation to designs and copyright have come from a variety of sectors including: food and drink; garden equipment and machinery; toys and games; jewellery design; and furniture. Nicholas is a member of CIPA's designs and copyright committee.



DAVID HARRIS

David is a firm believer in the designs system as providing cost-effective protection for products that would be too costly to protect through the patent system or where the chances of obtaining useful patent protection are unclear. He deals with the protection of the appearance of products, both aesthetic and functional, and in particular frequently deals with European Union Community Registered Designs and International (Hague Agreement) Designs. David has been involved in assisting a major multinational remove copycat products from sites such as eBay and Amazon and believes that Registered Designs are a very useful tool in stopping copycats. He has also been involved with various design infringement cases that have reached the English courts and has fought for his clients before the IPO to get unjustifiably registered designs revoked. He has advised on designs ranging from handbags, soft furnishings through consumer appliances, baby products and power tools to automotive parts.



NEIL KILPATRICK

Neil has worked on the preparation and filing of well over 100 designs, with his IT skills and attention to detail ensuring that the best protection possible is leveraged from each filing. Neil appreciates that with designs, it is crucial to get the drawings right first time – a misplaced line or feature can prove fatal. In particular, Neil takes pride in filing the clearest and most accurate drawings possible from whatever source images are available. One of Neil's core skills is that he enjoys using image editing software to achieve this, upgrading (or sometimes downgrading) the available images to generate the best possible design for his client. Although primarily focused on European Union Community Registered Designs, Neil has filed and prosecuted designs around the world, including in the US and Australia.



RHIAN BANKS

Rhian is a trade mark attorney. She provides a wide range of advice in connection with trade marks including the availability and registrability of unusual trade marks including shape marks. Rhian's experience includes providing advice on filing strategies for both designs and trade marks, advising on the possible infringement a third party's registered design and suggestions to avoid such infringement and assisting with obtaining trade mark registration for the shape of the iconic cast iron cooker, AGA through the production of an extensive portfolio of evidence and arguments. Utilising her knowledge and experience gained from her previous role as a corporate lawyer, Rhian also provides advice on UK contractual law issues such as licencing and assignments of IP rights, including Designs.