

Barker Brettell
Intellectual Property

**An introduction to Barker Brettell for attendees
at the Intellectual Property Owners Association
Annual Meeting 2025**



"An excellent firm that consistently outperforms reasonable expectations."

Your innovation. Your ideas.
Your business. Your world.

An introduction to Barker Brettell

We are one of the largest intellectual property (IP) specialists in the UK, with headquarters in Birmingham, and a rich history that spans 130 years, over 60 patent and trade mark attorneys, over 80 professional support staff, including a highly regarded support network of first-rate paralegals and administrative support and expertise in over 20 technical disciplines, industries and sectors.

But so what?

It is a bold question; one that we repeatedly ask ourselves in order to help us continuously improve and differentiate ourselves from our competitors.

And our answer is:

Whilst we are technically excellent, achieving some of the very best results for our clients, we go deeper than the numbers.

We believe it is our people and our culture that differentiates us. We measure our success on mutually beneficial relationships and how we make people feel when they do business with us. We are at our best when working with companies with whom we share mutual values.

'Protecting your world' is our motto, and making our clients' lives easier underpins everything we do.

Providing practical and commercial IP legal advice is a given – it's what we do daily. The rest of our service offering makes us stand out – and this is tailored to our clients. Whether it's proactivity, communication, reporting, flexible fee structures, added value or something else entirely, we will flex our systems and processes to ensure you receive a quality service that works for you.



DAVID COMBES

Partner
UK & European Patent
Attorney,
UPC Representative



LEAH CALVERT

Senior Associate
Trade Mark Attorney

Our firm

2025

Today, we are a modern and vibrant intellectual property (IP) practice, the cornerstone of which continues to be patents, trade marks, designs, and copyright.

Our clients benefit from over 60 attorneys and trainee attorneys with a variety of academic backgrounds, as well as a large and highly regarded support network of paralegals and administrators.

We are proud to work with a diverse range of clients across the globe to provide practical and commercial IP advice.

1891

The firm was born when George Barker joined forces with Frederick Brettell to provide patent, trade mark, copyright, and designs advice from offices in Colmore Row, the heart of Birmingham's business district.

1928

William Duncan joined the firm which changed its name to Barker, Brettell and Duncan, with each member serving as President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents (CIPA).

1957

Following WW2, the firm relocated to Frederick's home so he could perform air raid warden duties, Barker Brettell stayed in Colmore Row until 1957 when the firm moved to Hagley Road in Edgbaston.

1998

The firm rebranded as Barker Brettell and became an LLP in 2008.

2019

The doors of our Stockholm office, home to Barker Brettell Sweden AB, open.

60+
attorneys

24
partners

3
offices in
the UK

80+
professional
support staff

Quality at the centre of our professionalism

It is our policy to put client's interests first; delivering a high-quality service and maintaining client focus in everything we do. Our aim is to make a client's life easier in the IP world.

When it comes to client service, we are committed to:

- Doing the hard work for our clients
- Establishing, maintaining and building a strong, trusted relationship
- Being results-focused
- Considering our clients' commercial objectives and specific requirements

Secondments

Many of our attorneys have been seconded to in-house teams, either as an extension of their team whilst recruiting or picking up overflow work.

Added value

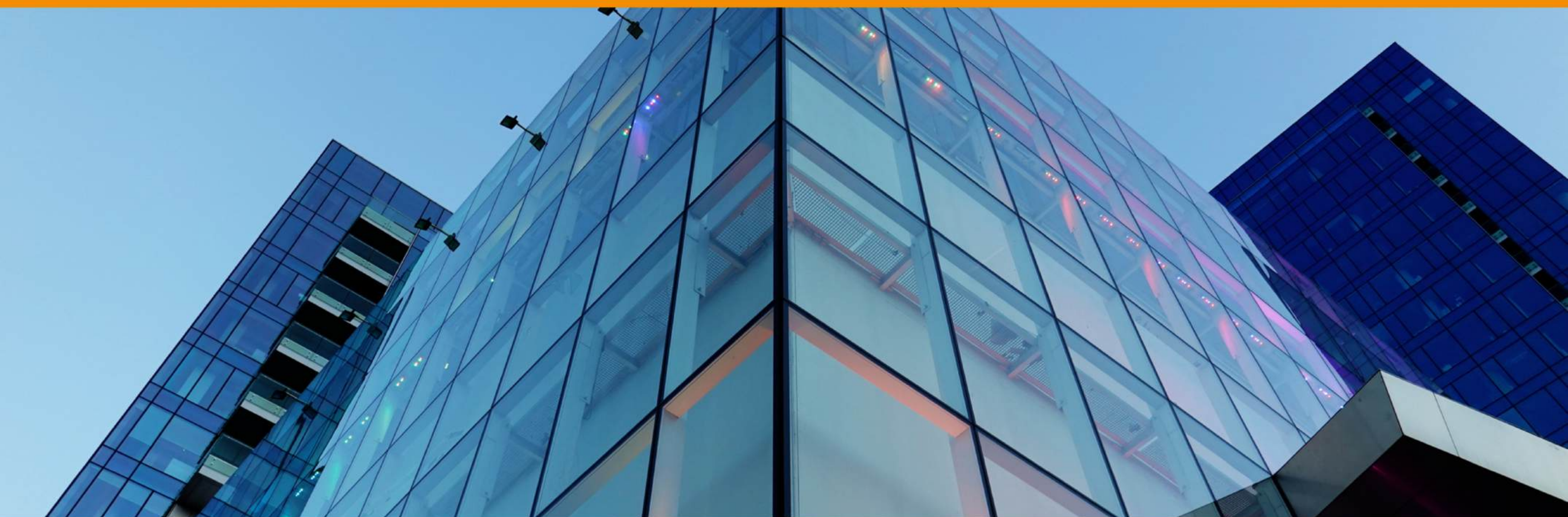
Added value means different things to different people, and we recognise that no one size fits all. We enjoy working with our clients to understand what added value means to them, whether it be ad-hoc 'off the clock' advice, regular review calls, meetings or visits, hot-desking to provide access to on-site expertise, IP audits and IP valuations through to training workshops and seminars, tailored communication and reporting styles and flexible fee structures.

Our recognitions

"We are proud of what we have already achieved but we know we can never become complacent. We need to keep evolving and educating."



Barker Brettell topped the list of 'most trusted' firms in the UK for prosecution work sent by US law firms in 2018.

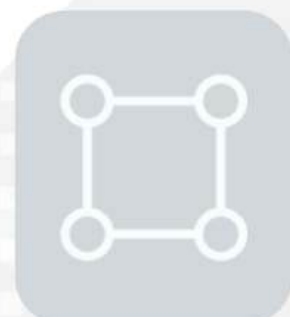


Our expertise



Patents

We regularly and consistently rank highly for UK and European patent filings, and we are confident that the ratio of our patent attorneys to patent filings far outperforms many of our competitors. Our patent specialisms include pre-filing advice and patentability searches, invention mining and the drafting of applications for new inventions, the filing and prosecution of patent applications, advice on contentious issues, EPO opposition work, freedom-to-operate opinions, landscape searching, transactional work relating to IP ownership and licensing, and IP-related due diligence.



Designs & Copyright

Designs continue to be a real specialism within our practice, and we are routinely ranked as one of the highest filers of EU designs of any UK firm. With much interplay between designs and other IP rights, our designs team comprises patent and trade mark attorneys who provide robust and cost-effective strategies for design protection. As such, we've built a strong reputation for design advice and strategy over the years.



Trade Marks

Acting directly before the UKIPO, EUIPO and WIPO, we consistently rank among the top filers of UK and EU trade marks. Our trade mark specialisms include IP strategy, the searching, filing and prosecution of applications, oppositions, cancellations, enforcement programmes, the negotiation of settlement agreements, renewals, assignments and licensing, domain name issues, internet takedown actions, customs and excise actions, due diligence exercises, portfolio management, and counterfeiting issues.



Oppositions & Appeals

We have a strong track record in patent and trade mark oppositions and appeals. Whether your IP rights need defending from third-party attacks, you want to challenge the validity of IP rights belonging to others, or you need to challenge a decision already issued by an IPO, our attorneys are accomplished at protecting the interests of businesses during disputes. An opposition or appeal is not only about whether you win but also whether the outcome is right for you commercially.



Work in the **United States**

As much as 50% of our work is generated from clients headquartered in the United States, either through our direct relationships with in-house IP teams or relationships with American law firms.

It is also why our attorneys spend a combined 40-50 weeks of the year personally visiting in-house teams and law firms in the US. We are also committed to meeting clients and law firms at the various overseas conferences that we attend.

Our **markets**

▶ Aerospace and defence

▶ Automotive

▶ Biotechnology

▶ Chemistry

▶ Computing

▶ Consumer products

▶ Cosmetics

▶ Electronics

▶ Energy

▶ Engineering

▶ Fintech

▶ Food & Drink

▶ Industrial systems

▶ Life Sciences

▶ Materials

▶ Medical

▶ Nanotechnology

▶ Optics

▶ Pharmaceuticals

▶ Physics

▶ Software

▶ Telecommunications

▶ Universities

▶ Wearable tech

Our culture

Our people are our biggest asset.

We have over 60 attorneys and trainee attorneys with a variety of academic backgrounds, as well as a large and highly regarded support network of paralegals and administrators.

We are a majority female-owned firm committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.

We are truly committed to providing a supportive working environment that respects and values each employee regardless of their background and experience.

We deal with all those we come into contact with throughout our work with attention, courtesy, consideration, respect, and dignity, and we place this personal responsibility on each staff member.

We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business processes and relationships.

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Regarding social value, we are committed to providing a supportive working environment that respects and values each employee regardless of background and experience.

Our approach is embedded within our formal policies and how we do things daily across every aspect of our work and dealings with colleagues, applicants, clients and suppliers. We do not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion, belief, sex, gender or sexual orientation. We are committed to equal opportunity and treatment from recruitment to training and promotion.

Every team member is encouraged to reach their full potential. In our recruitment process, we strive to attract applicants from a diverse talent pool, ensuring we recruit and develop the best people for each role. We treat all applicants fairly, without discrimination, and provide equal opportunities at every stage, from recruitment through to career progression.

To support, promote and monitor our progress against all aspects of our approach to diversity, equity and inclusion, we have signed up for the IP Inclusive Charter, a task force established to drive and challenge diversity-improving initiatives across the IP sector.

Social responsibility

No matter how small, we recognise the importance of the impact of our activities on the environment, and we acknowledge that there is a responsibility to constantly consider ways to conserve energy and minimise waste in all activities we undertake.

As part of this, we encourage the cooperation and involvement of all our people in environmental management.

When it comes to social responsibility, we are committed to:

- Recycling and using recycled materials
- Performing business electronically
- Recycling old computers and printer cartridges
- Encourage alternative transport; participating in the government-backed, cycle to work scheme
- Using video conferencing systems between our offices to avoid the need to travel
- Planting trees to offset carbon emissions
- Managing electricity, water and gas supplies to ensure minimum consumption through energy efficient initiatives

Our team at IPO Annual Meeting 2025



David Combes
Patent Partner



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Sector specialisms:

- Aerospace
- Computing & Software
- Energy
- Medical
- Universities

Technical specialisms:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Computers and electronics
- Electronics and semiconductors
- Medical devices
- Optics
- Telecommunications

Areas of expertise:

Drafting and prosecution of patent applications, registered designs



Leah Calvert
Trade Mark
Senior Associate



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Sector specialisms:

- Automotive
- Cosmetics
- Energy

- Food & Drink
- Medical

Areas of expertise:

Filing and prosecuting UK, international and overseas applications.