



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYER

IP COUNSEL, IP ATTORNEY

Intellectual property (IP) lawyers provide advice on trademarks, patents, designs, copyright and other legal matters (e.g. consumer regulations, e-commerce, data protection, etc). Their tasks usually depend on their position and qualification. IP lawyers are usually employed by law firms, where they provide advice to private individuals and companies. Additionally, when working as an in-house legal counsel, IP lawyers develop strategies to protect the intangible creations of companies and manage the registration of intellectual property rights. Finally, IP lawyers can also work for public bodies, where they are responsible for providing legal support during the drafting and the negotiation of legal texts.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Providing advice on trademarks, designs, patents and copyright matters, among others.
- ▶ Writing and filing of trademark and design applications.
- ▶ Legal support during the filing of patent applications and contract drafting.
- ▶ Analytical and legal support for the elaboration of an IP strategy.
- ▶ For attorneys at law: drafting of administrative and court writs, representation of clients before national and European Courts, and before national and EU administrative bodies dealing with the registration of IP rights, as well as elaboration of a litigation strategy.

Depending on the job market requirements, the university courses might be replaced by dedicated training or even by the mere demonstration of a strong interest in the field.

In Luxembourg, the successful completion of complementary courses in Luxembourgish law constitutes an advantage.

For more information, feel free to consult our website at the following address:

www.ipil.lu/metiers-PI/useful-links/.

KEY COMPETENCES AND PERSONAL SKILLS

- ▶ Capacity for analysis, synthesis and judgement.
- ▶ Strong writing and social skills, and an open mind.
- ▶ Capacity to adapt and knowledge of a variety of law areas (e.g.: law of new technologies, data protection and unfair competition law) and intellectual property law.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND ACCESS TO THE PROFESSION

Completing 5-year law studies, or equivalent, with a specialisation in intellectual or industrial property is mandatory to access the profession.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY JOBS

PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, DESIGNS, COPYRIGHT

MAIN POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Private sector: IP firms and law firms specialised in intellectual and/or industrial property; legal departments of companies (e.g.: automobile, fashion or energy sector); publishers; record companies; event organisers; players in the cultural area.

Public sector: National intellectual property offices; European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO); public administrations at national, European or international level; copyright collective management organisations.

In Luxembourg, job opportunities in this field are mainly offered by IP firms or law firms specialised in intellectual and/or industrial property.

PERSPECTIVES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Lawyers specialised in IP may consider a career as a court-qualified lawyer, after having successfully completed the complementary courses in Luxembourgish law and a judicial internship. Representing clients at court is one of the tasks of court-qualified lawyers. Additionally, being specialised in IP opens the door to a career as an industrial property attorney (see the “Industrial property counsel” job description). Moreover, experienced IP lawyers may undertake further responsibilities within a company: holding a management position and being in charge of the elaboration of an intellectual property strategy.



“ ORIENTING AND DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF IP HOLDERS IS EXCITING IN MANY WAYS. TO ACHIEVE THIS, ONE MUST BE EAGER TO KNOW, TAKE AN INTEREST IN TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENTS AND SHOW A HIGH PROFESSIONAL RIGOUR. ”

Katia Manhaeve,
Avocat à la Cour

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