Hoffmann Eitle
We protect your innovations
Covering all your needs in intellectual property
Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.

Steve Jobs
OUR PHILOSOPHY
We protect your innovations | 02

OUR SERVICES
Catering for all your IP service needs | 04

OUR STRENGTHS
Competent teams tailored to your needs | 08

OUR OFFICES
Seven locations in four European countries | 14

OUR FIRM
Continuity and growth | 16

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS
Our exclusive training programmes | 18
We protect your innovations
For more than 125 years HOFFMANN EITLE has been known for experience and quality in the protection of intellectual property. This reputation is ensured by highly qualified IP professionals, supported by a team of technically accomplished, experienced and reliable staff.

In today’s digital world, protecting intellectual property is becoming ever more important. Innovations can secure the future of a company and are often the most important assets of all – as is shown by the increase in the numbers of patent and trademark applications which are filed in Europe. HOFFMANN EITLE recognises and meets this challenge with the right combination of skills and the highest level of commitment. We believe that makes us a strong and reliable partner for many companies and institutions worldwide when it comes to protecting ideas and effectively enforcing and defending their rights.

With approximately 450 employees at seven offices in Germany and Europe, our firm is one of the largest and most successful in the field of intellectual property in Europe. Each year we file more than 4,000 new patent applications for our clients. Our international teams can advise you in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Turkish, Japanese, Korean and Chinese. Working with an international network of patent law firms, we look after your interests around the globe.

One of our greatest strengths is the interdisciplinary cooperation among our patent attorneys working in the fields of chemistry, biotechnology, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering & IT, as well as our German attorneys-at-law in the areas of trademarks & designs and patent litigation & licensing. Our attorneys work on interfaces between research, technology, economics and law, allowing HOFFMANN EITLE to successfully register, enforce and defend your rights in a dynamic global environment. The well-honed professional competence at HOFFMANN EITLE, as well as our speed and efficiency, is appreciated by international companies and SMEs alike.

HOFFMANN EITLE’s high level of competence and commitment to quality is illustrated also by the many industry awards we have won, and our consistently favourable rankings in the various key industry guidebooks. For example, HOFFMANN EITLE is listed in the top tier for patent prosecution in Germany and/or the EPO in Chambers, Legal 500, MIP IP Stars and the IAM Patent 1000 publications. Many of our attorneys are also specifically recommended in these guides, whose listings are based on their own research and interviews.

Ideas are your greatest asset. You should protect them effectively!
Catering for all your IP service needs

**Filing & Prosecution**

Our teams of patent attorneys and German attorneys-at-law help register your property rights, be they patents, utility models, trademarks and designs, or internet domains. We can draw up the application texts in cooperation with you or your inventors. Alternatively, you can provide us with the required application documents, and we will ensure that they are filed correctly and on time.

We can of course also help you with the prosecution of your applications: in dealing with the patent and trademark authorities, you can rely on our experience and competence.

After your protective rights have been granted or registered, you can still count on our in-house expertise and extensive network of national representatives, e.g. for patent validation of European patents.

**Renewal Fee Payment**

For filed, granted or registered IP rights, patent offices require the payment of annuities or renewal fees.

HOFFMANN EITLE can take over all the tasks of portfolio management for you, including the global monitoring of deadlines and payment of the official fees. We also offer corresponding services for your internet domains.
We help you to safeguard your innovations effectively and successfully register, enforce, and defend your intellectual property rights.

Litigation & Contentious Proceedings

We safeguard your interests in litigation, both in respect of validity and infringement of IP rights.

The close cooperation between the experienced patent attorneys and German attorneys-at-law of HOFFMANN EITLE creates, particularly for patent and utility model litigation, a unique synergy that significantly contributes to winning disputes brought before the German courts. We have an established network of lawyers and patent attorneys in other jurisdictions, and frequently take part in or even coordinate multi-jurisdictional litigation projects.

Our teams have extensive litigation experience in patent and trademark infringement claims, as well as in domain name disputes. Involved in many significant decisions to date, they will craft effective attack and defence strategies to help you achieve your business objectives. These include effective counter-strategies in combating product piracy and in implementing and coordinating Europe-wide border seizure procedures. HOFFMANN EITLE works in domestic and international arbitration proceedings both as an arbitrator and as counsel.

We are actively preparing for the new Unified Patent Court litigation system, a subject on which we frequently present and have published a book. Also here we will be able to represent you.

IP Transactions & Contract Issues

HOFFMANN EITLE’s attorneys-at-law will see you successfully through all IP-related contracts and transactional matters, such as research and development agreements, software implementation, corporate acquisitions and sales, joint ventures, portfolio acquisitions, venture capital investment, securitisation, restructuring and licensing.

We support you from the initial negotiations through to preparation of contracts and advice on contract disputes. Here we take into consideration both the legal and technical aspects and ensure the effectiveness of transfers of rights. If necessary, we can draw on an international network of experts.

Our attorneys will advise and represent you in competition law matters both before the courts and out of court. In addition, we advise on antitrust issues related to for example research and development, and in licensing and distribution agreements. In these areas we also represent clients vis-a-vis the antitrust authorities.
Expert opinions

When questions arise on the legal validity or potential infringement of intellectual property rights or regarding competition and antitrust laws, our comprehensive and thorough legal opinions provide a basis for making sensible business decisions.

We frequently advise on due diligence projects, which give a realistic assessment of the value of and risks to a company’s intellectual property rights. Furthermore, we have extensive experience in drafting freedom-to-operate opinions, which may include the review and assessment of thousands of IP rights. From their work in FRAND- or Orange-Book license negotiations in the telecommunications sector, our attorneys are thoroughly familiar with analyses of large patent portfolios.

HOFFMANN EITLE is also your competent partner in all matters relating to German employee invention law.

Focus on Japan

HOFFMANN EITLE has a special expertise in advising clients from Japan. Several of our patent attorneys and attorneys-at-law can both speak and write in Japanese, easing communication between all parties.

This expertise of course also puts us in a position to assist non-Japanese clients with Japan-related issues, where we can put our network of contacts in Japan to good use for you.

Worldwide representation

Our patent attorneys and German attorneys-at-law can represent you before German, European and international authorities and courts. These include:

- The European Patent Office
- The German Patent and Trademark Office
- The German Federal Patent Court
- German District courts and courts of appeal
- The German Federal Supreme Court
- The European Union Intellectual Property Office
- The Court of Justice of the European Union
- National patent offices and some courts in various countries including the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and France
- WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization)
- The European Unified Patent Court
OUR STRENGTHS

Competent teams tailored to your needs

Our teams of experts are your interface with the domains of research, technology, economics and law. They stand for the highest quality and efficiency.

HOFFMANN EITLE’s strengths are reflected in the array of skills of our patent attorneys and German attorneys-at-law. The scientific background of our patent attorneys covers virtually every commercially relevant technical area. In addition, our attorneys-at-law are highly specialised professionals covering all legal facets of intellectual property law. This allows us to meet the demands of the most varied types of cases in individual ways. Depending on the type and complexity of a case, it will be handled by a patent attorney or a German attorney-at-law or by a cross-disciplinary team of attorneys composed to provide you with the best service.
Biotechnology

With around 20 professionals all having PhD degrees related to biotechnology and the majority being European Patent Attorneys, HOFFMANN EITLE has one of the largest and most experienced Biotechnology practices in Europe. While we manage the patent portfolios of a number of large or medium-sized international biotech companies, we also specialise in assisting smaller “start-up” biotech companies as well as a number of renowned universities. Our multi-national team has extensive experience in the areas of patent prosecution and litigation at the European, German and UK Patent Offices and before the German courts, and has coordinated a number of high-profile, pan-European litigation proceedings. HOFFMANN EITLE has been awarded several industry recognition awards over consecutive years as Germany’s leading Biotechnology Patent firm. Areas where we are active include:

- Medicines
- Antibodies
- Stem cells
- Biodiagnostics
- Biologics
- Biosimilars
- Plants
- Genetic engineering
- Microbiology
- Metabolic Engineering
- Enzyme production
- Medical technology

Chemistry

More than 30 patent attorneys with national and European qualifications and numerous technical specialists work at HOFFMANN EITLE in the fields of chemistry, pharmaceuticals and life sciences making our group one of the biggest of its type in Europe. HOFFMANN EITLE has represented companies in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry for decades. In addition to our strong reputation for patent prosecution which is recognised by all of the major independent industry guides, we have built up an expertise in EPO opposition work and litigation, where we have been involved in a great number of important cases. A further special area of expertise is Supplementary Protection Certificates for medicines and plant protection products. In addition, all areas of classical chemistry are covered by our patent attorneys, including in particular:

- Medicines (“small molecules”)
- Polymers
- Cosmetics
- Printing technology
- Electrochemistry and semiconductors
- Textiles and detergents
- Paper adjuvants and paper manufacturing
- Foodstuffs
- Building materials
In matters related to mechanical engineering and applied physics, you will have the support of HOFFMANN EITLE’s around 25 national and European patent attorneys. In addition to patent attorneys from Germany, colleagues with national qualifications from the United Kingdom, Italy and the Netherlands make up our group. As engineers, process engineers and physicists, the members of the team are distinguished by a high level of technical competence and due to the size of the team and the diversity of their technical areas of specialisation we will be able to find the right advisor for any given case. Specialist areas include:

**Medical technology**

**Material sciences and geosciences**

**Construction**

**Paper and packaging technology**

**Optics**

**Nanotechnology**

**Printing systems**

**3D-printing**

**Additive manufacturing**

**Automotive, processing and engineering technology**
Trademarks & Designs

The highly specialized attorneys-at-law of our trademarks & designs team will help you to develop individual strategies for registering trademarks and designs nationally and internationally and for enforcing them worldwide. Our services include the management of your entire trademark and design portfolios, including monitoring IP rights and combating product piracy. Our areas of competence further include:

- Competition law
- IT and domain law
- IP due-diligence

Patent litigation & Licensing

The core competence of the patent litigation & licensing team lies in enforcing intellectual property rights and defending against attacks on them. We manage your affairs in Germany and support you where required in pursuing parallel court cases in several countries. Our attorneys have demonstrated their competence in numerous international processes for well-known clients. The cooperation between the attorneys-at-law and patent attorneys in our firm allows us to offer you the highest level of technical quality, speed and efficiency. In addition to German and English, we also offer our services in Japanese. The team’s special expertise lies in:

- Patent infringement proceedings
- Contract law and strategic consultation (also on the new unitary patent)
- Arbitration
- Competition law
- Due diligence
- Employee inventor law
- Drafting of licensing and arbitration agreements
In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

Albert Einstein
Seven offices in five European countries
With offices in Munich, London, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Milan, Madrid and Amsterdam we maintain close contacts with our local and regional clients and partners in Europe.

HOFFMANN EITLE is an Intellectual property law firm headquartered in Munich. However, we see ourselves not as a German but as a European law firm.

In 1985, a branch office was opened in London. Today that office is in Harmsworth House, very close to the Royal Courts of Justice. With around 30 employees, it is our second-largest office after Munich. By maintaining a presence in two European centres of patent law, HOFFMANN EITLE combines continental expertise in intellectual property law with qualifications in the ‘Common law’ legal system. For companies with pan-European interests in particular, this is of significant value.

Further expansions followed in 2009 with the founding of HOFFMANN EITLE S.R.L. in Milan and in 2013, when HOFFMANN EITLE S.L.U. opened in Madrid, bringing us closer to our southern European clients. Our two southern European offices further offer our clients in these countries the opportunity to deal directly with Italian and Spanish patent attorneys, which offers the convenience of operating in their own language and obtaining legal advice focused on their home country.

Since 2012, four German and European patent attorneys and one German attorney-at-law specialized in trademark and design matters have been working out of Düsseldorf. Our office there handles clients primarily in North Rhine-Westphalia and the Benelux countries, as well as bordering areas. Our Hamburg patent attorneys have been active in Northern Germany and Scandinavia since 2011.

In 2018 HOFFMANN EITLE founded a subsidiary in Amsterdam, HOFFMANN EITLE B.V., to serve our clients in the BENELUX countries.

Our colleagues in the branch offices can always rely on the organizational structure of the head office in Munich, as well as on the technical and legal expertise of the IP professionals and German attorneys-at-law at all locations. This way, clients can be assured of comprehensive care delivered with the well-known quality and efficiency of HOFFMANN EITLE.
As one of the largest and most successful IP law firms in Europe, we stand for more than 125 years of experience and quality in the legal protection of intellectual property.
Continuity and growth

Three generations of the Hoffmann family have played key roles in building the firm since the end of the 19th century. The firm began with the engineer Emil Hoffmann, who in 1892 opened his very own “Patent and Technical Bureau” in Berlin and, following enactment of the first legislation on German patent attorneys in 1900, became one of the first patent attorneys in Germany. Through a colleague in New York, Emil Hoffmann was already building up professional connections in the United States, laying the foundation for the firm’s current international orientation.

In 1925, after completing his chemistry studies, Emil Hoffmann’s son Erich joined the firm as a partner, and father and son worked together until Emil’s death in 1944. That same year the family had to deal with another blow, when the office, which was near the German Reichspatentamt, was completely destroyed in an Allied air raid. The entire inventory and all the files were lost.

Just before the Soviet army marched into Berlin, Erich Hoffmann fled with his family to Munich. There he rebuilt the firm after the war, establishing the headquarters of what would become HOFFMANN EITLE.

In 1954, engineer Werner Eitle began his training as a patent attorney in those offices, and in 1960 became a partner of Erich Hoffmann. The third partner, joining the firm five years later, was Erich Hoffmann’s son Klaus. The office and the professional partnership continued to grow. Unlike some other firms, HOFFMANN EITLE’s growth has been organic in the sense that we have never been involved in mergers or acquisitions. The vast majority of the present partners have been with the firm for their entire professional career.

Today, the office is in the Arabeska, a modern office building in Munich’s Bogenhausen district. With approximately 450 employees at seven locations across Germany and Europe, the firm is one of the largest and most successful intellectual property specialist boutique firms, and each year it files more than 4,000 patent applications. About 100 German, British, Dutch, Belgian, Italian, Spanish, French and European patent attorneys, 21 IP-specialized attorneys-at-law and a large number of trainee patent attorneys serve our international clients in small, medium-sized and global enterprises.
Traditionally we at HOFFMANN EITLE attach great value to staying on top of the latest developments. As leaders in our field, we regularly present at external conferences, and also organise our own conference events for our clients and friends.
Our exclusive conference events

The Euro Law Course

For three decades, HOFFMANN EITLE has been holding seminars in intellectual property law. Since 1984, we have been organising our biennial “Euro Law Course” for our international clients, given in the English language. In the lectures, the attorneys of the firm, along with invited speakers, discuss current issues in all areas of intellectual property law. In addition, HOFFMANN EITLE puts on seminars for groups of patent practitioners abroad, as well as in-house seminars at major corporate clients.

The Life Science Seminar

Every two years, HOFFMANN EITLE holds the Life Science IP seminar in Munich. Over the course of three days, the seminar delves into current topics in intellectual property law regarding Life Science inventions. The lectures are given not only by HOFFMANN EITLE attorneys with special expertise in the IP protection of Life Science inventions but also by external experts. This seminar is considered by many to be an important way to keep up to date with developments and is distinguished by the very high number of professional participants from both industry and law firms with recent attendance figures of about 100.

Seminar in Japan (CPPC)

Since the 1980s, HOFFMANN EITLE has been holding comparative IP law seminars in Japan. In the annual “Comparative Patent Practice Conference (CPPC)” held in Tokyo, HOFFMANN EITLE goes over current patent law issues from a European perspective, commented on by experts from Japan. There are also presentations on US patent practice, allowing a comparison between the jurisdictions. This event is probably unique in its form and comparative approach and is widely recognised by industrial representatives as well as patent attorneys and attorneys-at-law.
Photography | Thomas Dashuber, Gert Krautbauer, München

Design | Adam+Harborth, Berlin/München

printed by Haas Industrie-Druck GmbH, Augsburg

July 2019