

BG Bowman Gilfillan

**INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY**



You have
the idea.
We'll
protect it.

Lawyers who see the bigger picture, and the details.



Our Intellectual Property Practice Group

Bowman Gilfillan's Intellectual Property (IP) department is made up of a dedicated team of trademark and patent attorneys who specialise in trademark, patent, copyright, registered design, information technology and other related intellectual property laws. Before the merger with Bowman Gilfillan Hayman Godfrey, the department practised as John & Kernick, one of the top three IP firms in South Africa at the time.



Imagination
holds
untold value,
it deserves to
be protected
at every turn.



Areas of Practice

Trademarks

Advice regarding proposed trademark registration

Trademark searches

Filing trademark applications in South Africa and in foreign countries

Portfolio reviews and management

Trademark prosecution and registration

Trademark renewals

Assignment of trademarks

Licensed Registered user recordals

Online access to an intellectual property portfolio

Litigation

Trademark valuations

The services above are offered in respect of both local and international trademarks

Patents

Drafting and prosecution of patent applications in South Africa

Filing and prosecuting patent applications in foreign countries

Opinions regarding potential patents

Advice regarding infringement/non-infringement

Patent validity opinions

Prior art searches

Patent renewals

Audits and due diligence reports

Drafting of agreements relating to:

- Confidentiality
 - Licences and assignments
 - Technology transfer
 - Protection of know-how
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Enforcement of non-competition agreements

Litigation

Patent valuations

Copyright

Opinions regarding the subsistence and proprietorship of copyright

Registration of copyright in cinematographic films

Litigation

Assignment of copyright

Portfolio management

Registered designs

Preparing and filing design applications in South Africa

Filing and prosecuting design applications in foreign countries

Opinions regarding the registration of proposed designs

Design validity opinions

Prior art searches

Infringement and non-infringement opinions

Design renewals

Design enforcement

Audits and due diligence reports

Drafting of agreements relating to assignments and licences

Litigation

Registered design valuations litigation

Enforcement

Trademark oppositions

Trademark expungement

Trademark infringement

Patent litigation

Passing-off and unlawful competition matters

Company, close corporation and business name objections

Anti-counterfeit litigation

Advertising Standards Authority disputes

Copyright disputes

Registered design litigation

Domain name alternate dispute resolution

Anti-counterfeiting

Registration of intellectual property with the Customs Authorities for the detention of imported counterfeit goods

Monitoring and investigating of counterfeit products in the market place

Assisting clients with the strategy and development of anti-counterfeit programmes

Attending to cases from interception of goods until successful civil and/or criminal prosecution

Liaising with the Department of Trade and Industry, South African Police Services, Customs Authorities and the Department of Justice

Plant breeders' rights

Preparation, filing and prosecution of plant breeders' rights applications

Advice on the effect of plant breeders' rights

Licences and assignments

Infringement/non-infringement opinions

Renewals

Litigation relating to the validity and infringement of plant breeders' rights

Commercial intellectual property

Intellectual property valuations

Due diligence exercises

Licensing

Franchising

Intellectual property aspects of commercial agreements

Strategic intellectual property planning and management

Domain names

Domain name registrations (various country domains)

Alternative dispute resolution (UK dispute resolution procedure, ICANN UDRP, and ZA)

Litigation (ZA and other country domains)

Searching, monitoring and reporting services

Legal advice and portfolio management

E-commerce and IT law

- IT and e-commerce commercial services

- Software development, licensing, maintenance and support agreements
 - Service level agreements
 - Back-to-back agreements
 - Non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements
 - Internet services agreements (hosting, co-location, etc.)
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- IT and e-commerce litigation services

- Online trademark and copyright issues
 - Software copyright issues
 - Defamation
 - Cyber crime
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- IT and e-commerce regulatory and corporate governance services

- Privacy policies
 - Security policies
 - Usage policies
 - Disclaimers
 - Encryption
 - Digital signatures
 - VoIP (voice over Internet protocol)
 - Data retention, privacy and protection
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Ideas know no boundaries.



Intellectual Property in Africa

We offer specialised intellectual property law services throughout Africa. With more than 50 years' experience in the African market, we've built up a reliable and extensive network of associates. We are therefore well placed to deal with the intricacies of intellectual property protection throughout the African continent.

Additional services

- Free watch service for newly filed and advertised trademarks, close corporation and company name registrations
- Renewal notices
- Intellectual property portfolio reviews and management

Software management systems

In order to provide our clients with the optimum level of service, we use dynamic and innovative software management systems:

Patricia

Patricia® is a world-renowned intellectual property case management system. Developed in Sweden, the software is specifically designed to manage all types of intellectual property matters, ranging from work flows, document management and reporting mechanisms to managing diary events such as renewals. Patricia® enables us to reduce the costs involved in managing an intellectual property portfolio and decreases the likelihood of errors occurring as is often the case with manual systems.

IPOINT

IPOINT is a product that enables clients to gain online access to their entire intellectual property portfolio. Data is updated on a daily basis.

Legal solutions that make business sense.

MEMBER

LEX  MUNDI

THE WORLD'S LEADING ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT LAW FIRMS

Johannesburg

165 West Street
Sandton
Johannesburg

PO Box 785812
Sandton
2146
South Africa

Tel: +27 (0)11 669 9000
Fax: +27 (0)11 669 9001

Cape Town

SA Reserve Bank Building
60 St George's Mall
Cape Town

PO Box 248
Cape Town
8000
South Africa

Tel: + 27 (0)21 480 7800
Fax: +27 (0)21 424 1688

www.bowman.co.za

IN ASSOCIATION WITH COULSON HARNEY

Nairobi: +254 (0)20 386 1686

www.coulsonharney.com