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Dr.-Ing. Sophie Ertl

Partner

German Patent Attorney

European Patent Attorney

Representative before the UPC

Mechanical Engineer

Sophie provides counselling on patent portfolio strategies and portfolio management across a wide range of IP-related matters. In addition, she drafts patent applications and represents her clients in patent prosecution, opposition and appeal proceedings. In addition, she regularly prepares legal opinions on technical and legal issues, including freedom-to-operate and validity analyses.

Furthermore, she has particular experience with legal disputes in the field of intellectual property and has successfully conducted numerous patent and utility model infringement proceedings, patent nullity proceedings and utility model cancellation proceedings. She uses this expertise profitably for the client in patent portfolio strategies and portfolio management.

Her technical expertise covers the fields of mechanical engineering, automotive, medical devices, materials engineering, and process technology.

Sophie is head of the [Maiwald UPC taskforce](#) and responsible for all UPC related topics at Maiwald. Further, she is Member of the Board of Directors of the German Patent Attorney Association.

Sophie regularly gives presentations on patent law topics in Germany and abroad, in particular in view of the UPC. She has special contacts and interests for clients and colleagues from Korea and Brazil.

TESTIMONIALS

"Armed with reams of portfolio management expertise and technical support at infringement matters, Sophie Ertl is a safe bet for companies seeking protection of inventions across the automotive, medical device, process technology and general engineering fields."

- IAM Patent 1000, 2023

"A highly qualified patent attorney, Sophie Ertl has a canny forward-thinking approach to developing her client's patent strategy. She is detail-oriented, technically-savvy and communicates complex concepts in a manner that is easy to understand - she is an asset to any team."

- IAM 300, 2022

CAREER

since 2020	Member of the Board of Directors of the German Patent Attorney Association
since 2017	Partner, shareholder and managing director at Maiwald
2017 - 2018	Member of the German Examination Commission for Patent Attorneys
2014 - 2016	Mentor for the training for the qualification as European Patent Attorney
since 2013	Mentor of the Technical University of Munich
since 2013	Patent attorney at Maiwald
2010 - 2013	Patent attorney at Bardehle Pagenberg
2006 - 2009	Patent attorney trainee at Bardehle Pagenberg
2003 - 2006	Development engineer at BMW AG

EDUCATION

2023	Admitted to practice before the Unified Patent Court
2013	Admitted to practice as European patent attorney
2010	Admitted to practice as German patent attorney
2006 - 2009	Studied law for patent attorneys at the University of Hagen
2003 - 2006	Doctoral degree in the field of mechanical engineering and materials science from the RWTH Aachen University
1998 - 2003	Studied mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Munich

PRACTICE AREAS

- Inorganic & Construction Materials
- Electrical & Mechanical Engineering
- Communication & Information Technology
- Mobility & Energy
- Displays & Light
- Measuring & Process Technology
- Medical Technology & Imaging
- Patents & Utility Models
- IP Consulting
- Unified Patent Court

SERVICES

- Patent prosecution and portfolio management
- Filing strategies and drafting patent applications
- Freedom-to-operate and validity analysis
- Opposition and nullity proceedings
- Patent litigation

RECOGNITIONS

- Listed in IAM Strategy 300 Global Leaders 2023, 2024
- Recommended as one of the world's leading intellectual property strategists by IAM Strategy 300 2022, 2023
- Recommended in IAM Patent 1000 "World's Leading Patent Professionals" 2023
- Recommended in Handelsblatt | Best Lawyers "Germany's Best Lawyers" 2021, 2022, 2023
- Recommended in MIP IP Stars 2021, 2022, 2023
- Featured among Managing IP's Top 250 Women in IP 2021, 2023
- Recommended in Legal 500 Deutschland 2021, 2023

PUBLICATIONS

- Moderation of the panel “Trade secrets – the big questions answered” at the IAM Live Auto IP Europe 2023
- Moderation of the panel “Sunrise or False Dawn: Review of Cases of the Unified Patent Court (UPC)” of the Wiesen IP Forum in Munich, 2023
- Moderation of the panel „The UPC: a new era for patent enforcement in Europe“ at the IP and Emerging Technology Europe in London, 2023
- Moderation of the Maiwald Seminar in Düsseldorf and Munich „Software, Plausibilität und UPC“, 2023
- Interview on the UPC in the magazine “Die Welt” – Smart Rechtsguide, 2023
- 유럽 “단일특허” 美 “컨트롤타워 강화” 中 “징벌 배상제 도입” [제13회 국제지식재산보호컨퍼런스] – The 13th International Intellectual Property Protection Conference, 2023
- “韓도 변리사 소송대리 허용해 법률소비자 편의 높여야” [인터뷰] – Interview with Financial News, First-Class Economic Newspaper, 2023
- Conference presentation at the 13. International Intellectual Property Protection Conference in Seoul, Korea titled „Status and Strategy for the Unitary Patent System and the Unified Patent Court“, 2023
- Interview IAM Strategy 300 Global Leaders, 2023
- Panel with the topic “European portfolio management in the age of the unitary patent” at the online event IAM Connect: UPC 2022
- Round Table discussion at the IP Service World in Munich with the topic “Overview on the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court”, 2022
- Mandanten für die Zukunft rüsten, 2021
- Interview Financial Times about the topic “ESG shift fuels IP law collaboration and generates new work”, 2021
- Wir helfen dem Erfinder, seine Idee zu schützen, 2021
- Moderation of the Maiwald Seminar in Düsseldorf “Protection and Enforcement of Software Inventions in DE, KR & US”, 2019
- Conference contribution at the Joint Seminar of Unified Patents and Maiwald “Achieving European collaborative deterrence strategy against Non-practicing entities” entitled “NPE patent litigation in the UPC” and participation in the panel discussion in Munich, 2019
- Moderation of the panel “Standard Essential Patents” of the Wiesen IP Forum in Munich, 2019
- Conference presentation at the 11. Joint Korean- German conference in Changwon, Korea titled „Intellectual Property Protection in Mobility“ and panel discussion, 2019
- Moderation of the Maiwald Seminar in Munich “Employee Invention Law and Compliance”, 2019
- TUM Mentoring was a major door opener, 2018
- Conference presentation at the 10th Joint Korean- German Conference in Aachen, Germany, titled “Intellectual Property Protection of 3D Printing Inventions”, 2018
- Conference presentation at the conference “International IP Trends” with the title “New developments UPC/ Brexit” in Munich, 2018
- Lecture at Konstanz and Aalen University of Applied Sciences entitled “From Invention to Enforcement of Patent”, 2018
- Presentation at a start-up hub in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil entitled “Software Patent Protection in Europe and Germany”, 2018
- Inhouse training at Bosch, Stuttgart “Current Patent Case Law of the German Federal Supreme Court”, 2017
- Inhouse training at Alps, Japan “European Patent Proceedings”, 2017
- Inhouse training at Heraeus, Hanau “Attack is also a defense”, 2016
- Inhouse training at BMW, Munich “Current case law of the BGH on patent law”, 2016
- Inhouse training at Daimler, Stuttgart “Current case law on German patent law and ArbEG”, 2016
- Inhouse training at Stryker, USA “Patent infringement litigation in Germany”, 2016
- Conference presentation at the Intellectual Property One-on-One Summit, Hangzhou, China with the title “Patent Litigation in Europe & (specifically) Germany”, 2016
- Inhouse training at Unitalen, Beijing, China “Patent Infringement Litigation in Germany”, 2016

IMPORTANT CASES

- Main agent for a worldwide known automobile company with particular expertise in the field of new mobility
- Patent portfolio strategies and Portfolio management for wet processing solutions for the manufacturing of semiconductors
- Defending patent portfolio in opposition and appeal proceedings before the EPO for a large US-client for container technology in the medical industry
- Drafting patent applications in the area of mRNA technology
- Portfolio management in the field of 3D printing

MEMBERSHIPS

- FICPI
- German Patent Attorney Association
- epi
- AIPPI
- LES
- VPP

LANGUAGES

- German
- English
- French