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Dr. Dirk Bühler

Partner

German Patent Attorney

European Patent Attorney

UPC Representative

Biochemist

Dirk specializes in the management of product-related patent portfolios worldwide as well as the associated opposition, nullity and infringement proceedings in the fields of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and personalized therapy and diagnostics. He regularly advises clients on complex SPC matters and freedom-to-operate strategies in these areas. His extensive experience enables him to bring strategic IP consultancy and patent portfolio creation/management into alignment with the economic interests of his clients in a rapidly changing market environment. Clients value his interdisciplinary approach of combining questions relating to patent law with regulatory requirements for marketing authorization of medicinal products in order to achieve the fullest protection possible. Dirk has received numerous awards for his professional activities as patent attorney and regularly publishes articles on various aspects of patent law.

REFERENCES

"Dirk Buehler is a renowned IP specialist who garners plaudits for his expertise in complex patent portfolio management and infringement matters in the life sciences sector."

- [Who's who Legal IP, 2024](#)

"Dirk Bühler has deep sector expertise and can prosecute patents across a spectrum of technological areas with medical applications. His commercial awareness routinely serves patrons on complex SPC matters and FTO strategies."

- [IAM Patent 1000, 2023](#)

Further references can be viewed on the profile.

CAREER

since 2007	Partner, shareholder and managing director at Maiwald
since 2004	Patent attorney at Maiwald
2001 - 2004	Patent attorney trainee at Maiwald

EDUCATION

2023	Admitted to practice before the UPC
2004	Admitted to practice as European patent attorney
2004	Admitted to practice as German patent attorney
2001 - 2004	Studied law for patent attorneys at the University of Hagen
1998 - 2001	Doctoral degree in the field of biochemistry from the Freie Universität Berlin (doctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry)
1992 - 1998	Studied biochemistry at the Freie Universität Berlin, the University of California, Berkeley and Heidelberg University

PRACTICE AREAS

- 制药&生物科技
- 食品&农业
- 专利&实用新型
- 补充保护证书
- 知识产权咨询

SERVICES

- Complex patent portfolio management and patent prosecution
- Opposition, appeal and nullity proceedings
- Patent infringement proceedings
- Supplementary protection certificates proceedings
- Freedom-to-operate and validity analysis
- Strategic consulting for biotech start-up companies

RECOGNITIONS

- Listed as best lawyer 2025 in Handelsblatt in the categories biotechnology law and patent law
- In the Leaders League Ranking 2025, honoured as "Leading" in the "Patent Prosecution" category and as "Excellent" in the "Patent Litigation" category
- Listed in Who's Who Legal, recommended in the category "IP" 2024
- Ranked as "Leading" in the Leaders League Rankings Germany 2024 in the category Patent Prosecution" and "Highly recommended" in the category Healthcare, pharmaceuticals & biotech
- Ranked as "Excellent" in the Leaders League Rankings Germany 2022 and 2023 in the category Patent Prosecution and in 2022, 2023 & 2024 recommended in the category Patent Litigation
- Recommended in Handelsblatt | Best Lawyers „Deutschlands Beste Anwälte" 2022, 2023, 2024
- MIP IP Star 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Recommended in Legal 500 EMEA 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Recommended in Legal 500 Deutschland 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- For many years listed in IAM Patent 1000 "World's Leading Patent Professionals"
- "Recommended individuals" in JUVÉ Patent Rankings Germany 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Listed in Managing IP's EMEA shortlist "Practitioner of the Year" 2022, 2023
- Listed in the WirtschaftsWoche "Die renomiertesten Patentrechtsanwälte" 2020
- „Frequently Recommended Attorney" in JUVÉ German Commercial Law Firms 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022
- Doctoral scholarship of the Boehringer Ingelheim Fund

- Scholarship of the “Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes”

PUBLICATIONS

- Handbuch des Patentrechts, 2. Auflage, 2020
- CAR-T-Zelltherapien – Herausforderungen beim IP, 2019
- CJEU asked to clarify functional definition issue, 2018
- Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPC), C.H.BECK, Stief/Bühler (published together), 2016
- Patent Law – A Handbook on European and German Patent Law, 2014
- Federal Supreme Court endorses functional claim language, 2013
- Handbuch des Patentrechts, Haedicke/Timmann (Hrsg.), C.H.BECK, 2012 (together with Johannes W. Bukow et al.)

IMPORTANT CASES

- Representing patentee in opposition appeal proceedings leading to the BGH X ZB 8/12 Dipeptidyl-Peptidase-Inhibitors decision
- Representing patentee in SPC application proceedings before the European Court of Justice in case C-650/17 (Royalty Pharma/Sitagliptin)
- Representing defendant in nullity and opposition proceedings and litigation support concerning non-invasive prenatal diagnostics
- Representing opponent in opposition proceedings leading to revocation of basis patent for 2nd generation sequencing by synthesis
- Representing patentees in opposition proceedings relating to basic CRISPR/Cas9 patents of Nobel laureates Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier

MEMBERSHIPS

- German Patent Attorney Association
- epi
- GBM
- GRUR

LANGUAGES

- German
- English