MAIWALD
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY

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# Asim Q. Akbani

**Senior Associate**
**European Patent Attorney**
**UPC Representative**
**M.Sc. Forensic Epigenetics and Molecular Biology**

Asim specializes in contentious patent proceedings, with expertise in complex, multi-party opposition and appeal proceedings before the Opposition Divisions and Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office (EPO). He has extensive experience in developing and executing opposition and appeal strategies, navigating technically and legally challenging disputes, and addressing intricate questions of patentability in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors.

In addition to his contentious practice, Asim has significant experience in drafting and prosecuting patent applications and managing worldwide patent portfolios, particularly those involving extensive experimental datasets and innovative therapeutic technologies.

He also advises clients on strategic intellectual property matters, including patent due diligence, freedom-to-operate analyses, and the assessment of patent validity and infringement risks.

Asim's legal practice is underpinned by a multidisciplinary scientific background spanning biomedical engineering, forensic epigenetics, and molecular biology. Prior to entering the patent profession, he gained research experience across epigenetics, neurobiology, biochemistry, and structural biology at leading Swiss research institutions, including ETH Zurich, the University of Zurich, and the Friedrich Miescher Institute (FMI) in Basel.

## CAREER

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|---|---|
| since 2025 | European Patent Attorney at Maiwald |
| 2021 - 2025 | Patent Engineer at Maiwald |
| 2019 - 2021 | Technical Expert at Grünecker |

## EDUCATION

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|---|---|
| 2026 | Admitted to practice before the UPC |
| 2025 | Admitted to practice as European Patent Attorney |
| 2018 - 2019 | Scientific Researcher in Biochemistry and Structural Biology at Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research (FMI) |

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|---|---|
| 2017 | Scientific Researcher in Neuroepigenetics at the University of Zurich |
| 2016 | Master Thesis Student and Research Assistant in Epigenetics and Reproductive Biology at ETH Zurich |
| 2014 - 2016 | Master of Science in Forensic Science at the University of Amsterdam |
| 2013 | Exchange student in Biology at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu |
| 2008 - 2012 | Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering at NED University of Engineering and Technology |

## PRACTICE AREAS

- 製薬＆バイオテクノロジー
- 医療技術＆とイメージング
- 特許＆実用新案

## SERVICES

- Patent examination proceedings and portfolio management
- Process for obtaining supplementary protection certificates
- Freedom-to-operate- and validity opinions
- Opposition proceedings

## PUBLICATIONS

- EPO Board of Appeal 3.3.04 is setting the right standard for acknowledging novelty of non-medical use claims (T 1913/21)
- A ›method for‹ claim – when is the recited purpose limiting?

## LANGUAGES

- German
- English
- Urdu