

Abstract: Europe on its Way towards the Unitary Patent

The past two years have seen unprecedented and surprising progress on the route towards the unitary European patent. It is generally expected that the new system will become operational within the next two to three years, and will comprise, for the first time ever, a patent with unitary effect in (almost) all the countries of the European Union, and a new court system that will allow to enforce or challenge these patents across Europe.

In this seminar talk, the patent attorney Dr. Dennis Kretschmann and the attorney-at-law Dr. Michael Rüberg, partners with the German intellectual property law firm Boehmert & Boehmert, will explain the current system for obtaining patent protection in Europe as well as the proposed changes, and will highlight how patent owners can make use of the old and the new system to reliably and quickly enforce their patents in Europe.

The speakers have a wide expertise in all aspects of intellectual property rights, and will give ample opportunity for discussions and questions. The speakers will also reserve time after the talks to answer individual questions of the participants relating to intellectual property rights in Europe.

The Speakers:

Dipl.-Phys. Dr. rer. nat. Dennis Kretschmann

German Patent Attorney, European Patent and Trade Mark Attorney



Dennis studied physics at the Technical University of Braunschweig and as Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tennessee / Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA. For his thesis, he undertook research at the Technical University of Braunschweig and University of Cambridge in the area of quantum information science and investigated how the characteristic quantum physical properties can be utilised for transmitting, storing and processing information. He extended his research as DAAD scholar and post-doctorate student at the University of Pavia in Italy.

Dennis has worked for BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT since 2007. Following his training in industrial property law, he was admitted as patent attorney in 2010. Dennis has been an admitted representative before the European Patent Office and before the Harmonisation Office for the Internal Market since 2011.

The emphasis of his work is on the development and management of patent portfolios in the areas of physics, optics, electrical engineering, IT and software. He represents clients in examination procedures before the national and international patent offices and conducts patent infringement and nullity proceedings before the German courts. In addition, he provides consultancy on technology transfer, licensing agreements and employee invention law.

Dennis is adjunct professor for intellectual property law at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taiwan's leading technical university.

Dennis is a member of the Federal Association of German Patent Attorneys, [UNION](#), [LES](#), the [VPP](#) and the German Physical Society ([DPG](#)).

Dr. Michael Rüberg, LL.M.

Rechtsanwalt, Certified IP-Lawyer



Michael studied law at the Universities of Bochum and Muenster. For his outstanding achievements in the German State Exam he was awarded the University's annual faculty price. In addition, he obtained a qualification in Intellectual Property Law from the Institute of Information, Telecommunications and Media law (ITM, University of Muenster). After graduation, Michael earned his doctorate in law at the Institute of Media Law (University of Cologne) on a subject related to digital copyright under the German and UK Copyright Acts. He also holds a Master of Law degree from renown King's College, London, also specialising in the protection of intellectual and industrial property rights (LL.M. IP).

Before becoming a partner with BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT in 2012, Michael was active as an in-house lawyer and group leader in the patent and trademarks department of BMW AG in Munich. Previously, he worked as an attorney at law in the patent litigation group of a leading international law firm in Duesseldorf.

At BOEHMERT & BOEHMERT, Michael advises and represents domestic and foreign companies in patent litigation matters. In addition, the emphasis of his work lies in developing and enforcing strategies for IP portfolios, the drafting of licensing agreements and advice on questions of copyright and unfair competition law.

Michael is a member of the German Association of Industrial Property Right and Copyright ([GRUR](#)), the Association of Specialists in Industrial Property Right ([VPP](#)), the Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle ([AIPPI](#)), the Licensing Executives Society ([LES](#)) and Alumni Medienrecht Koeln e.V.

Legal 500 Germany 2015 emphasizes his comprehensive activity in the field of Patent Law: Dispute Resolution.