

Kilburn & Strode

Our Bay Area Offering

European IP in the US

Explore →



Kilburn & Strode

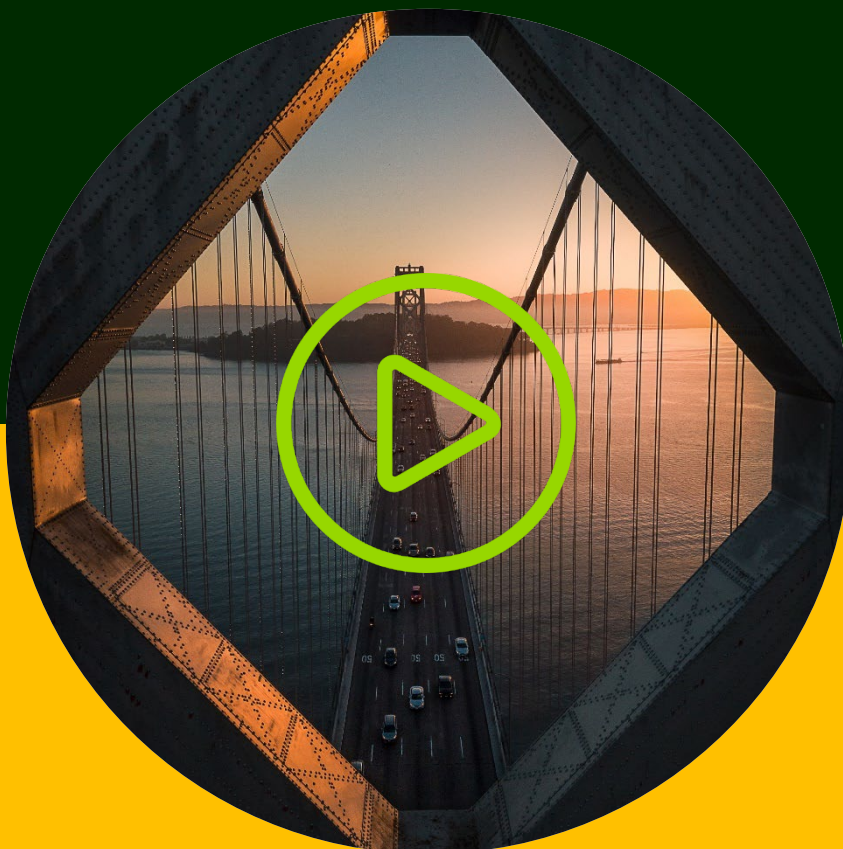
01

Overview

Kilburn & Strode is a top-tier firm of European patent, trademark and design attorneys. As a firm, we recognize the importance of building a close working relationship with our US clients and attorney partners. Such a close working relationship not only helps to ensure success in Europe, but also has a positive impact on cost, speed and ultimately enjoyment.

While we have offices across Europe, we also have an office in the Bay Area - our San Francisco liaison office - not only to provide our European services directly in the US, but also to act as a gateway to our European offices. Our San Francisco office allows us to help US clients secure European IP protection seamlessly, without any of the problems created by distance or time. In short, we're here for you when you need us.

We're proud to be the first European patent, trademark and design attorney firm with attorneys registered by the Californian Bar to provide European legal advice in California. As a result, we are the only firm of our kind to permanently deliver European IP services to clients in California in their time zone.



Watch to learn more about our U.S. offering

02

Our team in the Bay Area

Our dedicated Bay Area team is shown below. This team is available for any urgent or important work, or simply to meet locally and work with you in your time zone:



Harry Harden

Partner (London) &
Senior Vice President of San Francisco
Liaison Office

- > software | autonomous driving | mechanical and automotive technologies
- > weightlifting | surfing | dogs



Freddy Thiel

Vice President of San Francisco
Liaison Office

- > invention capture | software | telecommunications | user interfaces
- > espresso | Champagne/real bubbles



Ella Rawson

Senior Marketing & Business
Development Executive

- > branding | design | website management | pitches | events
- > cross training | skiing | hiking | cycling



Kendra Billings

Operations & Marketing Coordinator

- > events | marketing | contact management | office operations
- > traveling | warm weather | organizing | animal lover

02

Wider Bay Area team

The below team shows our attorneys closely-linked to our Bay Area office. These attorneys are very familiar with working with Californian companies and firms, and often visit the Bay Area:



Tom Hamer

Partner (London) &
Vice President of San Francisco Liaison Office

➤ AI | video games | metaverse | medical devices



Emily Collins

Partner (London) &
Vice President of San Francisco Liaison Office

➤ medical devices | femtech | automotive



Nick Shipp

Partner (London) &
Vice President of San Francisco Liaison Office

➤ consumer electronics | cryptography, blockchain and web3 | audio, acoustic and music technologies



Tom Leonard

Partner (London)

➤ antibodies and biologics | vaccines | gene therapies | diagnostics (NGS, liquid biopsies, biomarkers)

As a large European firm, the attorneys listed in this offering are part of teams having a large variety of specialties beyond those mentioned above. If you're seeking a particular specialism outside of those mentioned, please ask and we will locate the best person to help.

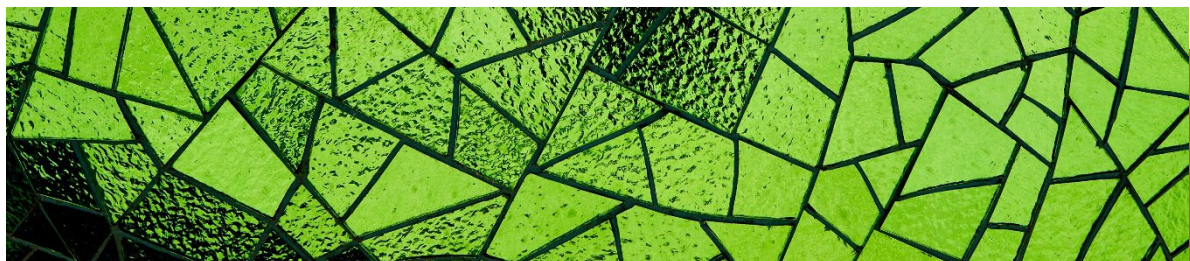
As a local office in the Bay Area, we provide a unique offering of services to Bay Area companies and firms. While there's a lot we can offer, a summary of just some of the services we offer locally, on West Coast time, is provided below:

Seminars

- › We recognize that the differences between the USPTO and the EPO can be significant. We therefore offer a series of succinct, CLE-accredited seminars to cover the main differences and help show how small changes can make a huge difference in European patent success. The below list provides an overview of our CLE-accredited seminars.
- › Everything you need to know about the Unitary Patent
- › EPO filing and prosecution guide for patent paralegals
- › Why is added matter such a problem at the EPO?
- › How do oral proceedings work at the EPO?
- › 'How to' series:
 - › How to draft applications for European success
 - › How to patent software at the EPO
 - › How to patent AI and Mathematical Methods at the EPO
 - › How to accelerate or slow down prosecution at the EPO
- › We can of course offer other, tailored seminars on related topics at your request.

On-Site European Patent Attorney

- › We're available to spend a day with you, virtually or in-person, regularly or irregularly, to assist with your European IP needs. We'd welcome questions large or small to help cut through the differences between European and US law and approaches.



Free Second Opinions

We love to work hand-in-hand with US clients and firms. As we don't work with everyone however, we're happy to provide a free second opinion for particularly complicated or important European cases. We're confident that our expertise will provide you with either a realistic new approach, or comfort in your existing strategy. For example, we offer free second opinions on the following:

- Filing – Whether to file at the EPO/UKIPO or not (eligibility, technical effect)
- Prosecution – Objection response strategy
- Oral proceedings – Primary strategy and fallback positions
- Appeals – Whether to file, appeal strategy

Pre-filing reviews

Certain technologies are more problematic at the EPO than others. We offer pre-filing reviews to help make the decision on whether to file at the EPO or not, and also to help consider whether changes to the specification could ultimately result in success in Europe. Such changes can be critical and we'd be happy to offer a first review free-of-charge.

Invention Capture/Refining and Co-drafting

European success is often determined by the information present in the first-filed application. This is particularly true for borderline cases where eligibility may be in question. Ensuring that sufficient technical details are both obtained from the inventor and also woven into the first-filing can often be the difference between success and failure at the EPO. We offer local assistance to ensure the first-filed application is truly ready for the EPO.

Secondments

We're local and ready to seamlessly integrate with your team. We offer bespoke secondments tailored to your immediate needs, from invention capture to prosecution and post grant actions.



04

Why Kilburn & Strode



Best in class: Consistently top tier in major legal directories

We are one of just a few IP firms in Europe consistently ranked Top Tier for both trademark and patent prosecution in Legal 500, Chambers, World Trademark Review, Managing IP, and IAM.



More than a service provider – Great people you will love to work with

Excellent client service is built on strong relationships. We find people who can naturally build trust and rapport with our clients and act as one team with a common goal: to navigate the complex world of IP.



A history full of surprises and game changing innovations

Proud of our 100+ years as a leading European IP firm, we work with game-changing innovations of their time, such as Dolly the first cloned sheep; Boeing's Dreamliner, the world's most advanced passenger aircraft; and James Bond's favourite automobile. [Here's a link to our history](#), including case highlights, since 1906.



Social impact in action

Our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy outlines our efforts to give back to the world. We're proud of our paperless offices, plastic-free environment, paid leave for charity work, and our investment in pro-bono initiatives. We wouldn't have it any other way.



Giving back: Innovation for All Foundation

We care about the wider community, which is why our [Innovation for All Foundation](#) donates 1% of our profits to help up-and-comers and innovators.

05

Diversity & Inclusion

We're committed to diversity because it makes our firm a superb place to work. Whatever your background, you're welcome here because we love the creativity that difference brings.

We're making change. Through working inclusively and embracing diversity we can achieve our best.

We were present at the inaugural meeting of IP Inclusive and we have taken an active role ever since, including being one of the first firms to sign the [IP Inclusive charter](#). IP Inclusive is the industry-wide initiative to improve access to and diversity in the IP profession in the UK.

Leadership

Diversity and inclusion themes (both training and feedback on the firm) feature regularly on the agenda of Partner Meetings. Our Equity Partners are signatories to the IP Inclusive Leaders' Pledge. We promote thought leadership pieces written by our colleagues and share others from the sector, and promote allyship, the use of gender neutral pronouns, and our policies and communications are written with inclusion held in conscious thought.

Diversity, equity and inclusion task force

We have an active diversity equity and inclusion task force whose members are themselves of varying backgrounds, demographics and levels of seniority, who share education and updates from IP Inclusive's subgroups (IP Out, IP & Me, etc.) and involve colleagues on awareness days and promotion of ideas to develop our initiatives, such as our parents' network. You will note this is not our "equality" task force, but our "equity" task force, because we understand that not everyone is "equal" and some may need more help than others. It's a small distinction, but we think an important one.

Mentorship program

We have a mentoring scheme in place to build career development confidence in under-represented groups, and are actively seeking to grow the number of female Partners. We offer the route of Counsel as an alternative and/or a developmental stage before Partner, and part-time working at Partner level is also common.

Training our team

We provide all our people managers with training to help them to support their team, including training on "dignity at work", unconscious biases, and an introduction to the trans experience.

IP Out

Partner Tom Leonard is the founder and current co-chair of IP Out, the support and networking group for LGBTQ+ people working in IP. IP Out is one of the networks under the wider IP Inclusive umbrella, and it hosts educational and social events throughout the year for LGBTQ+ people and their allies.

Time to Change pledge

We have signed the Time to Change pledge, as we want to end mental health discrimination. We have trained 13 Mental Health First Aiders. We are determined to ensure that we do all we can to support everyone at Kilburn & Strode.

Diverse hiring (name blinding CVs)

We sift all our graduate applications blind. That means we remove names, to help eliminate unconscious bias in our CV sifting process. For our annual graduate recruitment program, we rotate who performs the CV-sifting and interviewing, as well as ensuring different people sift CVs to those that interview the candidates, to avoid simply hiring the same people year after year. We also offer extremely flexible working practices to make it easier for those with caring or other responsibilities to join our firm.

TIME'S UP

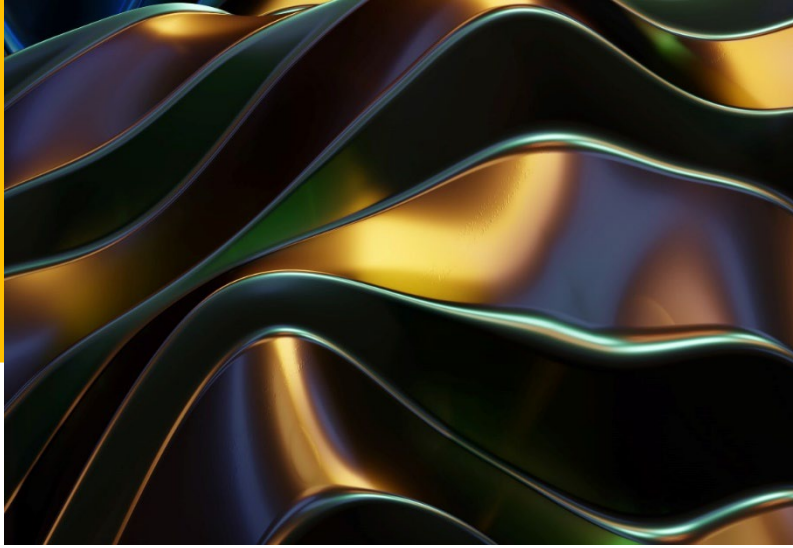
We are proud to have been selected to handle UK and EU trademark work for the mark TIME'S UP, one of the highest profile brands which has been publicized widely at the Golden Globe Awards and The Oscars.

"Are we doing enough?" series

We have run a series of "Are we doing enough?" webinars, inviting our clients and contacts to discuss if we are all "doing enough", and to challenge us all to do more. These includes webinars with a focus on supporting women and LGBTQ+ people in the workplace.

Gathering diversity statistics

It's a small thing, but we encourage all staff to respond to our diversity, equity and inclusion survey, so we can identify where we might be falling short and we can track progress.



Contact us

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Liaison Office

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www.kilburnstrode.com



London | Amsterdam | Rotterdam | The Hague
Munich | San Francisco Liaison Office



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