

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT Full-service firms

BIGNON LEBRAY & ASSOCIÉS
BIRD & BIRD
CARRERAS, BARSIKIAN, ROBERTSON
& ASSOCIÉS
DE GAULLE FLEURANCE & ASSOCIÉS
DENTON WILDE SAPTE
DEPREZ DIAN GUIGNOT
GIDE LOYRETTE NOUËL A.A.R.P.I.
GRANRUT AVOCATS
LATHAM & WATKINS
NOMOS
TAYLOR WESSING
WAN AVOCATS

Allen & Overy LLP
August & Debouzy
Carbonnier Lamaze Rasle & Associés
Clifford Chance
DLA Piper
Hogan & Hartson MNP
Lartigue Tournois & Associés
Orrick Rambaud Martel
PDGB
Wilhelm & Associés

Firms are listed A-Z in tiers

⊙ Indicates firm displays contact details at the end of this chapter

television companies, sports events operators, and US companies in the cinema industry. Sources commend their 'enthusiasm'. The group has advised specialist television channel Equipe TV in the renegotiation of distribution contracts on cable television, following the Canal/Sat/TPS merger, as well as ASO concerning television transmission rights during the Tour de France. Established clients 20th Century Fox and Dreamworks have also kept the team busy with various copyright and litigation matters.

Denton Wilde Sapte's Stefan Naumann boasts an impressive client base in the film and entertainment sector. The firm represents prestigious clients such as Lucas Film, Warner Brothers and Nike. Naumann and his team recently advised Viz Media, a large Japanese publishing house, in establishing its French subsidiary, as well as providing counsel to Paramount/Calamel on a copyright infringement case. Naumann enjoys an excellent reputation in the field as, 'an excellent communicator with real talent'.

Deprez Dian Guignot represents advertising agencies, press publishers, radio and TV broadcasters. Pierre Deprez is the main contact.

Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I. is 'able to relate to the needs of foreign clients doing business in France'. The firm is 'wonderfully responsive and has a team of great lawyers to work with'. The group specialises in the audiovisual sector, advising on production and exploitation rights, broadcasting

and distribution, and communication infrastructure. The team recently assisted a US pay-channel on the negotiation of a distribution agreement with a French TV channel regarding the first season of a popular historical TV series. It also acted for a French producer on a €14m co-production of a puppet animation feature film called 'Max & Co'; and a French production company on the adaptation rights of the movie 'Lady Chatterley'. Olivier Cousi and the 'fantastic' Charles-Edouard Renault are the two names behind this successful practice.

Granrut Avocats advises companies and artists from various sectors and has a strong presence in the music and audiovisual sectors. Jean Castelain has an established reputation.

According to clients, **Latham & Watkins** has 'in-depth knowledge of the media industry'. This statement is confirmed by the fact that the firm has probably one of the most desirable client portfolios in the media industry. The team provides regular counsel to TF1 and TPS, and Endemol in the field of TV broadcasting, and also counts prominent clients in the cinema sector. The firm won a major victory for Warner Bros France before the French courts on a case regarding digital rights management, and represented James Cameron/Fox in litigation involving a copyright infringement claim regarding the licensing of the movie *La Totale* and its remake *True Lies*. Patrick Dunaud and Emmanuel Drai are key contacts.

Eric Lauvaux and Hélène Delabarre advise and litigate on a large variety of media matters at **NomoS**. The practice advises several prestigious clients and is well known for its quality work in the music sector. The team advises international companies and French subsidiaries.

Arnaud de Senilhes and Christian Valsamidis of **Taylor Wessing** have a good reputation in media. The firm is particularly strong in the cinema industry, as well as in the press and music sectors.

WAN Avocats acts for big names in the music, publishing and audiovisual industries. Isabelle Wekstein is a specialist in intellectual property while Francis Pudlowski deals with press law issues.

Allen & Overy LLP's media team has a particularly good reputation in media-related competition matters. The team, which is led by Noël Chahid-Nourai and Jean-Yves Ollier, who joined the firm in 2007 from **Weil, Gotshal & Manges**, offers services in M&A, regulatory, data protection, and litigation matters relating to media. Notably this year, the group advised M6 on several regulatory issues including cross-promotion and mobile TV. The practice advises broadcasters, publishers, newspapers, public authorities, and audio-visual groups and authors' associations.

August & Debouzy assists press and magazine publishers on intellectual property

issues and litigation. Mashasti Razavi and Kami Haeri are recommended.

Carbonnier Lamaze Rasle & Associés is 'present on some of the most important deals in the media industry'. The firm is particularly active in the television sector with clients such as Arte, and the radio industry with Radio France and RFI. Lawyers also have expertise in the press and publishing fields. Michel Rasle is recommended.

Clifford Chance's reputation in sport remains very strong. Sources say, 'Clifford Chance are extremely efficient and know their sports law inside out'. The team was the legal adviser for the International Rugby Board and World Cup for the Rugby World Cup 2007. Responsibilities included design and enforcement of the Rights Protection Programme. The media practice, which includes the 'very talented' Yves Wehrli, also represented the *Times* in litigation against the owners of another large national paper. The practice continues to advise the French Football League on several issues including the sale of its mobile rights and media convergence issues.

DLA Piper advises on all aspects of media and entertainment law. Clients include film producers, newspapers, broadcasters, publishers, agents and authors. Patrick Boiron is the key contact.

Winston Maxwell, who leads the media department at **Hogan & Hartson MNP** benefited from taking on Xavier Buffet Delmas who joined from **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** in June 2007. The practice demonstrates particular expertise in copyright issues relating to the film industry. The team recently advised New Line Cinema and Pathé on French motion picture production and distribution issues.

Lartigue Tournois & Associés has expertise in cinema, theatre and audiovisual production as well as in the advertising industry working for major advertising groups. Véronique Lartigue has particular expertise in the advertising sector while Yves Tournois is a reference on the art market.

Orrick Rambaud Martel works for the NRJ group. Jean-Michel Leprêtre is the key contact.

PDGB assists major French media groups and has a number of big-name clients in the music industry. The firm advises on intellectual property and IT issues, notably raised by the digital technology. Julie Jacob is recommended.

Wilhelm & Associés is present in a variety of media sectors. The firm notably worked for Canal+, radio station MFM, and newspapers 20Minutes and Marianne. Jean-Michel Iscovici enjoys a strong reputation.

Media and entertainment Book publishers

With some big names such as Flammarion and Albin Michel in its portfolio, **Bauer & Bigot** is without doubt one of the leaders on the market.

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Book publishers

BAUER & BIGOT
CARBONNIER LAMAZE RASLE & ASSOCIÉS
DARTEVELLE BENAZERAF MERLET DUBEST
GILLES VERCKEN AVOCATS
HUGOTAVOCATS
PIERRAT
ZYLBERSTEIN & ASSOCIÉS

Firms are listed A-Z

Carbonnier Lamaze Rasle & Associés has a great reputation and works for some major publishing houses.

Darteville Benazeraf Merlet Dubest is exclusive adviser to publishing house Gallimard.

Gilles Vercken Avocats is a recognised expert in intellectual property and works for a number of publishers.

HUGOTAVOCATS assists authors and editors with publishing contracts, rights transmission and litigation. The firm has a quality client portfolio in the industry.

Pierrat is probably the best on the market in terms of IP expertise in the area of book publishing. Emmanuel Pierrat is recommended.

Zylberstein & Associés is singled out for its expertise in copyright, plagiarism and defamation. Jean-Claude Zylberstein and Anne Boissard are the key contacts.

Media and entertainment

Cinema

Bitoun & Associés works for producers, actors and directors. Jacques-Georges Bitoun is the key contact.

Borowsky & de Baecque deals with all the legal aspects attached to film production for French and European clients. The firm also assists foreign producers and directors with the shooting of movie scenes in France, and investment funds interested in investing in the industry. Sophie Borowsky is recommended.

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Cinema

BITOUN & ASSOCIÉS
BOROWSKY & DE BAECQUE
FÉRAL-SCHUHL/SAINT MARIE
HAIDAR
HUGOTAVOCATS
MICHEL LIBERMANN
ZYLBERSTEIN & ASSOCIÉS

Firms are listed A-Z

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Music

HUGOTAVOCATS
JEAN ENNOCHI
NICOLAS BOESPFLUG
ZYLBERSTEIN & ASSOCIÉS

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

Newspapers and magazines

BAUER & BIGOT
LUSSAN BROULLAUD
NICOLAS BOESPFLUG

Firms are listed A-Z

Féral-Schuhl/Sainte Marie has a clientele in the industry and is recommended for 'its acute knowledge of the sector'. Bruno Grégoire Sainte Marie has particular expertise in litigation raising copyright issues on digital pictures.

Haidar is the privileged contact point for US studios, investors, producers and directors which appreciate the dual French and Anglo-Saxon legal culture of the firm. The firm assists clients, including some major French players, on transactional work, distribution rights, employment law and litigation. Leo Haidar has a strong reputation.

HUGOTAVOCATS assists distributors, producers and other industry players on all the aspects related to production and movie projects.

Michel Libermann splits his time between France and the US advising big European movie players.

A significant part of the activity of Zylberstein & Associés is dedicated to the movie industry. Jean-Claude Zylberstein advises prominent French distributors and studios.

Media and entertainment

Music

The following law firms and experts are recommended for their reputation in the music industry: **HUGOTAVOCATS**, Jean Ennoch, Nicolas Boespflug, Anne Boissard and Jean-Claude Zylberstein at Zylberstein & Associés.

Media and entertainment

Newspapers and magazines

Bauer & Bigot works for some major national actors in the press and magazine market such as *Le Nouvel Observateur* and *Le Point*. Christophe Bigot is recommended.

Lussan Brouillaud is recognised as an expert in media, communication and press law and

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

TV/radio

BOROWSKY & DE BAECQUE
BOUSQUET
GILLES VERCKEN AVOCATS
MARTINE COISNE
NICOLAS BOESPFLUG

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copyright issues. Jean-Yves Dupeux, Thierry Massis and Florence Bourg have a very good reputation.

Nicolas Boespflug is a specialist in intellectual property. The firm deals with copyright and trade mark issues for major press groups including Bayard Presse.

Media and entertainment

TV/radio

Borowsky & de Baecque assists production companies, broadcasters, authors and French regulatory authorities with transactional work and has advised on a number of TV reality shows.

Bousquet is regular adviser to the Bouygues group.

Gilles Vercken Avocats advises several TV channels on IP issues.

Martine Coisne represents audiovisual production companies and has significant activity in the public sector for France Télévisions.

IP boutique Nicolas Boespflug has important clients in the industry including NRJ.

Mergers and acquisitions

Bredin Prat 'has done better than anyone else in 2007' and was 'present on most of the deals that counted'. The firm is 'the reference for complex and strategic operations'. 2007 high-profile deals include closing the merger of Suez with Gaz de France, advising Danone on the acquisition of its global biscuit division by Kraft Foods, and BNP Paribas on its acquisition of Banca Nazionale del Lavoro. The firm also worked for Eiffage, LVMH and the French State. The team has numerous talented personalities, including Jean-François Prat, Patrick Dziewolski, Didier Martin, Sébastien Prat and Olivier Assant.

M&A is the driver of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP which continues with its trend of advising both on public and private transactions. In April 2007 John Brintzer and other partners represented established client Euronext NV in its merger with NYSE Group. This complicated deal marks the first transatlantic securities exchange combination. The team is noted as being both