

Our copyright levy expertise

Bird & Bird's European copyright levy expert group is a cross-border practice, comprising more than 20 lawyers across our offices in Europe. The group has a strong track record advising on all aspects of copyright levies and providing a full range of legal services to major companies, including representation in court proceedings, compilation of risk assessments for pricing and accrual purposes, negotiations with collecting societies regarding collective and individual agreements, drafting and negotiating contracts raising copyright levy questions, and other copyright levy issues.

All of our offices are operated by locally qualified lawyers and provide extensive domestic capabilities as well as being part of the international team. Our outstanding expertise in Intellectual Property in addition with our unique knowledge of the Media and Information Technology sectors enables us to provide cutting-edge practical and legal advice to our clients in copyright levies. Further we have in-depth experience and a specific reputation in legal issues related to technology convergence and virtualisation.

Our international coverage has proven to be of significant benefit to our clients due to our close proximity to decision-makers and our cross-border knowledge of upcoming and ongoing developments and decisions worldwide.

Our clients are principally large manufacturers, importers and resellers of products that are subject to copyright levies as well as industry associations. We are advising or have advised clients in landmark cases including cases decided by national supreme courts and cases referred to the European Court of Justice.

Our services include:

- Dispute resolution, including mediation, arbitration and litigation of copyright levy disputes for industry associations and companies;
- International surveys regarding copyright levy exposure of products, in particular in connection with the launch of a new product;
- Risk assessments, such as estimation of costs in connection with copyright levies for accrual purposes;
- Negotiations for industry associations or companies with collecting societies regarding collective agreements;
- Negotiations for companies with collecting societies regarding individual agreements;
- Lobbying and strategic advice, such as advice in influencing potential new laws and evaluating the impact of potential changes of the law in the future;
- Advising on contracts raising copyright levy issues such as distribution agreements and export or import contracts;
- Legal opinions on copyright levy questions such as questions regarding the application of levies on a product, levy amounts, levy debtorship, and retroactive application of levies.

“Very responsive, very down to earth. There’s no clear line where we end and they begin.”

Chambers UK 2015

“It stands out as one of the best international firms, especially in Northern Europe. A large specialist in this area.”

Chambers Europe 2014

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“They have always been very approachable. Their grasp of the issues - both from a pure legal perspective, and appreciating the in-house angles - has been well received.”

