



THE INSTITUTE OF TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

UK PROFESSIONALS PROTECTING BRANDS

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MEMBERSHIP



Who we are

ITMA – the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys is the professional body for trade mark attorneys in the **UK**. As such it is the leading body in the UK whose Corporate Members are trained in trade mark matters; Registered and Unregistered Designs; and Copyright.

ITMA has been in existence since 1934 when it was known as the Institute of Trade Mark Agents. The Institute changed its name in 1999 to the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys to more accurately reflect the global nature of the business and to make it more relevant to the fact that members are called upon to advise clients on complex legal issues, not only in the UK but throughout the world.

ITMA Corporate Members are all active trade mark attorneys within the UK and appear on the Government's Register. Corporate Members have to pass stringent qualifying examinations to get on that Register and must maintain their knowledge by undergoing Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

ITMA Corporate Members must be of good standing and must abide by a code of professional conduct. The Institute has the power to discipline and expel members who do not comply with its code of conduct.

ITMA Corporate Members have recently been granted rights of audience and the right to conduct litigation in the High Court and will be free to represent clients in the High Court subject to obtaining a Litigators Certificate.

In addition to Corporate Membership, ITMA has a number of other categories of membership. These are explained more fully later, but include the categories of Affiliate Membership; Associate Membership; Student Membership and Overseas Membership.

What we do

In addition to obtaining trade mark registration in the UK, and experience of International agreements, such as the Community Trade Mark and the Madrid Protocol, ITMA Corporate Members can, through associates all over the world, secure trade mark registrations in any territory. Corporate Members also advise clients on the scope and breadth of trade mark protection.

Corporate Members of ITMA are also trained in Designs and Copyright and can advise clients on these matters, not only as they apply in the UK, but also in the newly enlarged European Union and worldwide.

The Institute itself provides training and education for students so that they can take the qualifying professional examinations. The Institute also provides seminars, conferences and other educational opportunities for members of the profession so that they can meet the requirements of CPD (Continuing Professional Development).

The Institute, through its committee structure, considers and comments on legislative proposals affecting the UK and the European Union, as well as on worldwide issues such as trade marks and the internet.

ITMA aims to improve awareness of trade mark issues to the general public. The ITMA website www.itma.org.uk contains a wealth of information about trade mark registration and the work of the Institute. Leaflets, Fact Sheets and Briefing Papers support this as well as attendance at business and trade exhibitions. Awareness of trade mark issues goes hand in hand with stressing the value of using professional qualified trade mark attorneys in the registration process.

The website contains a members' only area which is a medium for informing the membership about developments in trade marks. It also contains key educational materials and case reports of interest to all categories of membership. The ITMA Newsletter also appears there.





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How we can help you

ITMA brings together professionals whose main interest is trade marks but who may also have an interest in Designs and Copyright.

ITMA conferences draw an international audience to consider global trade mark and design issues. They offer a networking opportunity for like minded professionals and for those in allied services. The conferences not only comprise programmes covering current issues of importance to the trade mark community but also provide top quality social occasions.

ITMA members obtain reduced conference rates and entry to numerous seminars, debates and free evening meetings.

ITMA members gain access to the restricted area of the ITMA website www.itma.org.uk with all its educational and case law materials as well as the Newsletter which is also mailed out monthly.

ITMA enjoys close working relations with the UK Government's Trade Marks Registry (part of the UK Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO) – www.ipo.gov.uk) and with the Community Trade Mark Office (OHIM) based in Alicante, Spain, which handles Community Trade Mark and Registered Community Design applications. Joining ITMA offers an opportunity to influence these bodies.

ITMA also works with other bodies associated with trade marks such as the Alliance Against IP Theft in the UK and International organisations such as INTA (The International Trademark Association), ECTA (European Communities Trade Mark Association), and other national organisations.



Categories of membership

Membership of ITMA has grown over the years to a current membership of over 1,700. ITMA has several categories of membership. These currently comprise:

Corporate Members are all actively engaged as trade mark attorneys in the UK. They are professionally qualified by examination and/or have been in practice for a specified

period. All must be on the Government's Register (officially known as the Register of Trade Mark Agents).

Student Members are currently training and actively studying to pass the qualifying examinations in UK trade mark law and practice in order to become qualified UK trade mark attorneys.

Affiliate Members are part qualified.

Overseas Members have to be sponsored by two Corporate Members and practising as, or engaged in the profession or work of, a trade mark agent or attorney outside the UK.

Associate Members must be based in the UK or overseas and not practising in trade mark agent or attorney work. They must have a special interest in trade marks.

Application Forms for all categories of membership are available from the Institute office. The Institute welcome applicants from those meeting the specific requirements set out above.



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