

Defamation & Privacy

Our Services

We have a cross-border European team advising major clients on all defamation and privacy issues. We can therefore help you stop the dissemination of untrue or confidential information immediately, emphatically and before it causes irreparable damage to your business.

Libel, privacy and related issues are tricky and exceptionally sensitive matters. Our cross-border team of experts means that we are able to give the right advice quickly and effectively. Our offices in Brussels, London, Paris and three locations in Germany enable us to offer wide European coverage to US corporate.

We advise clients at every stage of the process, including:

- handling court proceedings on behalf of both Claimants and Defendants
- pre-publication vetting of potentially contentious material
- immediate post-publication advice to both Claimants and Defendants
- advising on urgent injunctive relief and obtaining it in appropriate circumstances
- advising innocent third party intermediaries, particularly websites

We have negotiated successfully with major media about content on the date of proposed publication. We have obtained pre-publication injunctions against national newspapers preventing the publication of defamatory statements and private information. We have also acted in one of the leading UK cases relating to alleged defamation through an online discussion forum. Our team is geared to reacting fast enough to contain the problem.

Highlights of our experience

- We represented an **international online marketplace** in proceedings before the European Court of Justice concerning the lawfulness of requiring Internet Service Providers to filter information and also the related question as to the scope of injunctions imposed on such Internet Service Providers.
- We acted for a **well-known UK weight loss company** in successfully changing the content of news stories in several national newspapers and online media. We are currently acting for this same client in two reputation management matters. One involves liaising with a terrestrial television provider regarding our client's collaboration on a weight loss documentary; the other relates to monitoring and

acting on press stories concerning the diet.

- We acted on behalf of a **US financial newswire** in successfully obtaining what is thought to be the first declaration under the US SPEECH Act.
- We acted for a **well-known multinational company** in successfully obtaining a super injunction against one of the UK broadsheets.
- We acted for a **well known professional football player**, in defamation proceedings in Belgium against various newspapers and news websites.
- We have acted for a member of the **royal family of a European Country** in relation to defamation on a French web magazine and TV channel.
- We advise a **German website** on which users may rate physicians, particularly with regards to defamation complaints brought by physicians.
- We represented a **Belgian newspaper** in defamation proceedings brought by a professional football player. We also represented this same client in defamation proceedings brought by a professional athlete.
- We acted for a major medical instruments manufacturer in relation to the misreporting of clinical trials in industry journals.
- We acted for a **well-known online retailer** in successfully defending a UK defamation claim arising out of user generated content. This followed on from our earlier work for a listed public company in which we also successfully defended the company against a defamation claim arising out of user generated content. These cases have helped shape the law on liability for hosting third party material

A selection of our non confidential clients

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- We acted for a **major medical instruments manufacturer** in relation to the misreporting of clinical trials in industry journals.
- We acted for a **UK Police Authority** in relation to High Court defamation proceedings in which it had an interest (following a substantial third party disclosure exercise last year).
- We acted on behalf of a subsidiary of a **French investment and industrial group** in relation to defamatory comments published on the internet.

Why choose us

An established practice

We have considerable experience in defamation-related matters and are able to offer clients practical and commercial solutions as well as technical expertise.

A comprehensive team

We are a cross-border team and so we can protect our clients across Europe.

An innovative approach

We have established new law which benefits our clients in the course of successful litigation on behalf of our clients.

A winning team

We have a track record of achieving successful results for our clients, whether by achieving a good settlement or by succeeding in court. A significant part of our work involves keeping our clients out of court and out of the public arena.

Contacts



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