



Chambers Global 2017 – Ranking

Intellectual Property – Germany

Prinz & Partner

What the team is known for Represents clients in cross-border patent opposition and infringement proceedings, while handling patent filings across all technical fields. Regularly involved in China-based cases, working closely with a network of local attorneys. Also acts for numerous renowned US clients.

Jochen Sties assists with patent and utility model applications, and regularly appears before the EPO in examination, opposition and appeal proceedings. He is most active in mechanical and materials engineering, having academically specialised in aerospace technology. Clients value his *"very quick and detailed grasp of the novel details of patent applications."*

Alexander Gonzalez is best known for trade mark portfolio management and strategic trade mark advice. He assisted Jochen Schweizer with the registration of its Community trade mark 'Erlebnis bringt Ergebnis' before the European General Court. Clients consider him *"result-oriented and a good strategic negotiator,"* while others praise his speed and creativity.

Thomas Kitzhofer focuses on patents in the mechanical engineering field, mainly advising on patent and utility model applications. He also handles examination, opposition and appeal proceedings, and successfully represented Meritor Braking against the German Association of the Friction Lining Industry in a dispute over its basic patent. One source praises his technical knowledge: *"As an engineer I appreciate his good technical understanding. He explains things very well and in terms of language we are on the same wavelength."*

Chambers Europe 2017 – Ranking

Intellectual Property – Germany

Prinz & Partner

Basic facts about the department

- Heads of department: Werner Sulzbach and Alexander Gonzalez
- 8 partners
- 11 other qualified lawyers
- Office locations: Berlin, Hamburg and Munich

What the team is known for Mid-sized boutique firm which attracts praise for its experience in the technical side of patent opposition and infringement proceedings. Regularly handles patent filings and applications across all technical fields, including engineering, electronics and physics. Additionally focuses on trade mark and unfair competition matters, with particular expertise in infringement actions at trade fairs.

Strengths Particularly fond of the attorneys' demeanour, one client states: *"I appreciate their negotiation skills and capacity to show empathy when it comes to settling things amicably."*

Another source says: *"The attorneys are always approachable and always try to answer questions with the aim of finding a solution."*

Work highlights Represented Nike in a nullity action against adidas regarding a special knit construction used for athletic footwear.

Acted for Prins Autogas on a patent infringement case and a parallel nullity action against Vialle.

Significant clients Kennametal, TRW, Valeo, Rational, ECB.

Notable practitioners

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