“Curiosity is always the first priority of a problem that needs to be solved.”

Galileo Galilei
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Whether refrigerator or camera, airbag or smart card: Every invention begins with a brilliant idea. We need such ideas in order to ensure that our economy continues to grow and we need the means to protect them. That is what we have been committed to since our founding in 1954. Today COHAUSZ & FLORACK has offices in Düsseldorf and Munich and consists of more than 120 attorneys and staff. We support our clients – international corporations as well as medium-sized companies in Germany – in protecting their innovations by assisting in all matters relating to intellectual property rights and unfair competition. Among other things, our portfolio of services includes:

- Application, administration, and licensing of extensive property rights portfolios
- Representation in intellectual property rights disputes
- Research for third-party intellectual property rights
- Consultation in cooperation agreements

There are many clever ideas.

We make them strong.
Concentrated know-how.

Successful development.

Our 23 patent attorneys and four attorneys-at-law have a high level of expertise and work together on an interdisciplinary basis. In our firm, the know-how for a variety of technical areas is united under one roof: from mechanical engineering to electrical engineering, information and communications technology, chemistry, and life sciences. This is where current requirements such as Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things always play a role.

With our advice, we make a decisive contribution to ensuring that companies invest in new developments, remain competitive, and continue to enrich society with their inspirational ideas.
We’re on fire for good ideas –
and their effective protection.
Prosecution

We advise innovative companies comprehensively in the area of prosecution.

Anyone who invests in ideas wants to benefit from them. That is what property rights are ideal for. They entitle their owner to prohibit others from using the ideas for a certain period of time or to charge licensing fees for their use. It is therefore certainly worthwhile to apply for patents, trademarks and designs. They are a major incentive for companies to stay innovative, helping them gain competitive edge.

Our services for you:
From the demanding initial registration of property rights up to their grant – we’ll accompany you along the way to reliably protect your ideas. Because we know how: In 2017 alone, we filed ca. 350 initial patent applications and registered ca. 300 trademarks. In total, we currently manage around 22,000 patents and 17,500 trademarks.
Litigation

Whether for the enforcement of intellectual property rights or the defense against unjustified claims by third parties, our expertise benefits you in infringement proceedings.

If a patent, trademark, or design has been infringed, in some cases going to court is the only sensible solution for the owner of the respective property rights. Germany has specialized regional courts and chambers for this purpose. In principle, the Regional Court (LG) decides in the first instance, and an appeal may be lodged against its decision. In the second instance, the Higher Regional Court (OLG) reviews the decision. In exceptional cases, the parties may appeal the decision of the Higher Regional Court to the Federal Supreme Court.

Our services for you:
We’ll enforce your intellectual property rights in court or defend against unjustified claims by third parties. In doing so, we are also active before the Federal Patent Court, the Federal Court of Justice, and the German Patent and Trade Mark office. Of course, we can also represent you before all other courts in Germany – whether in the case of infringements of patents and utility models, the infringement of trademarks or designs, in contractual matters, or when dealing with potential infringement under competition law. In 2017, we were involved in more than 200 patent infringement cases and nearly 400 trademark infringement cases.
Validity proceedings

We stand up for you if your intellectual property rights are attacked.

In connection with infringement proceedings, the validity of the intellectual property rights involved is often challenged. Such so-called opposition proceedings for patents or trademarks are relatively inexpensive official proceedings. After expiry of the deadlines for these appeals, there is still a possibility of initiating legal proceedings, e.g. in the form of nullity action for patents. As a result of opposition or nullity proceedings, the challenged property right can be revoked, limited, or maintained in its entirety.

Our services for you:
Regardless of whether your property right is being challenged or whether you want to challenge the validity of someone else’s property right – we’ll support you all the way. We’ll represent you before the Federal Patent Court and the Federal Supreme Court. In 2017, we filed close to 400 opposition proceedings and roughly 60 patent nullity proceedings as well as more than 400 trademark opposition proceedings.
Research

Research always trumps risk: With comprehensive know-how and a variety of tools, we support you in securing your intellectual property rights.

It is important to keep a close eye on the market before applying for intellectual property rights and when managing an existing intellectual property rights portfolio. Important instruments for this include due diligence, compliance checks, and freedom-to-operate searches for patents and trademarks to determine and assess the validity of existing intellectual property rights and the state of the art.

Our services for you:
In order to identify and minimize risks in conjunction with intellectual property rights for you in good time, we use modern tools and databases that go far beyond standard research. For this purpose, we have a full-time research department with three employees. Based on our research, we can provide you with specific recommendations that will help you to effectively expand your IP strategy.
Patent and trademark monitoring

Well informed and ideally prepared: We’ll keep an eye on the market and the intellectual property rights landscape for you.

The competition never sleeps and whoever launches new products on the market will be under constant observation by the competition. In order to prevent allegations of infringement, innovative companies can systematically monitor existing patents, trademarks and designs. In that way, they can stay informed about their competitors’ activities, can vary their products accordingly, and can more effectively assert themselves in the market on a long-term basis.

Our services for you:
CFProfile is our personal database that we offer for targeted patent monitoring (www.cfprofile.de). Information on newly published patent applications, patents, and utility models is compiled here and monitored on a regular basis. This allows us to quickly inform you if there are changes in the intellectual property landscape that might affect you. We also provide comprehensive support in trademark monitoring to detect conflicting trademarks and avoid confusion with existing brands. For this we rely on effective tools and search engines. If action is required, we quickly initiate the appropriate measures in close cooperation with you.
Employee inventions

Do you have innovative employees? We’ll show you how to make sensible use of their ideas.

Innovations often develop from the ideas of employees. German law on employee inventions (ArbnErfG) provides the legal framework that entitles employers to exclusive use of the inventive achievements of their employees. In return, the employed inventor receives claims and rights, e.g. to reasonable compensation, according to the law.

Our services for you:
We’ll support you in developing a system for managing employee inventions. Together, we’ll develop processes with which you can use and secure the valuable ideas of your employees. We’ll also advise you on implementing potential strategies based on remuneration and other company incentives in order to motivate your employees and encourage them to continue being inventive.
Legal counselling

Whether competition, copyright or IT law, our counselling covers all areas of intellectual property rights protection that are relevant for your company.

Whoever holds intellectual property rights will almost inevitably be confronted with the topic of competition law. This concerns issues like fair economic conduct and free competition. However, copyright and IT law issues also play an important role for owners of patents, trademarks, or designs.

Our services for you:
We’ll advise and represent you in all aspects of competition law, for example, when it comes to asserting claims or assessing the legality of advertising measures. We also provide comprehensive counselling services on IT law matters and copyright issues. In addition, we’ll be happy to support you in the drafting, revision, and negotiation of contracts (especially cooperation and license agreements) and represent your interests in court. We are very familiar with arbitration and are able to act both as party representatives and as arbitrators before German and European institutions. We’ll explore the possibilities of alternative dispute resolution and accompany you through all negotiations, for example, through mediation, arbitration reports, or dispute review boards.
IP strategies

We always take a holistic approach and will support you in successfully positioning yourself and your intellectual property rights in the market as an innovative company.

There is great potential in patents, trademarks, and designs. They protect innovations and thus the investments that have been made in research and development – i.e. exactly what makes a company profitable and what its customers are prepared to pay for. A smart IP strategy is critical to unlocking this potential and getting the most out of innovations.

Our services for you:
We’ll support you in developing an IP strategy: We’ll analytically derive the potential and possible scope of protection of your innovations already in the initial phases of development. We’ll do this, for example, in the context of a status quo analysis and by asking the following questions: How is your company positioned? Who are your competitors? And which one of them might possibly hinder the protection of your own products? With the appropriate measures, we can ensure that your innovations remain protected and your market exclusivity secured.
We are committed to technology that inspires us – and changes society.
Mechanical engineering
Process and manufacturing technology, materials, construction, mechatronics, medical technology, etc.

Electrical engineering
Renewable energies, semiconductor technology and components, information and telecommunications technology

Chemicals & life sciences
Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, polymer chemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, etc.
Mechanical Engineering

We feel truly at home in mechanical engineering. We have been advising our clients in this area since the firm’s founding – combining a long tradition with deeply rooted expertise.

Leading industrial companies have always played a large role in our diverse clientele. These include world market and industry leaders in, for example, process and manufacturing technology, materials processing, automotive engineering, plastics technology, construction, metallurgy, mechatronics, and medical technology.

Having such long-standing clients with continuously growing know-how and product portfolios, allows us further strengthen our own expertise and thus our consulting services in the respective technological fields. This concerns, for example, our knowledge of the Internet of Things and other current topics in mechanical engineering. In recent years, we have additionally positioned ourselves even more strongly in processing industries, such as the automotive and automotive supplier industries, as well as in the area of foundry technology.
Electrical engineering

Whether classical electrical engineering or information and communication technology – we have the know-how to ensure that our clients’ intellectual property is protected.

Software is today an integral part of almost all areas of our everyday life – whether in smartphones or cars, at the doctor’s, or in the office. The good news for manufacturers in almost all industries is that many of these software-related inventions can be effectively protected by intellectual property rights. We support our clients in this – and in all other matters relating to Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things.

But we also attend to technical and sometimes highly complex intellectual property rights in other fields of electrical engineering – for example in the fields of electrical energy technology and renewable energies, semiconductor technology and components, circuit technology, control and regulation technology, microsystems technology, and sensor technology.
Chemicals, pharmaceuticals & life sciences

We’ve got the right chemistry. Since the 1990s, we have been serving companies in the chemical, pharmaceutical, and life sciences sectors.

When it comes to issues in the areas of pharmaceuticals, inorganic or organic chemistry, polymer chemistry, biochemistry, and biotechnology, we really know what we’re talking about. For the sometimes large and often transnational procedures in these areas, we put together competent patent attorney teams: all highly qualified experts in their respective fields, who also have a great deal of experience in litigation.

With such concentrated competence, we are the right partner for our clients – for example in complex opposition proceedings before the European Patent Office as well as in nullity and infringement proceedings at a national and international level.
Strong team. Strong expertise.

COHAUSZ & FLORACK brings together a wide variety of technical and scientific disciplines, which is an ideal prerequisite for successful, cross-disciplinary collaboration. All patent attorneys and attorneys-at-law are specialists in their respective fields and have comprehensive know-how in all manner of legal issues, particularly in the area of intellectual property rights.
We work together – to protect your innovations and ideas.
Advising.
Accompanying.
Inspiring.

**Quality always prevails.**

**That is what we are committed to.**

We see ourselves as your trusted advisors and consult you proactively, individually and holistically in all IP-relevant issues. We have been doing so for decades, and always with the same high quality standards.

Such aspirations can only be fulfilled by a law firm if it can work in a highly structured and organized manner and rely on a team of highly qualified and committed employees. We do both. And our clients appreciate that.
Our team is our guarantee for success.
We do a lot to keep it that way.

Whether attorneys, junior attorneys, or employees in the secretary and general administration, we’ve created a rich environment for everyone to feel motivated and enjoy working. We highly value working together as partners, communicating respectfully and openly, and balancing professional and family life.

It is part of the tradition of our law firm to train our own employees and offer continuing education in order to provide opportunities to further develop their strengths. Many of our colleagues have already been part of our 135-strong team for decades. They are all committed to protecting clever ideas with curiosity and openness.
Our awards and recognitions

Not only our clients, but also various media, institutions, and other recognized decision-makers are impressed by our work:

**German Commercial Law Firms 2017/2018**

„With its team of patent attorneys, this Düsseldorf IP boutique is among the leading firms and is seeing activity increase, in both the litigation and filing practices. (…) Strengths: Litigation related to software, electronics and mobile communications. (…)”

**Legal 500 2018**

„Cohausz & Florack is one of the top patent law firms, in particular in the area of mobile phone technology, and provides an exceptional level of service. The large team of outstanding patent attorneys also always pays attention to economically appropriate approaches.”
Chambers Europe 2018
The team is often praised for its ability to keep deadlines. According to one client, the attorneys are “always reachable and deliver things on time.” The same source adds that they “really understand the client” and appreciates the fact that the firm has a “broad spectrum of patent attorneys” across various fields. Other interviewees single out the team’s “very good organisation and deadline management” as its core qualities.

IAM Patent 1000 2018
„COHAUSZ & FLORACK has vast experience in filing, not to mention pre-litigation patent validity analysis, and infringement and nullity proceedings. Its lawyers are cooperative, collegial and extremely knowledgeable, and it’s a pleasure working with them.”

WTR 1000 2018
„Because it places a real premium on keeping its employees satisfied, COHAUSZ & FLORACK’s trademark team is uniquely stable and tight-knit. Its members cooperate closely on prosecution and portfolio management matters, routinely bouncing ideas off each other.”
Our activities

Whether on the net, in print, or in personal dialog, we strive to inspire you and keep you informed about current developments in the field of intellectual property rights.

A selection of our publications and events:

Vlog
We speak up: About current decisions and developments in the area of IP. It’s not live, but it’s certainly in color.

www.cohausz-florack.de/videos

Daidalos
We provide insights: Into the world of inventions that fascinate us. Then as now.

www.daidalos.blog
Seminars and events
We give you input for your activities in the area of IP. Interested? Simply send an e-mail to events@cohausz-florack.de and you will receive regular invitations to our free workshops, lectures, and other events.

CFProfile
We support you in monitoring intellectual property rights and keep you up-to-date on important market developments. www.cfprofile.de

CFUpdate
We inform you about the latest specialist topics – from intellectual property rights research and know-how protection to Industry 4.0. www.cohausz-florack.de/cfupdate
COHAUSZ & FLORACK

Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Partnerschaftsgesellschaft mbB

Office Duesseldorf
Bleichstraße 14
D-40211 Düsseldorf
Germany
Telefon: +49 211 90490-0
Telefax: +49 211 90490-49

Office Munich
Maximilianstraße 13
D-80539 Muenchen
Germany
Telefon: +49 89 20300-6320
Telefax: +49 89 20300-6322

www.cohausz-florack.de