

Darren Meale



Partner

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General Experience

Darren is an expert in intellectual property law, with a practice which focuses on trade mark, copyright and design law disputes and advice. He has litigated at all levels in the UK, from the UK Intellectual Property Office to the UK Supreme Court. He has also fought cases at the EUIPO, the EUIPO Board of Appeal and the General Court of the EU.

Darren's practice takes in a wide variety of sectors, in particular the media, technology, finance and fintech sectors. To give a flavour, he has advised clients on intellectual property rights in relation to everything from cartoon characters to whisky bottles, clothing, knitting needles, lingerie, soft drinks, telecommunications services, television programmes, films and hotels. Darren is a proven innovator having developed 'Simmons & Simmons Translator', a software service to help clients deal with EU trade mark law reform (shortlisted for The Lawyer's 2017 innovation award), along with other tools.

Darren also sits as a Deputy District Judge in both the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court and the English County Court. He was named as a "Rising Star" in the UK four years in a row (2014-2017) by Expert Guides.

Recent Work

- advising Warner Bros and DC Comics on the protection of their famous brands in the EU, including iconic comic book heroes Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman
- advising The Saul Zaentz Company on the protection of The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, the film rights to which it licenses from the Tolkien estate
- advising Crown Resorts on the protection of the Crown and Crown Aspinalls luxury hotel and casino brands
- advising Virgin Media on all aspects of brand protection.

Background

Darren graduated from University College London with a First Class LLB in Laws. He has a Diploma in Intellectual Property Law and Practice from the University of Bristol.

As well as being a judge, Darren is also a Solicitor-Advocate and has acted as junior counsel in the UK Intellectual Property Office and the High Court. He is a former guest blogger for the leading IP blog, the IPKat, and continues to guest post; is widely published on current intellectual property issues; and is a member of the Editorial Board of the

