
WIPO LIST OF NEUTRALS

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Anne-Virginie LA SPADA
Partner
BMG Avocats
Geneva



Nationality: Swiss

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

“Licence en droit”, Lausanne University School of Law, 1989 – 93;
Master of Laws, Cornell Law School, 1993 – 1994;
Ph. D., (Dissertation “The Protection of Fictional Characters by Copyright Law”), Award – Banque Cantonale Vaudoise, Lausanne University School of Law, January 1998.

Admitted to the Geneva Bar, 1998;
Admitted to the New York Bar, 1995.

LANGUAGES

French, English, German

PRESENT POSITION

Partner, B.M.G. Avocats (Geneva, Switzerland), Intellectual Property Department, since 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE PRESENT POSITION

Associate, B.M.G Avocats (Geneva Switzerland), Intellectual Property Department, 1998 – 2013;
Panelist with WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center for domain name disputes, since 2000.

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34, chemin des Colombettes, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
T +41 22 338 82 47 F +41 22 740 37 00 E arbiter.neutrals@wipo.int W www.wipo.int/amc

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Swiss Bar Association;
Geneva Bar Association;
International Literary and Artistic Association (ALAI);
International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI);
Licensing Executive Society (LES);
MARQUES;
Art Law Center;
Association of International Business Lawyers;
Member of the college of editors of the Swiss Intellectual Property Review “sic!”.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Intellectual Property (trademark, copyright, industrial designs);
Unfair Competition Law;
Commercial Contracts;
Advertising and Media Law;
Data Protection Law.

EXPERIENCE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Advice to Swiss and foreign client regarding the protection of their intellectual property assets in Switzerland and abroad;
Monitoring of trademark and design registrations in Switzerland and abroad;
Representation of clients before the Swiss courts in IP related disputes;
Drafting and negotiation of IP related agreements, including licensing, franchising and publishing agreements, as well as technology transfer agreements and software development agreements;
Drafting and negotiation of commercial contracts in the field of distribution and e-commerce.

EXPERIENCE WITH RESPECT TO DOMAIN NAMES

Advice on domain names issues as well as monitoring domain names conflicts abroad;
Panelist with WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center for domain name disputes, since 2000.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Écolabels, un tour d'horizon du cadre juridique suisse et des risques de greenwashing, in sic! Revue du droit de la propriété intellectuelle, de l'information et de la concurrence, numéro spécial 5/2024 sur le développement durable, p. 236, avec Léna Nussbaumer-Laghzaoui;

La propriété intellectuelle dans le métavers, in Revue de l'Avocat 9/2022, p. 363 ss;

Traitement des données personnelles en vue de déposer une plainte ou une dénonciation pénale, in Le droit d'auteur révisé, A.L. Bandle (éd.), Bâle 2022, p. 121 ss;

“Switzerland: Designs Laws and Regulations 2022”, in International Comparative Legal Guide - Designs 2022 (as well as 2023, 2024 and 2025 editions);

Commentary of Art. 5-10 of the Trademark Protection Act and of Art. 22-23 of the Design Act, art. 22-23, in Commentaire romand - Propriété intellectuelle, éd. Helbing Lichtenhahn, 2013;

“La protection des personnages fictifs par le droit d'auteur”, Berne, 1998;

“Le droit d’auteur”, in WEKA Guide for the business manager, January 2000.

EXPERIENCE IN COURT LITIGATION

Lawyer in various court proceedings in Switzerland on copyright, unfair competition and trademark law issues.
