

professional profiles



IP + trade

- Business contracts + advice
- Corporate reconstruction + insolvency
- Corporate, mergers + acquisitions
- Employment + industrial relations
- Family law
- Intellectual property + trade
- Litigation/dispute resolution
- Property + construction law
- Tax + superannuation
- Transport + commodities
- Wills + estate planning

IP + trade team

M+K's intellectual property and trade team are able to talk to you in your language. We have scientific, engineering or creative backgrounds. We love to get our hands dirty learning about your business to give practical and understandable advice.

Our clients appreciate our accessibility and often bounce ideas or concerns off us as part of their decision making process.

The team acts for a wide range of clients, and has diverse experience covering most industry segments.



Trade

- Trade Practices Act
 - advice
 - compliance and education programs
 - resolve ACCC complaints and requisitions
 - product liability and product recalls
- Supply channels
 - methods, feasibility, structure and documentation
 - distribution

- agency
- franchise
- service and management
- Terms and conditions of sale or purchase, tenders
- Contract review, advice and negotiation
- Privacy obligations in business
- Franchising
 - establishment of new franchises
 - conversion of existing businesses
 - franchise documentation
 - Franchising Code of Conduct
 - manage franchisee sign up process
 - mediation and resolution of disputes
 - advise and negotiate for prospective franchisees
- Security for payment
 - documentation, registration of security
 - stamp duty issues

Intellectual property (IP)

- Trade marks, names, copyright, designs, patents, confidential information

- Brand and image protection strategies
- Creation and ownership advice and documentation
- Search, advice, protect, oppose, enforce, resolve disputes
- Protect and arrange international protection of IP
- Draft, review, advice and negotiation of IP Licence Agreements
- IT, software, internet advice and documents
 - domain names
 - online trading, terms of use
 - software creation and licensing agreements
- Manage and maintain IP portfolios
 - application watching services
 - registration and renewals database
 - IP reviews, status updates and audits

IP + trade team



Paul Kirton, LLB, BE (Hons)
Principal
Registered Trade Mark Attorney
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In addition to law, Paul has a diverse background in engineering and information technology. This mix is applied to business law with emphasis on intellectual property and trade practices.

Given his background, Paul has substantial skill and practical experience in all aspects of brand and technology protection, licensing, exploitation and enforcement.

He is experienced in all aspects of trade practices and product distribution, including franchising. He implements programs and educates client's staff about trade practices compliance.

Paul has been with M+K since 1993 and has headed the team since 1997.



Malcolm Brown, LLB, Grad Dip Business, Dip Applied Chemistry
Principal
Tel: 03 9794 2557
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Malcolm brings extensive practical experience in all aspects of business here and in Asia, intellectual property, licensing and distribution agreements and trade practices matters.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Malcolm spent 30 years working in the chemical, automotive and steel and aluminium industries. His responsibilities ranged from being an industrial chemist through sales, technical, marketing and executive roles throughout the Asia/Pacific region. His industry background has proved invaluable when giving advice to companies grappling with the complexities of running a business both here and in Asia.



Michele Laks-Belzycki, LLB (Hons), BSc (Hons)
Senior Associate
Tel: 03 9794 2584
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Michele has an honours degree in science, specialising in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology. Her understanding of scientific concepts gives many clients relevant advice without undue learning time.

Michele has gained extensive experience working in the wholesale and retail sectors. She has a strong focus helping and managing clients with large customer bases, which include national franchisors and buying groups.

Michele also assists clients obtain security against trading, financial or contractual exposure.



Kelly Dickson, LLB (Hons), BBSc
Associate
Tel: 03 9794 2541
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Kelly has completed a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Bachelor of Behavioural Science.

Kelly predominantly works in trade practices, trade marks and franchising.



Belinda Sigismundi, BA, LLB
Associate
Tel: 03 9794 2631
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Belinda predominantly works in trade marks and other areas of intellectual property law.

With a love of the arts, Belinda is experienced in providing advice, protecting and enforcing of literary and artistic expression through copyright. She has practical experience in all aspects of IP searching and analysis.



Ryan Ratilal, LLB (Hons), Grad Dip Legal Practice
Lawyer
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Ryan has completed a Bachelor of Laws with Honours. His interests lie in copyright law, particularly in information technology and cyberlaw.



Jane Garber, LLB, BCom
Lawyer
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Jane has extensive experience in franchising law, advising both franchisors and franchisees in relation to a broad range of issues, including strategy and structuring, drafting and negotiations. In addition to the law, Jane has completed a Bachelor of Commerce degree, which allows her to provide legal advice which is commercially sound and practical.



Margaret Scullion
Personal Assistant
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Margaret provides the valuable client service of maintaining M+K's IP, franchise, security and other legal databases. Clients contact her to obtain status and updated reports of their IP portfolios and other matters.