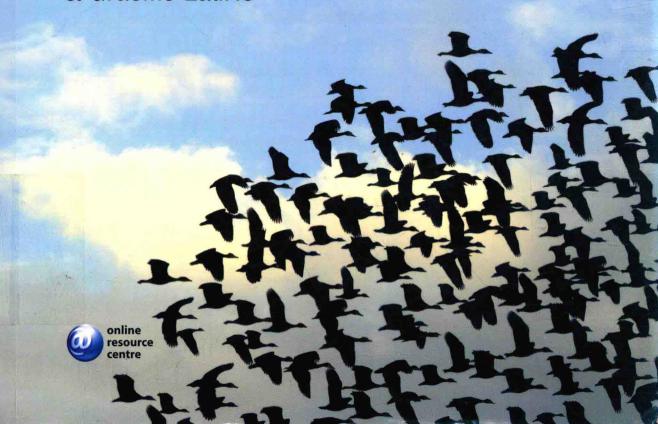


Contemporary Intellectual Property

Law and Policy

Hector MacQueen, Charlotte Waelde & Graeme Laurie



Law and Policy





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For Nadine
With sincere thanks & best wishes for the future

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Acknowledgements

We first conceived of this book in the late 20th Century (prompted by Blackstone Press and the enthusiasm of its Founder, Alistair MacQueen, and Margaret Cherry). Since then, it has changed publishers, undergone numerous revisions, doubled in size, seen research assistants come and go, and cost us countless hours away from our families and friends; but, in the final analysis, it has been worth it. The one feature which has steadfastly remained throughout this gestation period has been our desire to produce an intellectual property textbook with a difference. We believe that we have succeeded in doing so. Part of our inspiration to write this book came from what we perceived to be a gap in the intellectual property law market in terms of pedagogy: the subject-matter is ripe for a more engaging, visually-stimulating approach which takes advantage of the inherent nature of a discipline that permeates our lives at every turn. But another reason behind our decision to undertake this project was a wish to link our teaching and research interests and to provide a further outlet for the dissemination of our research. Our first thanks must go, therefore, to the Arts and Humanities Research Council which has funded our research centre in intellectual property and technology law since 2002 and will continue to do so until 2012. Many examples of work carried out under the auspices of our centre have found their way into this book.

Our second thanks go to the School of Law at the University of Edinburgh which hosts and rigorously supports the centre and which has provided the authors with a comfortable academic home for many years. It has also brought us into contact with generations of students eager to learn about intellectual property law and who have urged us to write the book that we have. We are particularly grateful to those who have served as research assistants on this project, including Arne Kolb, Dinusha Mendis, Elizabeth Smith, and Peter Webster. Our colleague, Abbe Brown, stepped in at the last minute to take over the chapter on Breach of Confidence and this proved to be the final push that was needed. We're in your debt, Abbe – it may never have happened without you!

The publication process can be a long and arduous one, but we have been ably guided, first, by Fiona Kinnear and, then, Philippa Groom of Oxford University Press. We understand that we were one of Philippa's final commissions before being promoted: best of luck for the future and we hope we were not too difficult! We appreciate too the time and effort of the OUP reviewers who commented on early drafts and have helped to make this a better book. We believe the law to be stated as accurate as of 31st January 2007. URL references were also accurate as of this date, but have been affected by the UK Patent Office becoming the UK Intellectual Property Office in April 2007, with a consequent change to its website address. Upto-date URLs will be found on our own companion website. We have however managed to change references to 'the Patent Office' in our text.

We each have personal thanks to pass on to families and friends who have lost time with us because of this project but we prefer to communicate those in private. Collectively, however, we have one final thanks to give to Nadine Eriksson-Smith who has been the Administrator of our Centre since its inception and who has become a good friend. This book appears at a time when our Centre is moving into a new phase and when Nadine is moving on to new projects. Thank you, Nadine, for all your help, humour and support over the years. This book is dedicated to you.

Hector MacQueen Charlotte Waelde Graeme Laurie June 2007 This book is unlike any other on intellectual property law. It does not attempt a simple trawl through the legal provisions that make up this discipline. Rather, it sets intellectual property protection within its wider social context and explains the tensions and dynamics that operate in that world and which shape the law over time. We are particularly interested in the contemporary challenges to modern intellectual property law; hence the title of our book. We have sought to produce a text which both introduces students, primarily undergraduates, to the laws in this area, and which at the same time helps them to understand the policies that lead those laws to be the way they are. The world of intellectual property is full of contradictions, competing interests, political agenda, and, sometimes, ideology. Our aim has been to help students understand these tensions by explaining how law is shaped within their contours. It is, in other words, to help students appreciate intellectual property law within the 'real' world.

There is no denying that intellectual property law can be difficult. The law can sometimes seem dense and impenetrable, and it is a challenge in itself just to keep up with developments. We have divided the responsibility for writing this book among four authors because of the enormity of the task, but we each share a common vision which is to make the study of intellectual property law accessible, engaging and fun. The challenge should not be difficult to meet: intellectual property law is an amazingly vibrant and dynamic discipline which has a bearing on the daily lives of each and every one of us. We want the students who use this book to engage with the subject and we have written it accordingly. We explain below the various elements used in the text to achieve this. It is another feature of the book that is unique.

Intellectual property law is an extremely diverse and expanding field and it has not been possible to offer complete coverage of all areas which make up the discipline while meeting our objectives outlined above. We do not believe that one book can serve both ends, and we prefer innovation and difference. This having been said, the book offers critical analysis of all of the main areas of intellectual property law, both under statute and at common law, and ensures that every issue is considered from each of the national, European and international perspectives.

A further and final feature of this book which helps it to stand out is its contemporary presentation and layout, and its use of images. No other legal subject can be understood or come alive in quite the same way as intellectual property law because so much of the field is concerned with visualisations of creations. And no other intellectual property textbook contains so many images to illustrate key issues. In a pertinent demonstration of the power of intellectual property law in practice, it proved not possible to include all the images we wanted. Sometimes locating the copyright owner was not straightforward and sometimes our publishers' requests for permission to reproduce an image were refused even though it was for use in an educational text. As you will come to appreciate, this is but one example of the legal and political complexities of the subject. Where we have not obtained illustrative material for use in the book itself, we have sometimes been able to provide references to where it may be found, or to give a relevant link in the book's Online Resource Centre (see further below).

Distinguishing features of this book

This book embodies an holistic account of intellectual property law as an organic and developing discipline. Its key features include:

- An in-depth and up-to-date account of the current law with particular emphasis on the contemporary challenges in each of the main areas of the discipline;
- A consideration of the underlying policies which have shaped each of the areas of the law to date:
- Critical analysis of the forces that drive these policies with a view to predicting how intellectual property law might develop in the future;
- Identification of the tensions that arise for intellectual property law as a result of influences from other policy areas, such as the single European market, competition law and human rights discourse:
- Evaluation of the 'success' with which intellectual property law has responded to new challenges as these have arisen, including the Internet, the advent of the new genetics, and calls for better protection of the personality;
- A broad contextualisation of the discussion in domestic, European and international spheres, ensuring that students understand that intellectual property law is truly a global discipline.

This book is full of features that are designed to help students engage with the subject-matter, to acquire and refine critical and reflective skills, and to remain up-to-date with the fast-paced developments that typify intellectual property law. This guide is a step-by-step walk through these features and you should pay close attention to ensure that you get the most out of the book.

The book is divided into parts, each of which deals with a discrete area of intellectual property law. The beginning of each part contains an overview of what will be covered and an account of the key sources of law. Internet links to the actual text of these instruments are also provided.



Littinking allows a . .

Each chapter gives an account of the learning objectives that you should be able to meet once you have worked through the chapter. For example, the first learning objective in Chapter 2 states: 'By the end of this chapter you should be able to describe and explain the development of copyright, and its rationale.' If you cannot meet the objectives, then you need to work through the chapter again!

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Every chapter uses key points to highlight essential features of the chapter or area of law that you need to know. These help to focus your study and serve as valuable milestones as you move through the different parts of the book.

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Every legal case tells a story, and we have designed the format of the book to ensure that crucial extracts and legal points are clearly communicated to the reader.

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We highlight systematically important web pages where you can check out the most up-to-date developments in your chosen area of study. Website addresses themselves will be updated on the book's Online Resource Centre

We ask questions throughout each chapter to help you assess your developing knowledge. These will usually be factual questions or 'reminder' questions and the answer can normally be found within the text itself.

These points are designed to encourage you to think more widely about particular ideas and legal issues raised in a chapter. Guidance on answering discussion points will appear on the Online Resource Centre at

Exercises can be used to help you with coursework and assignments that require you to undertake further research and read more widely about particular topics.

Every chapter ends with suggestions for additional reading which are specially selected to highlight key areas of the chapter and to help you to take your learning further.

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Guide to the Online Resource Centre



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This book is accompanied by a dynamic Online Resource Centre (ORC) which is designed to enhance your learning experience and which contains the following features:

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Recently published sources for further reading will be added to the ORC, to help you in your research. New and updated web links will be provided together with links to images which can help your understanding of the law.

Quidance

Guidance on addressing each of the discussion points in the book will be provided in the ORC to aid your understanding of the subject-matter and help to refine your analytical skills.

Problem scenarios

The ORC contains a number of problem scenarios which involve many different areas of intellectual property law. These are intended to help you understand that real-life intellectual property issues do not fall neatly into separate boxes and to give you experience of advising on interlinking problems. Guidance on the answers will be provided.









- 1–800 Flowers Inc v Phonenames Ltd [2000] ETMR 369; [2000] FSR 697; [2002] FSR 12 CA... 687, 934
- 10 Royal Berkshire Polo Club Trade Mark [2001] RPC 32 ... 620
- ABK v Foxwell [2002] EWHC 9, 2002 WL 499040 . . . 776
- AD 2000 Trade Mark [1997] RPC 168 ... 578
- A & C Black Ltd v Claude Stacey Ltd [1929] 1 Ch 177 ... 91
- A&M Records v Napster 239 F 3d 1004 (2001) ... 152
- AT&T Corp v Excel Communications Inc 172 F 3d 1352 (Fed Cir 1999) ... 521
- A v B [2005] EWHC 1651, [2005] EMLR 36, 2005 WL 1686858... 787
- A v B plc [2002] EWCA 337, 2003 QB 195, [2002] 3 WLR 542, [2002] 2 All ER 545, [2002] EMLR 21 2002 WL 237087, HL... 771, 777, 787, 784, 785, 901
- Adam Opel AG v Autec AG (Case C-48/05) 617, 653, 654
- Adidas-Salomon AG & Adidas Benelux BV v Fitnessworld Trading Ltd (Case C-408/01) [2004] Ch 120; [2004] 2 WLR 1095; [2004] ETMR 10 ... 638, 643
- Adidas-Salomon AG, Adidas Italy SpA v Gruppo Coin SpA, Oviesse [2006] ETMR 39 Trib (Rome) ... 642
- Ad-Lib Club Ltd v Granville [1972] RPC 673 ... 720
- Administration des Douanes, Droits Indirects v Rioglass SA (Case C-115/02) [2006] 1 CMLR 12 . . . 823
- Aerotel Ltd v Telco Holdings Ltd & Others; Aerotel/Macrossan [2006] EWCA Civ 1371 . . . 411, 412, 417, 418, 419, 421, 508, 528, 531
- Aimster Copyright Litigation, Re 334 F 3d 643 (7th Cir, 2003) . . . 153
- Ajit Weekly Trade Mark [2006] RPC 25 ... 601
- Ajlan Bin Abdullaziz Al-Ajlan & Bros Co's Trade Mark Application [2000] ETMR 710... 578
- Aktiebolaget Design Rubens Sweden v Marie Ekman Bäcklund, OHIM Invalidity Division, 20 December 2005 . . . 272
- Aktiebolaget Volvo v Heritage (Leicester) Ltd [2000] FSR 253 ... 655
- Aktiebologet Hassle v Alphapharm (2002) 212 CLR 411 (Australia) ... 449

- Alappat, Re 33 F 3d 1526 (Fed Cir 1994) ... 521
- Alcon Inc v OHIM (Case C-192/03 P) [2004] ECR I-8993, [2005] ETMR 69 593
- Alcon Inc v OHIM, Biofarma SA (Case C-412/05) ... 632
- Alexander Fergusson & Co Ltd v Matthews McClay & Manson Ltd 1989 SLT 795 ... 720
- Alexander v Mackenzie (1847) 9 D 748 ... 135
- Allen & Hanburys Ltd v Generics (UK) Ltd and Gist-Brocades NV and others and the Comptroller-General of Patents [1986] RPC 203 ... 454
- American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd [1975] AC 396 ... 898–900
- Amoena v Trulife unreported, 25 May 1995, Chancery Division ... 326
- Amp v Utilux [1972] RPC 103 ... 259, 260, 268, 278, 282
- Ampafrance v OHIM (Case T-164/03) [2005] ECR II-1401; [2005] ETMR 107 ... 626
- Ampel 24 Vertriebs-GmbH & Co KG v Daka Research Inc, OHIM Invalidity Division, 1 December 2005 . . . 277
- Anacon Corp Ltd v Environmental Research Technology Ltd [1994] FSR 659 ... 59, 66, 127
- Anderson & Co v Lieber Code Co [1917] 2 KB 469 ... 60
- Anheuser-Busch Inc v Budejovicky Budvar [1984] FSR 413 . . . 720
- Anheuser-Busch Inc v Budejovický Budvar, národní podnik (Case C-245/02) ... 618, 652
- Anheuser-Busch v Portugal (Application No 73049/01) [2007] ETMR 24 . . . 546
- Animal Trade Mark [2004] FSR 19 ... 610 Animated Music Ltd's Trade Mark;
 - Application for Revocation by Dash Music Co Ltd [2004] ETMR 79 TMR ... 616
- Annabel's (Berkeley Square) Ltd v Shock [1972] RPC 838 ... 728, 744, 753
- Ansul BV v Ajax Brandbeveiliging BV (Case C-40/01) [2003] ECR I-2439; [2003] RPC 40 ... 607, 608
- Antiquesportfolio.com plc v Rodney Fitch & Co Ltd [2001] FSR 345 . . . 55
- Anton Piller KG v Manufacturing Process Ltd [1976] Ch 55, CA... 895
- Antoni Fields v Klaus Kobec Ltd [2006] EWHC 350 . . . 623

- Apple Computer Inc v Computer Edge Pty Ltd [1986] FSR 537.... 61
- Apple Computer Inc v Design Registry [2002] FSR 38 ... 265, 266, 268
- Apple Computer Inc v Microsoft Corp, 709 F Supp 925, 717 F Supp 1428 (1989, 1991) . . . 132
- Apps v Weldite Products Ltd [2001] FSR 39... 790
- Argyll v Argyll [1967] Ch 302 . . . 777, 783 Argyllshire Weavers Ltd v A Macaulay Tweeds Ltd 1965 SLT 21 . . . 723
- Armin Haupl v Lidl Stiftung & Co KG (Case C-246/05) ... 607, 608
- Arsenal FC plc v Reed [2001] RPC 922 ... 733, 736, 748, 761
- Arsenal Football Club plc v Matthew Reed (Case C-206/01) [2003] 3 All ER 865; [2003] 2 CMLR 25; [2003] ETMR 73; [2003] RPC 39 ... 542, 615, 633, 757
- Arsenal Football Club plc v Reed (No 2) [2003] EWCA Civ 696, [2003] 3 All ER 865; [2003] 2 CMLR 25; [2003] ETMR 73; [2003] RPC 39; [2003] EWCA Civ 96 ... 616
- Asahi Kasei Kogyo KK's Application [1991] RPC 485 ... 437, 492
- Ashdown v Telegraph Group Ltd [2002] Ch 149, CA... 174, 178, 179, 187, 188, 901
- Ashmore v Douglas Home [1987] FSR 553 ... 62
- Ashworth Hospital Authority v MGN Ltd [2002] UKHL 29 [2002] EMLR 36 [2002] 1 WLR 2033 ... 790
- Asprey & Garrard Ltd v WRA (Guns) Ltd (t/a William R Asprey Esquire) [2002] FSR 31; [2001] EWCA Civ 1499, CA. 652
- Associated Newspapers plc v Insert Media Ltd [1991] FSR 380 ... 737, 748, 754
- AT Poeton (Gloucester Plating) Ltd v Horton [2001] FSR 14 ... 776
- Athletes Foot Marketing Associates Inc v Cobra Sports Ltd [1980] RPC 343 ... 725
- Attheraces v British Horseracing Board [2005] EWHC 1553; [2007] EWCA Civ 38 ... 853, 888, 889
- Attorney General v Guardian Newspapers Ltd (No 2) ('Spycatcher') [1988] 3 WLR 776; [1988] 3 All ER 545; [1990] 1 AC 109 ... 9, 96, 186, 772, 774, 775, 778, 779, 781, 783, 786, 789, 790
- Attorney General v Jonathan Cape Ltd [1976] QB 752, [1975] 3 WLR 606 . . . 775
- Auchincloss v Agricultural & Veterinary Supplies Ltd [1997] RPC 649; [1999] RPC 397. . . . 474, 481
- AUDI-Med Trade Mark [1998] RPC 863, [1999] ETMR 1010 . . . 644

- August Storck v OHIM (Case C-25/05) ... 581, 582, 585
- Austin v Columbia Gramophone Co Ltd [1917–23] MCC 398... 131
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation v Lenah (2001) 208 CLR 199 ... 786
- Autodesk Inc v Dyason and Kelly [1992] RPC 575 (HCA) ... 61, 125
- Aventis v Apotex (2005) [2005] FC 1504 (Canada) ... 449
- Avex Inc v OHIM (Case T-115/02) [2004] ECR II-2907; [2005] ETMR 30 ... 636
- Avnet Inc v Isoact Ltd [1998] FSR 16 . . . 623, 677
- BASF v EP [1996] ETMR 51 ... 643
- BBC Enterprises Ltd v Hi-Tech Xtravision Ltd [1990] FSR 217 ... 193
- BBC v BSB Ltd [1992] Ch 141 ... 168, 178 BBC v Celebrity Centre (1988) 15 IPR
- 333 ... 728
 BBC v Talbot [1981] FSR 228 ... 720
 BBC Worldwide v Pally Screen Printing
- BBC Worldwide v Pally Screen Printing [1998] FSR 665 . . . 733
- BBC/Colour Television Signal (T163/85) [1990] EPOR 599.... 518
- BHB Enterprises plc v Victor Chandler (International) Ltd [2005] EWHC 1074 . . . 888
- BIBA Group v Biba Boutique [1980] RPC 143... 738
- BRT v SABAM (Case C-127/73) [1974] ECR 313 . . . 874
- BT v One in a Million [1999] 4 All ER 476, [1999] RPC 1 ... 643, 676, 678, 679, 716, 758, 759
- Baby Dan AS v Brevi Srl and another [1999] FSR 377 ... 314, 318, 327, 340
- Bagge v Miller [1917–23] MCC 179 ... 85 Baigent v Random House Group Ltd [2006] EWHC 719; [2006] EMLR 16 ... 131
- Bailey v Haynes [2006] EWPCC 5 ... 276, 319, 322
- Baker v Selden 101 US 99 (1879) . . . 44 Balmoral Trade Mark [1999] RPC 297 . . . 625
- Balston v Headline Filters Ltd (No 2) [1990] FSR 385, CA... 777
- Banghalter et Homem Christo v Sacem (Case COMP/C2/37.219), Decision of 06.08.2002.... 875
- Barclays Bank plc v RBS Advanta [1996] RPC 307 ... 658
- Basic Trademark SA's Trade Mark Application [2005] RPC 25 ... 599
- Bass v Laidlaw (1886) 13R 898 . . . 745
- Bass v Laidlaw (1908) 16 SLT 660 . . . 745
- Basset v Sacem (Case C-402/85) [1987] ECR 1747, [1987] 3 CMLR 173 ... 827

- Baumann v Fussell [1978] RPC 485, CA... 54, 131, 136
- Bayer AG (Meyer's) Application [1984] RPC 11 ... 443
- Bayer v Baird (1898) 25R 1142; (1898) 6 SLT 98; ... 728, 745
- Bayer/Plant growth regulating agent (G6/88) [1990] OJEPO 114 ... 442
- Bayerische Motorenwerke AG v Deenik (Case C-63/97) [1999] All ER (EC) 235; [1999] 1 CMLR 1099 ... 655
- Baywatch Production Co Inc v Home Video Channel [1997] FSR 22 ... 643
- Beautimatic International Ltd v Mitchell International Pharmaceuticals Ltd [1999] ETMR 912, [2000] FSR 267 ... 548
- Beckingham v Hodgens [2003] EMLR 18... 85, 86, 87
- Beloff v Pressdram [1973] RPC 765, [1973] All ER 241, [1973] FSR 33 ... 176, 186, 781
- Bents Brewery v Hogan [1945] 2 A11 ER 570 ... 776
- Berry Birch & Noble Financial Planning Limited v Berwick & Others 2005 WL 1991635 . . . 899
- Betty's Kitchen Coronation Street Trade Mark [2000] RPC 825 . . . 632
- Bile Bean Manufacturing Co v Davidson (1906) 8F 1181 ... 726
- Bill the Dog, Re Federal Supreme Court (Germany) 8 July 2004, Doc No 1 ZR 25/02 937
- Biogen v Medeva [1997] RPC 1 ... 367, 410, 447, 478, 479, 492, 494, 496
- BioID AG v OHIM (Case C-37/03) [2002] ECR II-5159, [2003] ETMR CN5 ... 581, 588
- Birmingham Vinegar Brewery Co v Powell [1897] AC 710 . . . 719
- Bismag Ltd v Amblins (Chemists) Ltd [1940] Ch 667 ... 614
- Björnekulla Fruktindustrier AB v Procordia Food AB, (Case C-371/02) [2004] ECR I-5791, [2005] 3 CMLR 16, [2004] ETMR 69; [2004] RPC 45 ... 609
- Black v Murray (1870) 9 M 341 ... 53, 56, 60 Blake v Warren [1928–35] MCC 268 ... 74
- Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co KG v Munro Wholesale Medical Supplies Ltd 2004 SC 468, [2004] ETMR 66... 900
- Boehringer Ingelheim v Swingward [2002] EIPR 497; [2002] ETMR 78 ... 815, 819
- Boehringer Ingelheim v Swingward Ltd [2004] ETMR 65, [2004] EWCA Civ 129, CA... 815, 817
- Bogrich & Shape Macines Ltd's Application, unreported, 4 November 1994 . . . 461

- Bollinger v Costa Brava Wine Co [1961] 1 Ch 262; [1961] 1 WLR 277 ... 723, 751
- Bonnier Media v Smith and Kestrel [2002] ETMR 1050 . . . 688, 934
- Bonz Group v Cooke [1994] 3 NZLR 216 ... 76
- Boston Scientific BV and Others v Cordis Corporation [2000] ENPR 87 Hof ... 938
- Bovemij Verzekeringen NV v Benelux-Merkenbureau (Case C-108/05) [2007] ETMR 29 ... 592, 593
- Boys v Chaplin [1971] AC 356 ... 923, 930 Bradford & Bingley plc v Holden [2002] EWHC 2445, [2002] WL 31962007 ... 776, 783
- Bravado Merchandising Services Ltd v Mainstream Publishing (Edinburgh) Ltd [1996] FSR 205 OH . . . 614, 621, 622, 651
- Brestian v Try [1958] RPC 161, CA ... 721 Breville Europe v Thorn EMI [1995] FSR 77 ... 72
- Bridgeman Art Library Ltd v Corel Corp 25 Fed Supp 421 (1999) ... 55
- Brighton v Jones [2005] FSR [16] 288 ... 86 Brigid Foley Ltd v Ellott [1982] RPC 433 ... 60, 127
- Bristol Conservatories v Conservatories Custom Built [1989] RPC 455 ... 746
- Bristol-Myer Squibb v Baker Norton Pharmaceuticals [2001] RPC 1 ... 444
- Bristol-Myers Co's Application [1969] RPC 146 ... 434
- Bristol-Myers Squibb v Paranova (Cases C-427/93, C-429/93 and C-436/93) [1996] ECR I-3457 ... 815, 816
- British Airways Plc v Ryanair Ltd [2001] ETMR 24, [2001] FSR 32 ... 659
- British Broadcasting Co v Wireless League Gazette Publishing Co [1926] Ch 433 ... 142
- British Diabetic Association v Diabetic Society Ltd [1995] 4 All ER 812 . . . 718
- British Horseracing Board v William Hill Organization Ltd (Case C-203/02) [2001] CMLR 12; [2002] ECDR 4; [2004] ECR I-10415, ECJ; [2005] RPC 35, CA ... 202, 205-9, 238, 887
- British Legion v British Legion Club (Street) Ltd (1931) 48 RPC 555 ... 725, 748
- British Leyland Motor Corp Ltd v Armstrong Patents Co Ltd [1984] 3 CMLR 102; [1984] FSR 591, CA... 855
- British Leyland v Armstrong Patents [1986] AC 577 ... 70, 74, 187, 281, 306–11, 324, 325
- British Medical Association v Marsh (1931) 48 RPC 565 ... 728, 750

- British Northrop Ltd v Texteam Blackburn Ltd [1974] RPC 57 ... 139
- British Ore Concentration Syndicate Ltd v Mineral Separation Ltd 26 RPC 124 . . . 436
- British Oxygen Co v Liquid Air Ltd [1925] Ch 383 ... 176
- British South Africa Co v Cia de Moçambique [1893] AC 602... 924 British Steel plc's patent [1992] RPC
- 117 ... 462
- British Sugar plc v James Robertson & Sons [1996] RPC 281 ... 623, 630
- British Technology/Contraceptive method (T74/93) [1995] OJEPO 712 . . . 429
- Brown v Mcasso Music Ltd [2005] FSR 40... 86, 144
- Bruker/Non-invasive measurement (T385/86) [1988] EPOR 357 ... 431
- Buchanan v Alba Diagnostics Ltd [2004] RPC 34 ... 454
- Budweiser Trade Marks [2000] RPC 906 ... 548
- Built NY Inc v I-Feng Kao, 8 May 2006 . . . 268, 269, 272
- Bulmer (H P) Ltd v Bollinger (J) SA [1978] RPC 79 ... 751, 755
- Bunn v BBC [1998] 3 All ER 552, [1999] FSR 70... 780
- Burberry v Cording (1909) 26 RPC 693 ... 729
- Burke v Spicers Dress Design [1936] Ch 400... 75, 76
- Burroughs Corporation ('Perkins')
 Application [1974] RPC 147; [1973] FSR
 43 ... 514
- Butler v Board of Trade [1970] 3 WLR 822, [1971] Ch 680 ... 781
- Byrne v Statist Co [1914] 1 KB 622 ... 95
- CA Sheimer (M) Sdn Bhd's Trade Mark Application [2000] RPC 484; [2000] ETMR 1170 ... 646
- CBS v Ames Records and Tapes [1982] Ch 91 . . . 149, 151
- CBS v Lambert [1983] FSR 123 ... 896
- CBS Songs Ltd v Amstrad Consumer Electronics plc [1988] 1 AC 1013 ... 149, 150, 152
- CCH Canadian Ltd v Law Society of Upper Canada [2002] 4 FC 213, CA ... 44, 236
- CDW Graphic Design Ltd's Trade Mark Application [2003] RPC 30... 599
- CFPH LLC Applications [2006] RPC 359 ... 531
- CMI Centers for Medical Innovation v Phytopharm plc 1998 WL 1076631, [1999] FSR 235 ... 793

- C & H Engineering Ltd v F Klucznik & Sons Ltd [1992] FSR 421 . . . 319, 339
- Cable & Wireless Plc v British
 Telecommunications Plc [1998] FSR
 383 ... 659
- Cadbury Ltd v Ulmer GmbH [1988] FSR 385 ... 730
- Cadbury Schweppes Pty Ltd v Pub Squash Co Pty Ltd [1981] 1 WLR 193 ... 732
- Cala Homes (South) v Alfred McAlpine Homes East [1995] FSR 818 ... 86
- Campbell v Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd [2004] UKHL 22; [2004] 2 AC 457; [2004] 2 WLR 1232; [2004] 2 All ER 995; [2004] EMLR 15, HL... 767, 769, 772, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 790, 900
- Campina Melkunie BV v Benelux-Merkenbureau (Case C-265/00) [2004] ECR I-1699; [2005] 2 CMLR 9 . . . 587, 588
- Campomar Sociedad Limitada v Nike International Ltd (2000) 46 IPR 481, HCA... 735
- Canon Kabushiki Kaisha v Green Cartridge Co (Hong Kong) Ltd [1997] AC 728 ... 188, 310
- Canon Kabushiki Kaisha v Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (Case C-39/97) [1999] 1 CMLR 77 ... 625, 626, 629, 630
- Cantor Fitzgerald International v Tradition (UK) Ltd [1999] Masons CLR 157; [2000] RPC 95 . . . 61, 133, 511, 794
- Carflow Products (UK) Ltd v Linwood Securities (Birmingham) Ltd [1996] FSR 424 ... 774, 778, 793, 794
- Carlsberg v Tennant Caledonian Breweries Ltd [1972] RPC 847 ... 727, 736
- Carrick Jewellery Ltd v Ortak 1989 GWD 35–1624 ... 727, 730
- Casson's Trade Mark (1910) 27 RPC 65 . . . 601
- Cate v Devon and Exeter Constituional Newspaper Co (1889) 40 Ch D 500 ... 124
- Catnic Components Ltd v Hill and Smith Ltd [1982] RPC 183 (HL) ... 468, 476
- Celine v S A Celine (Case C-17/06) ... 618, 619, 652
- Cellular Clothing Co v Maxton & Murray (1899) 1 F (HL) 29 ... 726
- Centrafarm v American Home Products [1996] FSR 225 . . . 542
- Centrafarm v Sterling & Winthrop [1974] ECR 1147, [1974] CMLR 480 ... 805, 810
- Chaplin v Boys [1969] 2 All ER 1085; [1971] AC 356; [1969] 3 WLR 322, HL.... 924

- Chelsea Man Menswear Ltd v Chelsea Girl Ltd [1987] RPC 189 ... 721, 754
- Chill Foods (Scotland) Ltd v Cool Foods Ltd 1977 SLT 38 ... 739, 740
- Chiron Corp v Murex Diagnostics Ltd and other [1996] RPC 535 ... 453, 496
- Chocosuisse Union des Fabricants Suisse de Chocolat v Cadbury [1998] RPC 117; [1999] RPC 826 ... 719, 723, 727, 739, 740, 742
- Christie v Smith's Executrix 1949 SC 572 ... 74
- Church of Scientology v Kaufman [1973] RPC 627, [1972] FSR 591 ... 782
- Cinpres Gas Injection Ltd v Melea Ltd 2006 EWHC 2451 ... 459
- Cipla Ltd and others v Glaxo Group Ltd [2004] EWHC 477 ... 449
- Claeryn/Klarein (1976) 7 IIC 420, Nederlandse Jurisprudentie 1975, 472 ... 640
- Clark v Adie (1877) 2 App Cas 315 ... 470 Clark v Associated Newspapers Ltd [1998] 1 All ER 959; [1998] RPC 261 ... 109, 739, 756
- Clarke v Julius Sax & Co Ltd [1896] 2 Ch 38, CA ... 270
- Class International BV v Colgate-Palmolive Co and others (Case C-405/03) [2006] Ch 154; [2006] 2 WLR 507 ... 813, 823
- Coca Cola v Barr [1961] RPC 387 ... 730 Coca Cola v Struthers 1968 SLT 353 ... 740
- Coco v A.N. Clark (Engineers) Ltd [1968] FSR 415; [1969] RPC 41, ... 9, 769, 770, 771, 774, 778, 779
- Coditel v Cine Vog (No 1) (Case C-62/79) [1980] ECR 881 ... 827
- Coffey v Warner/Chappell Music Ltd [2005] FSR 34 ... 45
- Coflexip v Stolt Comex Seaway [1999] FSR 473 ... 901
- Coin Controls v Suzo International [1997] 3 All ER 45 ... 936
- Coles (JH) Pty Ltd v Need [1934] AC 82 ...725
- Colgate-Palmolive v Markwell Finance [1989] RPC 497 ... 747
- Collag Corp v Merck [2003] FSR 16 ... 793 Colour Television Signal/BBC (T 163/85)
- Colour Television Signal/BBC (T 163/85) 1990 OJEPO 379 . . . 423
- Commission v Council (Case C 176/03) [2006] All ER (EC) 1; [2005] ECR I-7879; [2005] 3 CMLR 20 . . . 914
- Commission v Italy (C-456/03) [2005] ECR I-5335 ... 428
- Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organization's Application BL O/248/04 . . . 431

- Computer Associates v Altai 982 F 2d 693 (1992).... 132
- ConAgra v McCain Foods (Australia) (1992) 23 IPR 193, Fed Ct Aus ... 721
- Conan Doyle v London Mystery Magazine Ltd (1949) 66 RPC 312 ... 733
- Concrete Ltd's Application (1940) 57 RPC 121 ... 266
- Confetti Records v Warner Music UK Ltd [2003] EMLR 35 . . . 104
- Conor Medsystems Inc v Angiotech Pharmaceuticals Inc and Another [2007] EWCA Civ 5 ... 446, 448, 451, 494
- Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Asda Stores Ltd [2002] FSR 3 . . . 692, 698, 700, 701, 702, 724
- Consorzio del Prosciutto di Parma v Marks and Spencer plc [1991] RPC 351 ... 724
- Consorzio Italiano della Componentistica di Ricambio per Autoveicoli v Regie Nationale des Usines Renault11 and AB Volvo v Erik Veng (UK) Ltd (53/87) [1988] ECR 6039 ... 261, 283
- Consorzio per la Tutela del Formaggio Gorgonzola v Käserei Champignon Hofmeister GmbH & Co KG, Eduard Bracharz GmbH (Case C-87/97) [1999] 1 CMLR 1203; [1999] ETMR 454, ECJ... 600, 704
- Consorzio Prosciutto di Parma v Marks & Spencer [1991] RPC 351 ... 719
- Consten & Grundig v EEC Commission (Case C-56/64) [1966] ECR 429; [1966] CMLR 418 ... 808, 838
- Cook and Hurst's Design Application [1979] RPC 197 ... 270
- Cooper's Application 19 RPC 53 ... 422 Copyright Licensing v University of Auckland (2002) 53 IPR 618 (NZ) ... 169
- Corelli v Gray (1913) 29 TLR 570 ... 128 Cornelius v De Taranto (2001) 68 BMLR 62 ... 779
- Corporation of Accountants v Society of Accountants in Edinburgh (1903) 11 SLT 424... 751
- Corsair Toiletries's Appn [1999] ETMR 1038 . . . 665
- County Sound plc v Ocean Sound plc [1991] FSR 367 ... 728, 736
- Cow (PB) & Co Ltd v Cannon Rubber Manufacturers Ltd [1959] RPC 347, CA... 267, 276, 277
- Cowan v Millar (1895) 22R 833 ... 720
- Cramp v Smythson [1944] AC 329 . . . 52
- Cranleigh Precision Engineering Ltd v Bryant [1965] 1 WLR 1293 ... 770, 771