

## Press Release

Subject: Franks & Co Attorney Achieves EPA  
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### **Stéphane takes an unconventional route to becoming a European Patent Attorney**

Stéphane Ambrosini, a UK patent and trade mark attorney at Franks & Co in Sheffield has finally received the news that he's been waiting 12 years to hear. After 10 years of training, studying and numerous professional qualifications gained, he has finally qualified as a European Patent Attorney (EPA).

Stéphane's route to qualification is unconventional to say the least. Most European Patent Attorneys qualify within 2 to 6 years, having obtained a technical qualification at degree level. However, Stéphane gained a French technical qualification (Brevet de Technicien Supérieur) and completed 10 years of training necessary to enable him to sit the exams to become an EPA. In addition, he sat his exams in English despite the fact that Stéphane's first language is French.

Most of Stéphane's formal qualifications preceding his entry into the IP profession were international business-oriented, including a Business Studies degree at Sheffield Hallam University. Stéphane says "To provide the best advice for our clients' intellectual property requirements, it is important to take the time to fully appreciate the nature of their business from a commercial as well as a legal perspective."

Now that Stéphane is a Professional Representative at the European Patent Office (EPO) he is able to represent clients from all over the world regarding all matters relating to European patents. Stéphane explains why this qualification is so important "At Franks & Co, the philosophy of the firm is that each attorney manages their client's entire intellectual property (IP) portfolios. This approach allows us to manage our clients' requirements more efficiently and effectively, as they only have to deal with one point of contact and the attorney can provide a genuine focus to the business."

Stéphane is in good company at Franks & Co, as the majority of the attorneys at the firm are European Patent Attorneys. The company also has qualified Australian, Singaporean, Irish and of course UK Patent Attorneys. Robert Franks, owner of Franks & Co, says "We take a lot of pride in the fact that all of our attorneys have double and even triple qualifications as IP professionals. It allows the company to cover more territories than most patent attorneys, which is of huge benefit to our clients."

Stéphane is also looking forward to spending more time in France dealing with European cases following the agreement by the European Council in June this year, to create a European Unified Patent Court, which would be located in Paris. Robert Franks says "We are fortunate that many of our attorneys speak a second and sometimes third language, and that we have Stéphane, who is a native French speaker. Franks & Co is more than ready to deal with cases that could end up being heard in a European Unified Patent Court."

Robert Franks also said “We are extremely proud and very pleased for Stéphane. He has shown great determination and commitment in achieving this qualification and we offer our sincerest congratulations to him for this. Maybe now he will relax a little and take a little time off from studying.”

However, it looks like Stéphane may have other ideas; he said “I might look to qualify as a French Patent Attorney next!”



Stéphane Ambrosini EPA

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### **About Franks & Co Limited**

Established in 1996, in Sheffield, Franks & Co is one of the UK's leading patent and trade mark attorney firms, dealing in all aspects of intellectual property rights, particularly inventions, designs and brands.

Franks & Co has offices in Sheffield and Northampton and deals with the full range of technologies and sectors from major corporations through small and medium sized Enterprises and Universities.

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