



# HSM IP Patent Client Guide

## ST. MAARTEN

### Registration

Following the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on 10 October 2010 St. Maarten became an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

St. Maarten does not have its own patent law and it is not possible to register a patent. The only way to obtain protection for a patent is by filing either a European patent application with the Netherlands Patent Office, a department of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, pursuant to the Kingdoms Patent Act or an International application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) which is followed by entry into the European Phase of the application pursuant to the European Patent Convention. Registration of a patent via either of these two routes automatically provides protection in St. Maarten.

### Our Firm

HSM IP Ltd. provides worldwide intellectual property services. Based in the Cayman Islands and independently owned and operated, our experienced team of attorneys and paralegals deliver first class service to a broad client base which includes major Fortune Global 500 brand owners, international law firms and other specialist IP practices. Our broad perspective, practical approach and international experience allow us to offer clients a unique insight into IP issues.

The success and growth of our firm is due to our keen understanding of our clients' needs for a comprehensive "one-stop shop" which encompasses a wide range of services from the initial consultation process to searches, registrations, annuity payments and monitoring and renewals. Our interactive database helps us to proactively manage each client's portfolio efficiently and cost-effectively in an environmentally friendly and substantially paperless workplace. It also allows us to fulfil our clients' specific reporting and invoicing requirements, including multi-currency invoicing and e-billing. We offer a competitive schedule of fixed fees, inclusive of both disbursements and official fees, which means we can provide clients with an accurate estimate of their project costs before embarking on a global filing programme for their portfolio.

As a leader in the field, HSM IP understands the value of long-term business relationships. We have a wealth of knowledge and specialise in the Caribbean, Central and Latin America and other offshore jurisdictions. Our staff regularly contribute to leading IP publications and we also publish a range of country-specific IP Client Guides which are available on our website.

Supported by HSM Chambers, an offshore law firm with experienced attorneys admitted in multiple jurisdictions, we have substantial experience in taking action to address the infringement of trade marks and patents and in the conduct of passing-off actions. We are also able to offer investigative services to identify the source of, and distributors of, infringing goods, working closely with police and customs officials as necessary. Memberships: INTA, ASIPI, CITMA, MARQUES and IPCA.

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