

A search in official registers allows to find out whether a judge, his/her employer/law firm and/or an employee of his/her law firm (see table for information about judges and employers/law firms) is linked to persons who may be parties in a given dispute or who may be affiliated with parties in a given dispute or who may be engaged in business with him/her in a way that may potentially compromise that judge's impartiality.

Without being exhaustive, particular attention is drawn to the following registers in which for finding potential conflicts of interest one may follow the instructions as indicated below:

Swiss registered trademarks, patents, supplementary protection certificates, designs and topographies:

www.swissreg.ch.

In order to find out whether a business relationship with a person exists, click one of the corresponding protective titles (e.g. "Patents") followed by ">>Advanced search". You may then search the register by entering the person of concern into the field "Applicant/Owner" and by entering the name of the judge, his/her employer (and any affiliated companies) or an employee of his/her office into the field "agent". Then press search. The records appearing in the hit list indicate potential business relationships.

The name of the judge, the name of an employee of his/her office (listed on the corresponding websites of the offices in question) and the name of his/her employer must all be checked individually, and also all types of protective titles should be checked.

European patents and patent applications:

<https://register.epo.org/advancedSearch?lng=en>

The approach is similar to the one used with the Swiss Register. Enter the name of the person in the "Applicant(s)" field and then enter the name of the judge, the name of an employee of his/her office, or the name of his/her employer (and any affiliated companies) under "Representative". Then press search. The records appearing in the hit list indicate potential business relationships.

In addition, the name of the judge, the name of the law firm, the name of an employee of his/her law firm, the name of his/her employer (and any affiliated companies) is entered in the "Opponent" field to determine any involvement in opposition proceedings, be it as party or as representative. The name of the judge, the name of an employee of his/her office (listed on the corresponding websites of the offices in question) and the name of his/her employer/law firm should all be checked individually.

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications:

<http://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/structuredSearch.jsf>

The approach is similar to the one used with the Swiss Register. Enter the name of the person in the "Applicant Name" field, then enter the name of the judge, the name of an employee of his/her law firm, or the name of his/her employer (and any affiliated companies) under "Legal Representative" (select this option directly from the dropdown menu in the same field). Then press search. The records appearing in the hit list indicate potential business relationships.

International trademarks:

<http://www.wipo.int/romarin>.

The approach is similar to the one used with the Swiss Register. Enter the name of the person in the "Holder name" field, then enter the name of the judge, the name of an employee of his/her law firm, or the name of his/her employer (and any affiliated companies) under "Representative". Then press search. The records appearing in the hit list indicate potential business relationships.

International designs:

<http://www.wipo.int/designdb/hague/en/>.

Enter the name of the person in the "Holder" field. Then press search. In the then appearing Search Summary, enter the name of the judge, the name of an employee of his/her office, or the name of his/her employer (and any affiliated companies) in the corresponding search field entitled "Refine Search" and using the syntax "and RE/<Name>". Then click on "Refine Search". The records appearing in the hit list indicate potential business relationships.

For example: Name of the person: Testmich; Name of the judge: Muster. Enter Testmich in the "Holder" field. In the Search Summary, you will see "ON/testmich" displayed in the "Refine Search" field. Add the words "**and RE/muster**" in that field and click on "Refine search" to display the cases handled by judge Muster for the company Testmich.