television companies, sports events operators, and US companies in the cinema industry. Sources commend their "enthusiasm". The group has advised specialist television channel Equipe TV in the renegotiation of distribution contracts on cable television, following the CanalSat/TPS merger, as well as ASO concerning television transmission rights during the Tour de France. Established clients 20th Century Fox and Dreamworks have also kept the team busy with various copyright and litigation matters.

Denton Wilde Sapte’s Stefan Naumann boasts an impressive client base in the film and entertainment sector. The firm represents prestigious clients such as Lucas Film, Warner Brothers and Nike. Naumann and his team recently advised Viz Media, a large Japanese publishing house, in establishing its French subsidiary, as well as providing counsel to Paramount/Calaméo on a copyright infringement case. Naumann enjoys an excellent reputation in the field as, "an excellent communicator with real talent."

Deprez Diane Guignot represents advertising agencies, press publishers, radio and TV broadcasters. Pierre Deprez is the main contact.

Gide Loyrette Nouel A.A.R.P.I. is able to relate to the needs of foreign clients doing business in France. The firm is "wonderfully responsive and has a team of great lawyers to work with". The group specialises in the audiovisual sector, advising on production and exploitation rights, broadcasting and distribution, and communication infrastructure. The team recently assisted a US pay-channel on the negotiation of a distribution agreement with a French TV channel regarding the first season of a popular historical TV series. It also acted for a French producer on a €14m co-production of a puppet animation feature film called ‘Max & Co’, and a French production company on the adaptation rights of the movie ‘Lady Chatterley’. Olivier Couzi and the ‘fantastic’ Charles-Edouard Renault are the two names behind this successful practice.

Granrut Avocats advises companies and artists from various sectors and has a strong presence in the music and audiovisual sectors. Jean Castelain has an established reputation.

According to clients, Latham & Watkins has "in-depth knowledge of the media industry." This statement is confirmed by the fact that the firm has probably one of the most desirable client portfolios in the media industry. The team provides regular counsel to TF1 and TPS, and Endemol in the field of TV broadcasting, and also counts prominent clients in the cinema sector. The firm won a major victory for Warner Bros France before the French courts on a case regarding digital rights management, and represented James Cameron/Fox in litigation involving a copyright infringement claim regarding the licensing of the movie "La Totale" and its remake "True Lies. Patrick Dunand and Emmanuel Dral are key contacts.

Eric Lavauzelle and Hélène Delabarre advise and litigate on a large variety of media matters at NOMOS. The practice advises several prestigious clients and is well known for its quality work in the music sector. The team advises international companies and French subsidiaries. Arnaud de Serilhes and Christian Valtamidis of Taylor Wessing have a good reputation in media. The firm is particularly strong in the cinema industry, as well as in the press and music sectors.

WAN Avocats acts for big names in the music, publishing and audiovisual industries. Isabelle Welksman is a specialist in intellectual property while Francis Pudloowski deals with press law issues.

Allen & Overy LLP’s media team has a particularly good reputation in media-related competition matters. The team, which is led by Noël Chahid-Nouri and Jean-Yves Olier, who joined the firm in 2007 from Well, Gotshal & Manges, offers services in M&A, regulatory, data protection, and litigation matters relating to media. Notably this year, the group advised M6 on several regulatory issues including cross-promotion and mobile TV. The practice advises broadcasters, publishers, newspapers, public authorities, and audio-visual groups and authors’ associations.

August & Deboury assists press and magazine publishers on intellectual property issues and litigation. Mashasti Razavi and Kami Haeri are recommended.

Carbonnier Lamaze Rasse & Associés is "present on some of the most important deals in the media industry." The firm is particularly active in the television sector with clients such as Arte, and the radio industry with Radio France and RFI. Lawyers also have expertise in the press and publishing fields. Michel Rasse is recommended.

Clifford Chance’s reputation in sport remains very strong. Sources say, ‘Clifford Chance are extremely efficient and know their sports law inside out’. The team was the legal adviser for the International Rugby Board and World Cup for the Rugby World Cup 2007. Responsibilities included design and enforcement of the Rights Protection Programme. The media practice, which includes the ‘very talented’ Yves Wehrli, also represented the Times in litigation against the owners of another large national paper. The practice continues to advise the French Football League on several issues including the sale of its mobile rights and media convergence issues.

DLA Piper advises on all aspects of media and entertainment law. Clients include film producers, newspapers, broadcasters, publishers, agents and authors. Patrick Boiron is the key contact.

Winston Maxwell, who leads the media department at Hogan & Hartson MNP benefited from taking on Xavier Buffet Delmas who joined from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in June 2007. The practice demonstrates particular expertise in copyright issues relating to the film industry. The team recently advised New Line Cinema and Pathé on French motion picture production and distribution issues.

Lartigue Tournelis & Associés has expertise in cinema, theatre and audiovisual production as well as in the advertising industry working for major advertising groups. Véronique Lartigue has particular expertise in the advertising sector while Yves Tournelis is a reference on the art market. Orrick Rambaud Martel works for the NRJ group. Jean-Michel Lepertre is the key contact.

PDGB assists major French media groups and has a number of big-name clients in the music industry. The firm advises on intellectual property and IT issues, notably raised by the digital technology. Julie Jacob is recommended.

Wilhelm & Associés is present in a variety of media sectors. The firm notably worked for Canal+, radio station MFM, and newspapers 20Minutes and Marianne. Jean-Michel Iseevici enjoys a strong reputation.

Media and entertainment

Book publishers

With some big names such as Flammarion and Albin Michel in its portfolio, Bauer & Bigot is without doubt one of the leaders on the market.
Carbonnier Lamaze Rasle & Associés has a great reputation and works for some major publishing houses.

Dartevelle Benazeraf Merlet Dubest is exclusive adviser to publishing house Gallimard.

Gilles Vercken Avocats is a recognised expert in intellectual property and works for a number of publishers.

HUGOTAVOCATS assists authors and editors with publishing contracts, rights transmission and litigation. The firm has a quality client portfolio in the industry.

Piaerrat is probably the best on the market in terms of IP expertise in the area of book publishing. Emmanuel Piaerrat is recommended.

Zylberstein & Associés is singled out for its expertise in copyright, plagiarism and defamation. Jean-Claude Zylberstein and Anne Boissard are the key contacts.

Media and entertainment

Cinema

Bitoun & Associés works for producers, actors and directors. Jacques-Georges Bitoun is the key contact.

Borowsky & de Baeque deals with all the legal aspects attached to film production for French and European clients. The firm also assists foreign producers and directors with the shooting of movie scenes in France, and investment funds interested in investing in the industry. Sophie Borowsky is recommended.

Media and entertainment

Music

The following law firms and experts are recommended for their reputation in the music industry: HUGOTAVOCATS, Jean Ennoch, Nicolas Boespflug, Anne Boissard and Jean-Claude Zylberstein at Zylberstein & Associés.

Copyright issues. Jean-Yves Dupeux, Thierry Massis and Florence Bourg have a very good reputation.

Nicolas Boespflug is a specialist in intellectual property. The firm deals with copyright and trade mark issues for major press groups including Bayard Presse.

Media and entertainment

TV/radio

Borowsky & de Baeque assists production companies, broadcasters, authors and French regulatory authorities with transactional work and has advised on a number of TV reality shows.

Bouquet is regular adviser to the Bouygues group.

Gilles Vercken Avocats advises several TV channels on IP issues.

Martine Coins advises a number of audiovisual production companies and has significant activity in the public sector for France Televisions.

IP boutique Nicolas Boespflug has important clients in the industry including NHU.

Mergers and acquisitions

Breuil Piat has done better than anyone else in 2007 and was 'present on most of the deals that counted'. The firm is 'the reference for complex and strategic operations'. 2007 high-profile deals include closing the merger of Suez with Gaz de France, advising Danone on the acquisition of its global biscuit division by Kraft foods, and BNP Paribas on its acquisition of Banco Nazionale del Lavoro. The firm also worked for Eiffage, UNRH and the French State. The team has numerous talented personalities, including Jean-François Piat, Patrick Dziwoks, Didier Martin, Sébastien Piat and Olivier Assant.

MBA is the driver of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP which continues with its trend of advising both on public and private transactions.

In April 2007 John Brinkler and other partners represented established client Euroclear NV in a merger with NYSE Group. This complicated deal marks the first transatlantic securities exchange combination. The team is noted as being both