

# Europe's Unified Patent Court: opt-out?

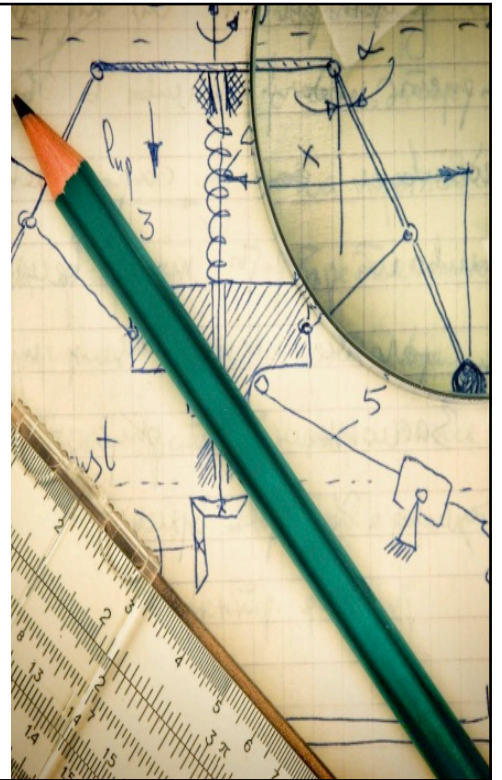
The University of Texas School of Law  
*27th Annual Advanced Patent Law Institute*

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20-21 October 2022

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## Current Regime

Patent Prosecution 

**Patents Sought in Specific,  
Individual Jurisdictions**

**European  
Patent (EP)  
Bundle of Patent Rights in  
Designated States**

Litigation 

**Assertion is Handled by  
Each Designated Nation's  
Court Systems**

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# New Regime Beginning April 1, 2023

Patent Prosecution



Litigation



Patents Sought in Specific,  
Individual Jurisdictions

European Patent (EP)  
Bundle of Patent Rights in  
Designated States

Unitary Patent



Cases Handled by  
Each Designated  
Nation's Court System  
– Results in Multiple  
Parallel Litigations

Unified Patent Court



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## Unified Patent Court System

EP

Opt-out UPC System

**“Sunrise  
period”**  
Jan.-Mar.  
2023

Risk for patentees facing  
**multinational invalidation  
actions** on the first day  
against “crown-jewel patents”



New system **co-exists with national court system**  
during the transitional period of 7 (or 14) years



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# Introduction

## Opt-out decision

- Opt-out decision requires knowing what you opt in or out and what are the pros and cons of the new system
- Opt-out decision only concerns EPs; different decision whether to seek UPs in the future for which the UPC is compulsory
- This presentation does not cover the topic of whether to seek a UP instead of EPs or national patents

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# Introduction

## Coverage

- One decision for many countries instead of enforcement country by country
- But the UPC does not cover all European countries, only those countries that are:
  - EPC member states
  - EU member states
  - Participate in the enhanced cooperation and
  - Ratified the UPC agreement

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## Title search: Europe's Unified Patent Court: opt-out?

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the  
27<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Patent Law Institute session  
"To Opt-Out or Not to Opt-Out of the UPC in Europe?"