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Michael is an Attorney-at-Law, registered with the Munich bar. He has a Ph.D. in Intellectual Property Rights and he was educated at the Universität des Saarlandes (1st German Legal State Examination), the Université de Montpellier (Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies) and the Kammergericht Berlin (2nd German Legal State Examination).

Michael has practised as an Attorney-at-Law for several years at the Düsseldorf office of the renowned IP-boutique Preu Bohlig & Partner in the fields of contentious and pre-contentious matters in all areas of Intellectual Property Rights, with a particular focus on patents. In this function he has represented clients from technology-driven industries and acquired significant experience in domestic and cross-border patent infringement litigation. Michael shows also work experience in Brazil, where he was active for the IP-specialised law firm Dannemann Siemsen Bigler & Ipanema Moreira.

Michael further acted as the Legal Affairs Director at the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). In this role he has been advising the executive bodies of the ETSI on legal issues with a main emphasis on IPRs and Standardisation. He is the author of prominent changes in the ETSI Directives, such as the implementation of the mechanism of ex-ante disclosure of licensing terms, the ETSI Antitrust Guidelines, as well as other important revisions of the ETSI IPR Policy.

Prior to joining Research In Motion, he was in charge of defining, driving and representing Nokia's IPR position for various wireless technology and content related standardization activities. He has also been involved in licensing negotiations as well as in litigation.

Michael has written and presented on issues at the intersection of Intellectual Property Law, Antitrust and Standardisation in Europe, the United States, and Asia, including China, Japan, India, and Singapore. Michael also acted as a lecturer at the Master programme for Intellectual Property Law and Management at the Centre for Intellectual Property studies (CEIPI) of the University of Strasbourg.

Michael is bilingual German/French (German first language), business fluent in English and he has a basic knowledge of Portuguese.