
CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms Globally

Germany



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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International & Cross-Border Capabilities

International & Cross-Border Transactions
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hengeler Mueller
Linklaters
Band 2
Clifford Chance
Gleiss Lutz
Latham & Watkins
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Baker McKenzie
CMS
DLA Piper UK LLP
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Milbank LLP
Noerr
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
White & Case LLP
Band 4
Ashurst
Dentons
Jones Day
Taylor Wessing
Band 5
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
HEUKING
McDermott Will & Emery Rechtsanwälte
SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for A well-embedded presence in the German market, Allen & Overy offers clients full-service capabilities across its offices situated in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich. Cross-border mandates are a fundamental element of the law firm's workflow in Germany, with practitioners often taking on lead counsel responsibilities for multi-jurisdictional

International & Cross-Border Disputes
Leading Firms
Band 1
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White & Case LLP
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Allen & Overy LLP
Baker McKenzie
CMS
DLA Piper UK LLP
Noerr

matters. Allen & Overy's German practice forms an important part of an excellent European network, which links strongly to the law firm's presence in Asia, North America and Africa.

Allen & Overy is able to provide international expertise across a full scope of transactional areas. Clients seeking advice in relation to cross-border banking and finance matters are well served by a market-leading team in Germany, which is capable of advising all parties on a spectrum of financing transactions, particularly those relating to the real estate sector. Allen & Overy's M&A team is also highly receptive to the cross-border needs of its clientele, which is made up of DAX 30 companies and multinationals. Working closely with the law firm's M&A practitioners, dedicated debt and equity capital markets specialists routinely advise on an international stage. Allen & Overy is also adept at handling a range of contentious matters. The team in Germany works closely with colleagues across the world on complex disputes, including commercial litigation and international arbitration. The law firm is able to adroitly fulfil the needs of clients from a range of sectors, including financial services and energy.

Strengths

"The Allen & Overy German team is instrumental in developing strategies for pan-EU litigation,

providing assistance in relation to the different national jurisdictions."

"When we have a need for legal advice and representation globally, Allen & Overy is on our list."

"Allen & Overy handle matters in a highly professional and expedient manner with advice up to the point involving a broad range of legal topics across several jurisdictions and excellent cooperation with co-counsel."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is a UK-headquartered firm that has established a strong presence on cross-border transactions involving Germany. The law firm's German offering is made up of offices based in Frankfurt and Munich, and the team forms part of an integrated network of offices that encompasses locations in Europe, Asia, Australia and the USA.

The team is a popular choice for mid-market clients seeking advice on cross-border M&A, and advisers adeptly handle both inbound and outbound deals relating to Germany. The team's banking and finance lawyers also frequently handle cross-border deals on behalf of domestic and overseas lenders and sponsors, and demonstrate particular strength in real estate financing matters.

Strengths

"Ashurst have outstanding performance from supervision and processing to completion. The firm always involves the right team members, in both skill and number."

"All our projects are international, and Ashurst are well versed and helpful here. The lawyers respond quickly and have a good understanding of the problem and needs."

"We work with their team in countries around the world, with key contacts in Germany, and Ashurst has the capabilities to organise a team to handle the most complex transactions."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie, a widely respected international law firm, has established a strong presence in the German market, supporting clients' cross-border needs

from offices stationed across Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Berlin and Munich. The law firm acts for a diverse clientele, offering a full-service model to homegrown companies and multinationals with operations in Germany, supported by its expansive global network. Partners based in Germany regularly take the lead on transnational matters and act as co-counsel alongside overseas colleagues to serve clients internationally.

Baker McKenzie is held in particularly high regard in Germany for the strength of its contentious capabilities, with its Frankfurt office acting as a hub for the law firm's international arbitration practice. The disputes team is accustomed to providing cross-border support to clients in both litigation and arbitration proceedings, especially those involving Asian jurisdictions and those that relate to the energy, construction and life sciences spaces.

Cross-border mandates are a staple of the M&A team's workload, with members routinely advising internationally-active domestic clients and overseas entities with interests in Germany. The law firm also exhibits considerable strength in the telecommunications and life sciences arenas. Advisers frequently take the lead on multi-jurisdictional data projects on behalf of multinational pharmaceutical companies and biotechnology groups.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie is very knowledgeable on the local and international market, and the firm has a superb ability to leverage its global network to support on global deals."

"We need firms that can help us in many jurisdictions, and Baker McKenzie has offices all around the globe. The firm looks at the practical solutions and really works on the real risks."

"Baker McKenzie is our first choice for a view on general international trends."

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance, an international law firm widely recognised for its international capability, is a strong choice for clients with cross-border mandates. Clifford Chance's German offices play a vital role in the law firm's global strategy, with its teams in Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Munich routinely coordinating large, cross-border matters, acting on behalf of prominent German entities and multinational clients. Complex international mandates are often cross-staffed given Clifford Chance's excellent network, allowing practitioners based in Germany to work closely with their colleagues situated in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

As with many of its European offices, Clifford Chance's German offering enjoys a market-leading reputation for its banking practice. Germany acts as a hub for the law firm's cross-border lending and acquisition finance practice, and the firm boasts one of the strongest projects teams in the jurisdiction. The law firm's excellent investment funds team is highly attuned to the needs of international clients, while its M&A and private equity lawyers regularly work in tandem with overseas colleagues to provide high-quality cross-border advice to a diverse client base. Clifford Chance also houses a strong offering in

capital markets, covering both debt and equity issuances.

Clients facing cross-border contentious proceedings also benefit from Clifford Chance's extensive disputes capabilities. International arbitration, including investor-state disputes, is handled adeptly from Germany, and the team demonstrates a strong track record of representing clients from the energy sector in complex, multi-jurisdictional litigation. Cross-border banking litigation is also a clear strength of the team, as is the law firm's capability in competition/EU law and white-collar crime disputes.

Strengths

"I prefer Clifford Chance for big global matters."

"Clifford Chance can advise inside and outside Germany and can speak with other law firms and jurisdictions for us and do different projects."

CMS

What the team is known for One of the largest practices in Germany, CMS combines deep-rooted local knowledge with considerable international expertise. With eight offices in the region, Germany functions as a vital hub for CMS's global operations, acting as an epicentre of the law firm's excellent European network. Members of the team regularly coordinate multi-jurisdictional projects on behalf of an impressive roster of German-headquartered entities, as well as overseas players.

Largely sector-oriented, CMS exhibits cross-border expertise in areas such as energy, TMT, financial services and healthcare. The law firm's corporate team handles mid-market and high-end corporate/M&A transactions adeptly, and a dedicated employment group regularly advises a broad client base on multi-jurisdictional issues, particularly those encompassing European jurisdictions. CMS also hosts a market-leading private equity venture capitalist practice, as well as possessing strength in equity capital markets and investment funds.

Alongside its transactional strength, CMS is also well equipped to advise on multi-jurisdictional contentious proceedings. Clients seeking guidance in relation to litigation and arbitration proceedings are well served by the full-service disputes team, which is particularly adept at advising on proceedings relating to Asian markets.

Strengths

"The colleagues at CMS have exceptional expertise and experience in handling complex national and international transactions."

"The breadth of competence and the network of affiliated law firms always allow us to consult CMS on the most complex international matters."

Dentons

What the team is known for An internationally oriented law firm with an unparalleled global reach, Dentons' German team demonstrates a clear aptitude for handling cross-border mandates. The 2019 opening of the firm's Düsseldorf office adds to locations in Berlin, Frankfurt and Munich, giving Dentons a solid footing in the German market and enabling it to play a coordinating role on a broad spectrum of inbound and outbound transactions.

Advisers based in Germany regularly collaborate with colleagues situated throughout the law firm's vast international network, and clients with a German base seeking representation in a range of jurisdictions are well served by Dentons' expansive model.

Dentons' M&A group is held in particularly high regard by mid-market clients. The team demonstrates a strong track record of advising on multi-jurisdictional transactions, especially deals that are coordinated from Germany. The team's caseload is highly international, and transactions relating to a diverse range of industry sectors can be handled by the law firm, including those relating to the energy, infrastructure, automotive and life sciences spaces.

Strengths

"Given the international nature of Dentons' practice, we get support on issues that involve multiple countries. The lawyers are very aware of commercial issues both in Germany and around the world."

"The mix of experts with international and local knowledge is, for sure, a key element in the success of the project. Dentons has proven knowledge of the banking industry and the capital markets specificities."

"Dentons deliver high-quality legal advice on complex transaction structures involving various foreign jurisdictions."

DLA Piper UK LLP

What the team is known for With offices in Frankfurt, Hamburg, Cologne and Munich, DLA Piper operates a full-service model which represents a broad client base made up of mid-market entities, multinationals and DAX companies. Forming an important part of the law firm's excellent global network, its German hub attracts considerable inbound and outbound activity, and international mandates are commonplace within the team's caseload.

In M&A, DLA Piper has developed an excellent reputation for acting for household names on mid-cap cross-border deals, particularly those involving Asian jurisdictions. DLA Piper is routinely engaged by leading German corporations, as well as blue-chip international companies, and the law firm demonstrates a strong sector focus, boasting solid expertise internationally in areas such as energy, insurance, real estate and TMT.

DLA Piper also offers clients a comprehensive suite of contentious capabilities. The team is accustomed to handling both cross-border litigation and international arbitration proceedings. Insolvency litigation and cross-border disputes arising out of insurance claims, especially D&O policies, are particular strengths of the team, as is handling white-collar crime matters for clients.

Strengths

"The firm covers all German law advice, and we work with their network on a worldwide basis."

"DLA Piper is very impressive in complex international arbitration proceedings. The firm handles complex questions like a piece of cake."

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is a law firm that is long established as a powerhouse in the German market, while

maintaining a leading reputation on the international stage. The law firm's German presence, consisting of five offices in Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, forms a crucial part of the Freshfields global network and acts as a key hub for pan-European and international projects. The law firm acts for multinational companies with interests in Germany, as well as large homegrown entities with operations abroad, on a comprehensive array of cross-border matters.

In Germany, Freshfields is widely recognised as a market leader across a number of transactional areas. The law firm's M&A group is geared towards advising on high-value international deals, with members of the team exhibiting industry and jurisdictional specialisms. Clients seeking advice in relation to the full suite of international financing and capital markets transactions are also expertly advised by top-ranked teams, with the law firm's private equity offering also being recognised as top-tier. Freshfields also boasts one of the foremost energy practices in Germany, which attracts a number of the country's leading corporations, and it also maintains a solid investment funds practice in the region. From a contentious perspective, Freshfields presents one of the most accomplished offerings in Germany. The team is renowned for its ability to take the lead on highly complex cross-border proceedings, with the firm acting as a market leader across the full spectrum of dispute resolution, including representing defendants in product liability matters and insurance disputes. Freshfields performs highly in litigation relating to the life sciences and financial services sectors, and is a noted force in international arbitration, particularly in connection with disputes arising out of the construction, post-M&A and energy spheres. Alongside these strengths, Freshfields' compliance and competition/EU law practices are equally as formidable.

Strengths

"The team at Freshfields proved able to handle complex international questions."

"Freshfields has quick and efficient access to a broad international network."

"In Germany, Freshfields is a sophisticated M&A powerhouse."

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher is a widely respected law firm that offers both national and international clients solid cross-border expertise from its Frankfurt and Munich offices. The law firm offers highly-adept cross-border capabilities in transactional work. Gibson Dunn's offices operate as an integrated service, enabling clients to draw on the depth and experience provided by its multi-office structure in a seamless manner.

For transactional work, Gibson Dunn's M&A and private equity practices boasts a client list including several DAX 40 companies and international businesses. Active on both high-end and mid-cap deals, the team routinely handles inbound investments for a host of international clients. Gibson Dunn services clients in a range of industries, holding particular expertise in life sciences, manufacturing and technology.

Strengths

"Gibson Dunn are really good for international cross-border work as they have so many offices, which is appealing."

"Gibson Dunn are very good lawyers, well known and recognised, and experienced in cross-border transactions."

Gleiss Lutz

What the team is known for With six offices located across Germany, Gleiss Lutz enjoys a solid reputation as one of Germany's strongest independent practices, offering clients cross-border expertise and support across an array of areas. The law firm adeptly works on an international scale, primarily through its establishment of a flexible network of highly-regarded local firms worldwide as well as its offices in London and Brussels. Popular with domestic clients expanding their operations internationally, Gleiss Lutz is also sought out to advise on German aspects of multi-jurisdictional mandates, efficiently collaborating with partner firms.

Gleiss Lutz's international strength spans a number of transactional areas of law. Its M&A partners consistently handle cross-border deals and have a track record of advising both DAX 30 clients and large international investors into the German market, supported by an excellent antitrust department. The team is frequently praised by clients for its ability to coordinate international work from Germany, and clients seeking industry-specific advice internationally are also supported by specialists offering extensive knowledge of the energy, infrastructure, automotive and healthcare sectors. Gleiss Lutz also possesses strengths in capital markets, particularly regarding debt.

Gleiss Lutz's disputes practice also demonstrates a strong focus on international matters, supporting clients on a broad range of litigation, compliance and international arbitration matters. The law firm has cultivated an excellent reputation for its handling of cross-border antitrust litigation and cartel investigations. Equally, the team's white-collar crime practitioners skilfully advise on a spectrum of multi-jurisdictional investigations for German and overseas clients, and the law firm is known to regularly take the lead on insolvency proceedings that are international in scope.

Strengths

"Gleiss Lutz can understand the differences between jurisdictions and help bridge the gaps between the parties."

"Gleiss Lutz has a very team-oriented approach and seamless integration of all specialists."

"Gleiss Lutz is one of the most sophisticated corporate law firms in Europe. They have a very extensive and deep bench of lawyers, and they take their commitment to providing high-end legal services very seriously."

Hengeler Mueller

What the team is known for Widely viewed as one of Germany's elite independent law firms, Hengeler Mueller has an excellent track record of handling an array of cross-border matters, making it an excellent firm of choice for clients with international mandates. Clients benefit from the law

firm's membership of the 'Best Friends' network, an alliance of leading independent firms based in Italy, France, the UK, Spain and Portugal. Beyond Europe, Hengeler services the multi-jurisdictional needs of its clientele primarily through the connections it maintains to firms worldwide, while also supporting clients through its own offices in London and Brussels. Offering a truly full service, Hengeler is known to act for DAX 30 clients, as well as multinationals with interests in Germany.

Transactionally, Hengeler sits at the very top of the German market. Supported by a top-ranked competition team, the law firm's M&A and private equity group consistently advises on the largest corporate transactions involving Germany and often plays a coordinating role on international deals. Working closely with the corporate group, Hengeler's excellent financing team is highly receptive to the cross-border demands of international lending syndicates and borrowers. The team also excels across all types of capital markets transactions, as well as in investment funds, working effectively with leading firms globally to serve the multi-jurisdictional needs of its client base.

From a contentious perspective, Hengeler's international capabilities are equally as impressive, with the law firm housing a top-tier dispute resolution practice. The team is often called upon by leading German companies to defend and coordinate complex multi-jurisdictional claims, and cross-border banking and post-M&A disputes are routinely handled by the law firms' specialists.

Strengths

"Hengeler is an outstanding firm - extremely diligent and forward-thinking. The lawyers anticipate turns and twists in matters."

"Hengeler are very service-oriented and well equipped to do the work in order to facilitate a smooth transaction. The firm also provides constructive solutions for unexpected changes."

HEUKING

What the team is known for Heuking is a widely-respected German independent practice which demonstrates a clear commitment to handling cross-border mandates across a broad range of legal areas. The law firm services the international needs of its clientele primarily through its connections with partner law firms in jurisdictions across the globe. Heuking is the German member of the World Services Group and exhibits a clear track record of working alongside partner practices to assist domestic clients with overseas matters, as well as international entities seeking guidance in relation to German markets.

The law firm offers clients full-service capabilities from Germany and is well regarded for its handling of cross-border M&A for mid-market clients, and it also possesses a capable investment funds practice. Moreover, the law firm demonstrates a solid sector focus and provides comprehensive cross-border advice to clients hailing from the energy and insurance industries.

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells, a widely respected international law firm, has developed a comprehensive and highly-regarded prac-

tice in Germany. With teams stationed in Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, the law firm's offering in Germany functions as an important hub for its European activities and broader international network. The law firm offers international expertise across an array of transactional and contentious areas, and clients will also benefit from the firm's sector orientation, as well as from its wide international network and ability to offer an integrated service.

Hogan Lovells is held in particularly high regard for its cross-border disputes capabilities. The law firm's intellectual property and life sciences practice groups remain among the strongest in Germany, and its practitioners are highly adept at advising on large, multiparty claims and product recall efforts. Members of the team in Germany are able to draw on the resources of Hogan Lovells' excellent global network and often work closely with colleagues overseas. Hogan Lovells' German offering also offers solid capabilities in compliance and competition/EU law matters.

From a transactional perspective, Hogan Lovells is a strong performer in multi-jurisdictional M&A. Both inbound and outbound deals are often coordinated from Germany, and transactions relating to the life sciences and pharmaceutical spaces are expertly handled by the team. The law firm also has an active cross-border capital markets practice, and is regularly called upon by German and international banks to advise on a range of issues. Alongside this, Hogan Lovells possesses strong capabilities in private equity and venture capital matters.

Strengths

"Hogan Lovells' adept handling of matters with complex cross-border intricacies sets a remarkable example of legal prowess."

"Hogan Lovells has a very strong team across multiple offices and jurisdictions."

"Hogan Lovells are very well positioned due to their international network. We instruct them on some of our largest transactions. We benefit from their full-service approach and their ability to cover many practice areas and jurisdictions relevant for us."

Jones Day

What the team is known for An internationally recognised brand, Jones Day offers both domestic and overseas clients a breadth of cross-border expertise from its Frankfurt, Munich and Düsseldorf offices. Teams stationed in Germany are accustomed to working on large transactions that encompass a number of jurisdictions and regularly act as lead counsel on substantial matters, collaborating efficiently with fellow Jones Day offices to offer a seamless service, as well as with local counsel firms.

Jones Day is a strong performer on cross-border M&A and is regularly engaged by prominent German entities and an impressive international client base. Advisers stationed in Germany are able to take the lead on truly global mandates and frequently work on matters involving Asia. Capital markets specialists are routinely sought out for their international expertise, particularly in relation to securitisations and IPOs, and the law firm's TMT lawyers regularly advise on international

matters, assisting clients with the implementation of multi-jurisdictional data projects.

Strengths

"Jones Day has various partners from various continents working for us on the transaction, but they are able to work in harmony and seamlessly across the continents and modules, which helped us complete the transaction smoothly."

"Jones Day is my go-to firm for complex and sophisticated matters in Germany. They have an expert nationally and internationally for every aspect we need to cover."

"Jones Day's lawyers are very knowledgeable and experienced. The law firm is very well connected worldwide, so that a large number of legal jurisdictions can be covered internally."

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Widely regarded as an international powerhouse, Kirkland & Ellis has a German team that is highly reputed for its transactional prowess and ability to advise on mid and large-cap cross-border deals. Based in Munich, the team regularly works in tandem with other Kirkland & Ellis offices, maintaining strong links to the law firm's excellent practices in New York and London. Practitioners in Germany are well equipped to advise on an international scale and have recently been particularly active handling matters involving China for a range of clients.

From Germany, Kirkland & Ellis's core cross-border strength lies in areas such as private equity, M&A and restructuring. The team's private equity and M&A specialists are routinely engaged on substantial multi-jurisdictional transactions, particularly those involving the UK, the USA and Europe, and often work alongside Kirkland & Ellis colleagues situated throughout the law firm's global network.

Strengths

"Kirkland are excellent at explaining legal concepts clearly."

"Kirkland are very commercial and always helpful."

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins' German offering plays a crucial role in the law firm's overall international strategy. Long established as a leading force in Germany, the law firm has a history of acting for both homegrown entities, including DAX 30 companies, along with overseas clients facing questions relating to the German market. The law firm is especially active on matters involving the USA and Asia, and clients in search of cross-border support are particularly drawn to the team's close ties to excellent practices in London and the USA, as well as Latham & Watkins' wider network, which spans several locations throughout Europe, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

The law firm's financing practice is top-tier in the German market and provides expert cross-border advice to sponsors, banks and corporates. Equally, Latham & Watkins' corporate/M&A team is highly adept at advising on international transactions, acting on behalf of its well-established domestic client base and for foreign investors. Latham & Watkins also operates internationally on a broad spectrum of private equity transactions, with its

capabilities in Germany strongly enhanced by close collaboration with partners in the USA and London. Its capital markets offering, particularly regarding equity, is formidably strong too.

Latham & Watkins also offers clients a full suite of dispute resolution capabilities from Germany. The law firm is sought out by a combination of leading German entities, prominent multinational corporations and nation states for guidance in both cross-border litigation and arbitration proceedings. Clients facing complex, multi-jurisdictional proceedings benefit from the law firm's cross-staffing of cases and its integrated approach to dispute resolution, as practitioners from across the Latham & Watkins network regularly work in tandem on international matters.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins excel at bringing international and local German teams together to ensure consistent standards and ensure solutions are found. They are incredibly user-friendly, hard-working and rigorous."

"Latham & Watkins is a great outfit. They cover all areas of disputes and are particularly stellar when it comes to complex multi-jurisdictional disputes. The firm has great depth in the team, with good people from junior associate up to the partner level."

"Latham & Watkins will pull together the best team internationally that is best for the particular case, and they're very good at identifying those people."

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters is recognised as having one of the most impressive international practices based in Germany. With teams stationed in Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Munich, Hamburg and Berlin, the law firm is highly adept at advising both German corporates and international clients on a vast array of cross-border issues. Advisers in Germany regularly project-manage multi-jurisdictional proceedings, drawing on the excellent resources of Linklaters' wider network to deliver an integrated seamless service, as well as collaborating with contacts maintained with other legal practices overseas.

Linklaters' German M&A team has a strong track record of handling high-end, cross-border deals, particularly those relating to the energy sector and other regulated industries. The law firm also maintains a market-leading financing practice, offering clients UK, US and German law advice in-house. Debt capital markets is another area in which Linklaters works effectively on an international scale, providing issuers with expert advice on the full suite of products, and the law firm also possesses strength in investment funds.

Linklaters' dispute resolution and competition/EU law teams also perform highly on international mandates. The law firm's members are particularly adept at supporting clients in disputes relating to the energy, automotive and banking sectors, offering both German and international entities support in cross-border litigation and international arbitration proceedings.

Strengths

"The quality is visible in to-the-point advice, they have experience and everything that is important, they can communicate, and they also have international scope."

"Linklaters have good market expertise, a broad network of local counsels and good availability."
"At Linklaters the team is able to quickly and efficiently turn around complex documents. The lawyers are able to speak off the cuff to different ways of structuring concepts and transactions, and are generally very easy and non-fussy to deal with."

McDermott Will & Emery Rechtsanwälte Steuerberater LLP

What the team is known for McDermott Will & Emery is an international law firm with its headquarters in Chicago. The law firm is noted for its capabilities in cross-border transactions in its German office and can offer clients a seamless service. McDermott frequently advises German clients on domestic and cross-border M&A, joint ventures and restructurings.

McDermott is well regarded for its handling of complex cross-border M&A, especially for leading clients in the mid market. The law firm routinely handles high-profile private equity deals, as well as capital markets-related matters. McDermott regularly works with clients across wide-ranging sectors, with particular strengths in the health-care, technology, retail and automotive industries.

Strengths

"McDermott has a great international network to take into account requirements in several jurisdictions."

Milbank LLP

What the team is known for From Germany, Milbank boasts a highly-regarded transactional practice which is largely international in its focus. The law firm's Frankfurt and Munich offices function as important hubs for its activities throughout Europe. Teams based in Germany often quarterback deals involving other European jurisdictions, and regularly play a leading role on transactions that involve the USA. Advisers in Germany are well equipped to advise foreign investors into the German market, as well as domestic clients who have interests overseas, with the law firm's clientele benefiting from Milbank's close ties to excellent UK-based and US offerings.

Milbank offers considerable cross-border expertise in key transactional areas. International private equity and M&A are a standout area for the team. The law firm is also renowned in Germany for the strength of its financing practice, which brings considerable expertise to a spectrum of multi-jurisdictional transactions for both domestic and international lenders.

Strengths

"Milbank has a deep team across all relevant jurisdictions."

"At Milbank, every lawyer is very professional and can handle complex topics with a palatable solution for all parties. The firm has a market-leading work ethic, always responds in a timely manner and is never hesitant to go the extra mile."

"Milbank is one of the few firms that is actually capable of seeing the commercial impacts, pointing them out and giving an opinion on them."

Noerr

What the team is known for Noerr is consistently recognised as a high-performing independent law

firm with a clear international outlook. Offering an impressive breadth of expertise from its six-office German base, Noerr meets the cross-border needs of its clientele through its membership of the elite legal network Lex Mundi, as well as by leveraging its comprehensive network of offices in Central and Eastern Europe, which add to strategically located teams in London and New York and an IP-focused office in Alicante.

Noerr is highly respected for its handling of inbound transactional work, with its London and New York offices playing an important role for international entities looking to make investments into the German market. Equally, the law firm has a particularly strong reputation for its cross-border IT, tech and data work, and is adept at advising clients on matters that encompass multiple European jurisdictions.

Alongside a solid transactional offering, Noerr also demonstrates international capabilities when it comes to contentious proceedings, supporting clients on a broad range of litigation, compliance and complex arbitration matters, and often representing parties in high-profile disputes. Noerr holds a particular specialism in liability, insurance and class action cases, and the law firm's excellent client roster, consisting of prominent automotive manufacturers, insurers and government entities, further reflects Noerr's market presence.

Strengths

"We had a great experience with Noerr on a cross-border transaction and their responsiveness was excellent—and the service level was also very good."

"Noerr is a very professional firm. The lawyers are highly motivated and the firm has sophisticated staff in all areas."

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell maintains a focused and highly regarded practice in Germany, with particular strengths demonstrated in cross-border transactions. The law firm's Frankfurt office sits alongside strategically located teams in Europe and plays an important role in the firm's global practice, regularly cooperating with its London office and excellent teams based in the USA. The law firm's Germany team skilfully handles a combination of inbound and outbound transactions for both prominent domestic clients and multinational entities.

Sullivan & Cromwell in Germany brings considerable expertise to cross-border M&A and is a solid firm when it comes to debt capital markets transactions. The law firm advises on large-cap transactions that encompass multiple jurisdictions, and clients with transatlantic needs benefit from Sullivan & Cromwell's in-house knowledge and extensive resources across its network. The team also enjoys a pre-eminent reputation within the ECM space and is regularly engaged to advise on cross-border IPOs, especially those involving the USA or other European jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Sullivan & Cromwell has very good capability to either cover cross-border questions in-house or reach out to relevant partner firms."

"Sullivan & Cromwell are very experienced with a pragmatic approach to finding solutions. The lawyers are always available, no matter what time of

the day, and the team thinks beyond just the legal work."

"One of the biggest advantages of Sullivan & Cromwell compared to others is their deep commercial understanding."

SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz

What the team is known for SZA Schilling is an independent outfit with bases in Frankfurt, Mannheim and Munich. The law firm's international practice is centred largely on cross-border M&A, which is enhanced by impressive competition law capabilities and a team strategically placed in Brussels. SZA Schilling supports its clientele on multi-jurisdictional matters largely through its effective collaboration with overseas firms, regularly playing a coordinating role in international projects.

Multi-jurisdictional M&A forms a core part of the law firm's international practice. The team is called upon by both homegrown clients, including members of the DAX 30, and foreign entities for its expertise in international deals, which frequently incorporate European and Asian jurisdictions. Complementing the firm's M&A practice, the team also brings considerable expertise to merger control issues that are cross-border in scope, with practitioners in Germany combining effectively with Brussels-based colleagues.

Strengths

"We have always felt excellently advised by SZA Schilling when cross-border aspects are involved."

"The law firm SZA Schilling consistently delivers excellent work, is well networked abroad and is always very responsive."

Taylor Wessing

What the team is known for Taylor Wessing has long-standing roots in the German market and maintains a strong presence across a wide range of legal areas. The law firm's five German offices in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Duesseldorf and Frankfurt make up an important part of Taylor Wessing's international network and play a significant role in the law firm's cross-border workflow. The team is held in high regard among a loyal following of homegrown clients, and is also well equipped to advise international investors into Germany. The firm also offers clients significant sector knowledge, with dedicated specialists advising on matters relating to healthcare and insurance.

Offering clients a full suite of legal services, the team stands out internationally for its mid-market M&A expertise, and is routinely called upon by both German and overseas corporations to advise on a broad scope of cross-border deals. From a financing perspective, Taylor Wessing's German team capably handles multi-jurisdictional transactions, particularly those that encompass other European jurisdictions, and it is a strong firm of choice when it comes to private equity venture capital matters. Following the 2019 announcement of its alliance with US practice Wilson Sonsini, the team's cross-border capabilities in the life sciences and technology spaces have also been enhanced.

Strengths

"Taylor Wessing has very deep domain expertise in

complex cross-border corporate transactions.”

“Taylor Wessing is one of the typical law firms we work with because of their professionalism, their experience, their expertise and also their international exposure.”

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case, a widely respected international law firm with a full-service model in Germany, is well equipped to handle a wide array of transactional and contentious matters that are multi-jurisdictional in scope. Teams situated in Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Berlin and Hamburg form highly significant parts of the law firm’s expansive global network. Given its comprehensive geographical coverage, White & Case is a popular choice for foreign investors into Germany as well as for homegrown entities expanding their operations internationally. White & Case’s M&A group exhibits considerable strength in handling cross-border matters. Multi-jurisdictional transactions involving the energy, automotive and technology sectors are a particular area of focus for the team, which also demonstrates a strong track record of handling deals involving China. The law firm’s project finance group is also internationally focused, with practitioners advising on a multitude of infrastructure and energy projects, notably those involving

Scandinavia.

White & Case’s international prowess extends to contentious areas of law, where the law firm exhibits impressive cross-border capabilities. Cross-border proceedings form an essential part of the law firm’s dispute resolution practice. The team is highly skilled in the representation of insolvency administrators and is also well versed in handling cross-border litigation relating to the energy sector, insurance coverage disputes and product liability claims. International arbitration is another area of success for the team.

Strengths

“White & Case is characterised by a high level of competence, client orientation, and good ideas to always achieve their goals. The team is also very international.”

“White & Case is able to provide very high-quality, 360-degree assistance. The firm’s presence worldwide helps when transactions involve multiple jurisdictions: you have at hand a lead team and local teams speaking the same language and meeting the same quality standard by engaging only one law firm.”

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher is a US-headquartered law firm that has developed a strong presence in Germany for

cross-border transactions. The law firm’s Frankfurt office sits alongside strategically located teams in Europe that cover all the major business centres. The firm has a coast-to-coast offering in the USA, allowing the German offices to advise on international matters and providing clients a well-coordinated, integrated service.

Willkie’s core transactional cross-border strengths lie in its private equity and M&A practice. The firm possesses strong capabilities in handling mid and large-cap M&A, joint ventures and restructurings. The team services a range of industries including IT and technology. Willkie seamlessly covers outbound mandates well by drawing upon its global network.

Strengths

“The Willkie Farr team work harmoniously with advisers from other jurisdictions to assist with our transaction.”

“Willkie Farr are pretty multi-jurisdictional in terms of their knowledge. They have broad knowledge across Europe.”

“Willkie Farr is a very strong team in dealing with commercially and legally complex matters and carve-out situations across multiple jurisdictions. Willkie is best suited to offer legal advice across multiple jurisdictions.”

Banking & Finance

Banking & Finance	Banking & Finance	Banking & Finance
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals	
Band 1	Band 1	Band 4
Clifford Chance	Hagelüken Alexandra Latham & Watkins LLP	Birke Max Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (ORL) ◇
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Ingenhoven Thomas Milbank LLP	Böning Daniela Hengeler Mueller
Hengeler Mueller	Laudenklos Frank Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Dettmar Jasmin Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP	Mayer-Trautmann Barbara Milbank LLP	Egbers Bernd Astera Legal (ORL) ◇
Band 2	Steinhauer Bettina Clifford Chance	Gosejacob Ulf Taylor Wessing
Allen & Overy LLP	Tieves Johannes Hengeler Mueller	Kremer Johannes Skadden, Arps, Slate (ORL) ◇ *
Linklaters	Band 2	Niedner Clemens Taylor Wessing
Milbank LLP	Carli Winfried Goodwin *	Pfaff Markus CMS
Band 3	Grewlich Anne Ashurst	Schellschmidt Steffen Clifford Chance
Ashurst	Hüther Mario Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Schomaker Sabine Taylor Wessing
Gleiss Lutz	Neubaum Thomas Allen & Overy LLP *	Schürmann Vanessa White & Case
Noerr	Uebelhoer Walter Allen & Overy LLP *	Socher Oliver Baker McKenzie
White & Case	Weitkamp Thomas Latham & Watkins	Sutter Oliver Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4	Band 3	Wilms Jan Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
CMS	Jahn Christian Latham & Watkins	Band 5
Taylor Wessing	Josehans Michael Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Bourgeois Nadine Addleshaw Goddard LLP (ORL) ◇
Band 5	Kortz Helge Gleiss Lutz	Distler Wolfram DLA Piper LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Baker McKenzie	Münch Sibylle Latham & Watkins LLP	Freund Thomas Eversheds Sutherland (ORL) ◇
Goodwin	Nardi Wolfgang Kirkland & Ellis International LLP	Hitzer Isabell Astera Legal (ORL) ◇
Hogan Lovells International LLP	Naujoks Andreas Noerr	Lenhard Anselm GLNS (ORL) ◇
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP	Reudelhuber Eva Gleiss Lutz	Schauenburg Christoph Luther (ORL) ◇
Mayer Brown LLP	Schlobach Frank Gleiss Lutz	Schoon Sebastian Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (ORL) ◇ *
Norton Rose Fulbright	Trinkaus Marc Linklaters *	Up-and-coming individuals
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP	Vieten Nikolaus Hengeler Mueller	Lischka Andreas White & Case
* Indicates individual with profile.	Weissing Matthias Ashurst	Töke Matthias Baker McKenzie
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.		
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.		

Banking & Finance: Regulatory
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hengeler Mueller
Linklaters
Band 2
Clifford Chance
Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Glensis Lutz
GSK Stockmann
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Noerr
White & Case
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Steck Andreas <i>Linklaters</i> *
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Benzler Marc <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Schuster Gunnar <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Band 2
Bliesener Dirk <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Glos Alexander <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i> *
Band 3
Behrens Alexander <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i> *
Dehio Andreas <i>Linklaters</i> *
Krüger Markus <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Kunz Jens <i>Noerr</i>
Schäfer Frank <i>Sernetz Schäfer Rechtsanwälte (ORL)</i> ◇
Schmies Christian <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for A highly reputed law firm with an excellent international network, Allen & Overy offers strength across the full financing spectrum. The team is particularly well regarded for complex, cross-border syndicated lending, acquisition and corporate finance transactions. The department also offers significant expertise in asset finance and leveraged finance matters as well as Schuldschein loans. Financial services clients additionally benefit from the law firm's regulatory practice, ranging from M&A transactions and compliance with new and existing directives, to IT outsourcing projects, joint ventures and fintech projects. Its clientele, which consists of notable international banks, corporates and asset management companies, further serves as a testament to the law firm's standing. Due to its extensive international network, Allen & Overy is well placed to handle multi-jurisdictional mandates, closely cooperating with its US and other European offices.

Strengths

"Allen & Overy has a good finance team with broad expertise and an excellent ability to handle complex matters."

"The team offers a very good service level."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised Mercedes-

Foreign Desks Banking & Finance
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
Marshall Islands Ehlermann Rindfleisch Gadow
Foreign Experts Banking & Finance
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
Luxembourg München Andrea <i>CMS Ehlermann</i>
Marshall Islands Dimigen Klaus <i>Ehlermann (ORL)</i> ◇ *
Marshall Islands Rindfleisch Stefan <i>(ORL)</i> ◇ *
Turkey Vanezis Riko <i>Watson Farley & Williams (ORL)</i> ◇
UK Hlášek Michal <i>Linklaters</i>
USA Kaufmann Sebastian <i>King & Spalding (ORL)</i> ◇
German expertise based in countries listed below
France Foundethakis Michael <i>Baker McKenzie AARPI</i>

Benz Group on converting its existing EUR11 billion syndicated revolving credit facility into a sustainability-linked loan.

Notable practitioners

German corporates from the IT, manufacturing and packaging sectors as well as debt and PE funds mandate **Thomas Neubaum** (see p.1489) for his expertise in the financing world. He often advises on acquisition finance, with further strength in corporate finance and IPO financing, including syndicated and senior term B loans. **Strengths:** "Thomas Neubaum has profound knowledge, is very proactive, clear in his advice and with excellent market knowledge. His advice is worth every cent you pay." **Walter Uebelhoer** (see p.1491) is highly respected for his experience in the German and European financing scene. He is regularly involved in large-scale syndicated financings in connection with M&A transactions as well as corporate finance mandates. **Alexander Behrens** (see p.1486) is well regarded for his regulatory work on cross-border mandates, especially those pertaining to mergers and joint ventures in the financial sector, the setting up of new financial institutions as well as business expansions into and beyond the German market. He also assists banks with withdrawals from the German market. **Strengths:** "Alexander Behrens is a lawyer with excellent expertise and very strong commercial awareness."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is a law firm best known for its capabilities in mid-market financing transactions. The teams across Frankfurt and Munich chiefly advise direct lenders on all financing aspects pertaining to acquisitions and growth facilities. The firm is also experienced in the refinancing of existing loans. With its expertise in cross-border mandates, the firm is frequently sought out by international clients and those seeking assistance with multi-jurisdictional financing issues.

Strengths

"The team's pragmatic solutions are its strength."

"The team is highly responsive and we are always satisfied with its very strong service levels."

"Ashurst's international network works seamlessly, which is enormously important to us. I would espe-

cially highlight its short reaction times even where different time zones are involved."

"What stands out about Ashurst is its pragmatic and trusted advice that makes our cooperation very efficient."

"The whole law firm and especially the finance teams have an excellent reputation in the market, which pays off in transactions where you have other well-known firms across the table."

Work highlights Ashurst advised a group of lenders on the refinancing of certain debt and providing USD400 million of new financing for Diebold Nixdorf.

Notable practitioners

Anne Grewlich is a sought-after adviser among debt funds and financial investors due to her prowess in handling acquisition finance mandates. She has additional experience in assisting banks with syndicated corporate loans. Anne Grewlich is frequently visible on cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** "Anne Grewlich ran the smoothest financing process I've been involved in and worked brilliantly with counsel on the other side." "She provides very strong levels of service and commercial awareness. We highly appreciate her work." **Matthias Weissinger** is a highly active practitioner who regularly acts for direct lenders, banks and asset managers. His expertise includes advising on acquisition and investment financings as well as refinancings and recapitalisations. **Strengths:** "I can recommend Matthias Weissinger, with whom we like to work both on our own side and on the other side."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie regularly advises well-known German and international clients such as banks and debt funds on a wide array of finance matters. The team is particularly experienced in handling acquisition financing and corporate loans, often acting for lenders and syndicates on cross-border transactions. The law firm also assists with exit financings and revolving credit facilities. Baker McKenzie complements its offering with experience in project and real estate financing.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie is quick to respond, showing very strong service levels, and offers very broad coverage as well as excellent commercial awareness."

"The team at Baker is particularly well equipped to advise on financings involving Mittelstand parties."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Sanecum on expansion financing provided by a consortium of banks and loan funds.

Notable practitioners

Oliver Socher often assists leading national and global banks with a variety of matters, which include acquisition and corporate finance transactions and amendments to existing structures as well as project financings. **Strengths:** "Oliver Socher is a very experienced lawyer. He is pragmatic and to the point, and is able to guide clients on risk levels and which points to assert and which to accept in negotiations." "We value that Oliver Socher ensures a good and pleasant rapport with the other side." **Matthias Töke** enters the rankings as up-and-coming on the back of excellent market feedback and showcasing substantial

work highlights for prominent clients. His experience includes leveraged and investment-grade financing transactions, on which he advises bank lenders, sponsors and portfolio companies.

Strengths: *“Matthias Töke is very strong when it comes to client service, the sophistication of his work and his commercial awareness.”* Paris-based **Michael Foundethakis** of Baker McKenzie often acts for German banks on ESG-linked facilities across Europe as well as on project finance, structured trade and export finance involving African jurisdictions. He is qualified to practise in France, the Republic of Ireland and the UK.

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance possesses an esteemed banking and finance practice, which is recognised for its work on complex domestic as well as multi-jurisdictional financing transactions. The team covers a broad spectrum, ranging from direct lending and acquisition finance to syndicated loans and unitranche financing. Its clientele of well-known German and international corporates and banks from both the borrower and lender sides further illustrates the firm's standing in the market. Clients also enjoy the regulatory offering at Clifford Chance, with the team advising on matters including industry master agreements, bank M&A and reorganisations. The department is additionally versed in handling bank insolvencies as well as banking compliance, crypto regulations, sanctions advice and litigation.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance provides a full-service offering for finance-related matters with quick response times.” *“The team has good commercial sense and knowledge of market developments.”*

“Clifford Chance stands out for its extensive experience with complex situations at partner level, a high-quality deal team and good international offices.”

“The firm's service levels and responsiveness are strong: despite high parallel deal flow, all milestones were met and client negotiations could be scheduled at short notice.”

“A particular strength of the Clifford Chance regulatory team was its deep knowledge and understanding of the local regulator and its clear practical strategy for engagement. This was built on robust and commercial advice, which was in turn backed up by strong technical legal expertise, all of it delivered with clarity and focus.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised JPMorgan and Bank of America on the EUR4.2 billion bridge financing for Siemens Energy in connection to its public tender offer and move to full ownership of Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy.

Notable practitioners

Marc Benzler is held in high regard for his excellent regulatory expertise. He regularly advises international banks and banking associations on a broad array of topics, ranging from Brexit-related issues and industry master agreements to deposit protection scheme admissions and regulatory aspects of transactions. His further expertise in fintech mandates, such as tokenisation issues, makes him an attractive choice

for a wide range of mandates. **Strengths:** *“Marc Benzler is always a pleasure to work with and one of the best lawyers for complex, sophisticated and international matters.”* *“He is a very good and well-established adviser in the market.”* *“Marc Benzler combines technical expertise with practical, commercial advice and a deep understanding of the local and international regulatory environment. He has excellent support within his team and is a strong advocate for our company and a significant asset for us in engaging with the local regulatory authorities.”* *“Marc Benzler is very capable and knowledgeable.”* **Bettina Steinhauer** is highly appreciated for her top-level advice on large-scale corporate and investment-grade financing transactions, including bridge financings, acquisition finance and refinancings. With her further prowess in handling cross-border work, she is a primary point of contact for leading internationally active banks and syndicates. She has recently also been active on domestic ESG-linked lending as well as assisting corporate borrowers with global financing deals. **Strengths:** *“Bettina Steinhauer is outstanding.”* *“She is a brilliant and highly experienced lawyer.”* *“Bettina Steinhauer is very active and one of the most experienced lawyers in Frankfurt and the German market.”* **Steffen Schellschmidt** demonstrates particular expertise in direct lending and leveraged finance mandates, regularly acting for private debt and equity fund lenders as well as sponsors and portfolio company borrowers. He advises on a variety of matters in this space, including acquisition and corporate financing as well as refinancings. **Strengths:** *“Steffen Schellschmidt is technically very good.”* *“Steffen Schellschmidt is one of our go-to finance lawyers in Germany.”*

CMS

What the team is known for CMS boasts a full-service team capable of handling the full gamut of financing matters. The team is particularly recommended for acquisition finance, corporate lending and refinancing transactions, acting for financial institutions and corporates. The law firm's repertoire also encompasses project financing, particularly in the renewables and infrastructure sectors, as well as real estate and rail finance. Additionally, CMS is a frequent choice for clients for cross-border work thanks to its robust international set-up, while its full-service offering ensures expert advice from related practice groups is provided.

Strengths

“By combining excellent finance expertise with its strong sector knowledge, CMS contributed heavily to making a tailor-made financing a success for all parties involved.”

“While also meeting our requirements regarding quality of the documentation, CMS's good quality of service with quick turnaround times enabled us to work against a challenging timeline.”

“The team is able to handle complex and sophisticated matters with a strong sense for commercially viable solutions.”

“CMS is an outstanding law firm for Mittelstand companies.”

Work highlights CMS advised Stadtwerke Düsseldorf on the issuance of a EUR145.5 million

ESG-linked Schuldschein loan.

Notable practitioners

Markus Pfaff is recognised for his experience in corporate, acquisition and real estate finance. He acts for PE and corporate borrowers as well as lenders and is active on cross-border transactions. **Andrea München** of CMS is admitted to practice law in Germany and Luxembourg, offering particular expertise in real estate finance projects involving both jurisdictions. She also assists with supervisory law issues, licensing procedures and cryptocurrency topics.

Ehlermann Rindfleisch Gadow

Ehlermann Rindfleisch Gadow is a law firm that offers unique expertise on the Republic of the Marshall Islands, with several of the firm's members being admitted and registered to practise in this jurisdiction. The team is particularly well placed to handle shipping and ship financings pertaining to Marshall Islands law. Its clientele includes German banks and PE funds that are active on global shipping mandates.

Klaus Dimigen (see p.2066) is an expert in shipping finance, often advising banks, ship owners and shipping companies. Klaus Dimigen is admitted to practice in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which renders him an attractive contact point for clients seeking in-depth expertise in this jurisdiction. Experienced practitioner **Stefan Rindfleisch** advises banks and PE investors on shipping finance issues, including loan agreements and bareboat financing. Being admitted to practice in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, he is a regular and attractive choice for clients seeking assistance with transactions pertaining to this jurisdiction.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for The banking and finance team at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is renowned for its standing among high-profile lenders, corporate borrowers and sponsors. The team excels in all types of lending transactions, regularly playing starring roles in cross-border acquisitions, and corporate and leveraged finance deals, as well as novel financing structures. Further prowess in handling restructuring, project and asset finance mandates complements the law firm's holistic offering. The regulatory team maintains its reputation as a market-leading one, routinely handling large mandates concerning bank M&A, fintech and reorganisations in the financial services sector. The team also represents clients in contentious matters at national and EU level, including in BaFin enforcement proceedings and before the EGC.

Strengths

“Freshfields provides high-quality work, pragmatism, a focus on results, and commercial understanding. In terms of expertise, the firm is also able to pull experts together where necessary.”

“The law firm has one of the leading finance practices in Frankfurt and provides quick and efficient access to its broad international network.”

“The wide and deep experience of Freshfields is very valuable and visible, especially in more complex situations.”

“The team's responsiveness is very high and its ser-

vice level is strong.”

“Freshfields is top of the market in finance in Germany. The lawyers provide very hands-on and pragmatic advice, focusing on the commercial points rather than going into too much detail, and they manage to significantly improve conditions for us in negotiations.”

Work highlights Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer advised RWE on the financing of its USD6.8 billion acquisition of Con Edison Clean Energy Businesses as well as on the issuance of EUR2.4 billion mandatory convertible notes to Qatar Investment Authority to partly refinance the initial bridge loan.

Notable practitioners

Excellent practitioner **Frank Laudenklos** is revered for his prowess in handling large-scale syndicated, project and debut financing mandates. Prominent banks as well as companies from the telecommunications, healthcare and life sciences sectors frequently seek his top advice.

Strengths: “Frank Laudenklos at Freshfields is one of the star partners in Frankfurt.” Leading practitioner **Gunnar Schuster** is highly regarded for his breadth of expertise in all regulatory banking and finance issues. Well-known German and global banks seek his advice on their M&A transactions, business expansions, intra-group restructurings and licensing procedures, often involving cross-border elements. He additionally covers contentious matters, advising banks on supervisory proceedings as well as connected litigation at national and EU levels. **Strengths:** “Gunnar Schuster is a leading figure in terms of years of experience and market exposure. He is a very good lawyer, who is approachable and knowledgeable and with whom you can talk at a high intellectual level.” “Gunnar Schuster is very good and responsive and very much a seasoned and well-known veteran who provides sound advice. He is also creative in some of the solutions he suggests while being very good at moderating and making sure the client acts in a thoughtful way.” **Alexander Glos**

(see p.1487) is highly active on an impressively broad range of regulatory mandates involving banks and other financial services providers, including acquisitions, internal and upstream mergers as well as governance issues connected to dividend payments. He offers further strength in litigation connected to the Single Resolution Board and supervisory enforcement proceedings.

Strengths: “Alexander Glos is very client-oriented and a very good lawyer with the ability to empathise with the client and promptly and quickly assess complex legal questions.” “Alexander Glos is technically very good.” **Mario Hüther** is widely appreciated for his strength in the banking and finance world, often advising on syndicated financings and revolving credit facilities. He is visible in the financing of projects and large public takeovers. His experience also includes asset-backed financing deals and big-ticket ESG-linked facilities. **Strengths:** “Mario Hüther is always pleasant and very pragmatic to work with.” **Michael Josenhans**

has a versatile practice, advising both traditional and direct lenders while also handling investment-grade as well as leveraged finance deals. His broad expertise covers LBOs, corporate refinancings and mandates with hybrid loan

structures. **Strengths:** “It’s fair to say that Michael Josenhans is exceptional: he is very strong, commercial, and has a very good understanding of situations no matter how complex or international.” “Michael Josenhans is easy-going and approachable and at the same time has a very high standing in the market. He is a really good negotiator who doesn’t push things too hard, ensuring our continued good relationship with the other side.”

Gleiss Lutz

What the team is known for Gleiss Lutz is noted for its comprehensive coverage of banking and finance mandates, often assisting German and international borrowers, including PE firms and their portfolio companies as well as corporates across sectors. The firm is also sought after by banks, syndicates and direct lenders. The practice group offers particular expertise in acquisition finance, corporate lending and LBOs. It also cooperates with its strong restructuring and insolvency practice to advise on financial restructurings with syndicated loans. Gleiss Lutz has additionally grown its bench and raised its profile in the regulatory sphere, where it assists financial services clients with German and EU supervisory law matters.

Strengths

“The team is very responsive, very fair in pricing and efficient in terms of hours needed, and willing to fight for us, which we appreciate.”

“Geiss Lutz has strong know-how and experience, and the ability to analyse and solve complex matters.”

“The lawyers are very competent and solution-oriented.”

“We chose Gleiss Lutz for its experience, high levels of specialisation, responsiveness and precision of work.”

Work highlights Gleiss Lutz advised Deutsche Telekom on the financing of its joint venture with DigitalBridge and Brookfield, with a multi-layered leveraged infrastructure acquisition financing including syndicated facilities at both opco and holdco levels.

Notable practitioners

Experienced practitioner **Helge Kortz** is noted for assisting borrowers with syndicated loan agreements and large financial restructurings.

Strengths: “Helge Kortz is a very experienced lawyer. He is calm and pragmatic.” “Helge Kortz is competent, reliable, and very strong in terms of commercial awareness.”

Eva Reudelhuber is recognised in the market for her strength in corporate, acquisition and project financing as well as financial restructurings. She advises lenders and corporate borrowers. **Strengths:** “It is always a pleasure collaborating with Eva Reudelhuber, who is very strong when it comes to her service levels and the sophistication of her work.” “Eva Reudelhuber is strong in international transactions.”

Frank Schlobach is regularly mandated due to his expertise across banking and finance issues, with a particular focus on large-cap LBO transactions as well as corporate acquisition finance and financial restructurings. He is often involved in cross-border mandates, which makes him a primary contact for clients seeking international capabilities. **Strengths:** “We view Frank Schlobach

as a strong partner who is highly experienced in LBO financings involving banks and debt funds.” “Frank Schlobach stands out for his client service, creativity and negotiation skills.”

Goodwin

What the team is known for Goodwin enters the rankings after adding a well-regarded finance partner and team to its departments in Germany. The practice comes recognised for its strong focus on and experience in leveraged finance deals in the mid-market segment. Its client base consists of domestic and international lenders, private equity sponsors and portfolio companies.

Strengths

“One of the team’s differentiating strengths is its commercial awareness.”

“Their ability to deliver to budget is very strong. They ensure very efficient processes and do not waste time along the way.”

“The team at Goodwin consists of high-quality people. In addition to its standout partner, our experiences with junior team members have always been good.”

Notable practitioners

Winfried Carli (see p.1486) excels at advising private equity firms and portfolio companies as well as direct lenders on mid-cap LBO and refinancing transactions. He offers expertise in both German and cross-border mandates, aided by his firm’s international network. **Strengths:** “Winfried Carli is extremely experienced in the design of financings, knows all the lawyers on the other side and can categorise them and come up with tailor-made arguments for negotiations in advance.” “One of the decisive factors for mandating Winfried Carli is the service he provides.” “When it comes to technical knowledge, Winfried Carli is top-tier and enjoys our absolute trust. What also distinguishes him is that as a partner he is very involved, so the advice we receive is of first-class quality, which makes our work much easier.”

GSK Stockmann

What the team is known for A regular choice for banks, insurance and fintech companies, GSK Stockmann offers its clients good services for regulatory issues. The team is well versed in advising on MiFID II regulation, ESG compliance and passporting issues. The firm is particularly noted for its expertise in payment services law and novel issues, ranging from the setting up of e-payment systems and digital platforms to cryptocurrency. GSK Stockmann also stands out for its ability to handle financial litigation in Germany as well as before the European courts pertaining to the Single Resolution Mechanism and licence withdrawals.

Strengths

“The lawyers at GSK Stockmann work quickly and are always on point, while both seniors and juniors have very strong knowledge about German regulation.”

“The team was very dedicated and experienced and quickly gained in-depth understanding of the commercial realities of our matter.”

Work highlights GSK Stockmann advised Solaris on regulatory and commercial issues in the area of payments and securities trading.

Notable practitioners

The department's co-heads Timo Bernau and Andreas Heinzmann are key contacts for clients.

Hengeler Mueller

What the team is known for Hengeler Mueller houses an outstanding banking and finance team with an excellent reputation for complex, high-value international transactions. Its lawyers routinely advise well-known German and international corporates and banks on acquisition finance, state-sponsored financing and syndicated corporate loans. The law firm is also recommended for refinancing, financial restructurings and ESG-related financings. Its clientele further enjoys an excellent regulatory offering, with the department assisting with cryptocurrency, payment system implementation and restructurings in the financial sector. Additionally, the firm convinces with its prowess in complex litigation and BaFin enforcement proceedings. Hengeler Mueller rounds off its excellence with its regulatory strength in bank M&A mandates.

Strengths

"The Hengeler team is sophisticated and able to handle any complex and non-standard matters that come up."

"The team is always on time, even in cases of very tight deadlines."

"My experience with Hengeler Mueller has been exclusively positive. The team is very experienced, especially the partners. But also the lawyers at associate and counsel level are always very active and open and show a client-centred approach."

"What I really appreciate is that they have a very balanced approach when it comes to negotiations, including when they advise clients or counterparts."

"Hengeler is a top-tier firm. It also provides value for money, through senior-partner attention, which makes for quicker delivery of know-how with no necessity for corrections."

Work highlights Hengeler Mueller advised METRO on a EUR1 billion ESG-linked syndicated revolving facility with increase and extension option.

Notable practitioners

As one of Germany's top banking and finance lawyers, **Johannes Tieves** is an excellent choice for borrowers and lenders seeking comprehensive advice. His practice covers assistance with complex refinancing mandates, including syndicated and bilateral credit and guarantee lines, as well as advice on financings of prominent public takeover deals. He is additionally versed in Schuldschein transactions. **Strengths:** *"Johannes Tieves has been a very good adviser over many years and provides very strong levels of client service, sophistication and commercial awareness."* *"He particularly stood out for his skillful handling of the negotiation process."* **Dirk Bliesener** is highly active on a wide array of regulatory issues, ranging from bank M&A transactions to complex reorganisations. He also offers prowess in shareholder control proceedings as well as in litigation concerning the Single Resolution Board before European courts.

Strengths: *"We consider Dirk Bliesener of Hengeler Mueller the brightest, most outstanding bank M&A lawyer in Germany. His advice is reliable and can be trusted. He is our go-to for complicated issues*

in German and EU regulations." **Dirk Bliesener** is a very experienced and executive lawyer who makes a very good impression also at board level; he is not just technically strong but also able to explain things well to a high-level audience." **Christian Schmies** advises on a myriad of regulatory mandates, ranging from bank M&A transactions and licensing procedures to BaFin enforcement proceedings and fintech topics. **Nikolaus Vieten** is sought after by prominent German and multinational companies for his expertise in high-value acquisition finance and refinancing mandates. He is also a visible player in leveraged finance transactions. **Strengths:** *"Nikolaus Vieten is a top LBO lawyer with very strong commercial awareness."* **Daniela Böning** rises in the rankings due to her continuing strength in complex mandates and excellent client feedback. She regularly assists with high-value acquisition finance and refinancing mandates and has experience in multi-tranche facilities, bridge financings and ESG-linked transactions. **Strengths:** *"Daniela Böning did a fantastic job: She was very client-centred and target-oriented, invariably well prepared for negotiations, and the documents she prepared were always extremely well drawn up. Through all of this she brought efficiency into the entire financing process."* *"Daniela Böning is great in negotiations: she is factually comprehensible, with very clear lines of argumentation, and doesn't beat around the bush but provides well-founded arguments. She is also target-oriented and inclusive in her communication with the counterparty."* *"She explains things in such a way that I as a non-lawyer can understand them."*

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for The Frankfurt-based banking and finance team at Hogan Lovells focuses on acquisition, real estate and project finance transactions, often involving various jurisdictions. The practice provides additional expertise in refinancing, debt restructuring and corporate lending, as well as assisting with amendments to existing facilities. Hogan Lovells also possesses regulatory capabilities, in particular in the areas of fintech products and out-sourcings as well as bank M&A mandates. The team's advisory strength is further complemented by its ability to handle litigation in European courts pertaining to the Single Resolution Board. The law firm's clientele ranges from leading German banks and corporates to public institutions and international debt funds.

Strengths

"They are excellent at breaking down complex information in a way that makes it easy to digest for non-lawyers. They know what is important to us and make sure to highlight these points to us."

"Hogan Lovells' service level and response times are excellent."

"I would especially highlight the team's speed and clear commitment to keeping deadlines as well as the responsibility and availability at both partner and associate level."

"We appreciate the breadth of the topics Hogan Lovells can cover: even when legal areas outside of finance came up, the relevant specialists always worked hand in hand seamlessly and without any disruptions."

"They take a lot of work off our hands, think ahead and take care to avoid future issues before they even arise."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised an AkquiVest debt fund on multiple transactions, including on providing the financing for EAV Group's acquisition of Audiologic.

Notable practitioners

Katlen Blöcker, Carla Luh and Richard Reimer are key contacts for clients.

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis offers a solid banking practice with a strong reputation for its international work, frequently representing US or UK investment firms. The team is best known for its strength in restructuring and refinancing, but also noted for its advice on acquisition finance matters. Offering services to a broad clientele, the team also closely cooperates with its excellent M&A department, particularly on projects that concern several jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Kirkland & Ellis has knowledgeable and experienced team members, who are always very helpful, very fast and very responsive."

Work highlights Kirkland & Ellis advised TPG Real Estate Partners on the financing of its acquisition of a majority stake in Studio Babelsberg.

Notable practitioners

Wolfgang Nardi is regularly involved in a variety of banking and finance mandates, ranging from takeover finance and financial restructurings to bridge facilities and growth financings.

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins is an excellent law firm that covers the full breadth of finance work. Due to its market visibility, holistic offering and bench strength, the team is frequently mandated by banking consortiums and direct lenders as well as corporate borrowers on complex acquisition finance deals, refinancings and corporate finance. The law firm also showcases a strong presence in the regulatory market. Clients benefit from the team's expertise in issues such as AML, licensing procedures and investigations. The regulatory aspects of investments and M&A transactions are also handled by the group. As an international law firm, Latham & Watkins is an attractive choice for large and multi-jurisdictional projects.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is a very strong law firm with good ideas and exceptional advice. We also appreciate its very strong service levels and always prompt replies."

"Latham & Watkins are very active and have a fantastic banking and finance practice."

"We've always enjoyed working with the lawyers because they are very focused on getting things done, are quite commercial, decision-driven and results-driven, and can also handle complex situations."

"We are very happy with the team and appreciate that they always have our interest in mind while being focused on the right points, which makes for a very effective and good process."

"The law firm handles complex matters in an effi-

cient and commercial manner and, due to its very strong bench, is able to internally draw on experts for all relevant matters.”

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised UniCredit on a new EUR750 million credit line for SIXT.

Notable practitioners

Alexandra Hagelüken continues to be a towering figure in the German banking and finance world. She is renowned for her excellence in acquisition, corporate and leveraged finance. She is a go-to for well-known bank consortiums as well as corporate borrowers and sponsors. **Strengths:** “Alexandra Hagelüken is one of the grande dames of leveraged finance. There are few lawyers more knowledgeable or better than her.” “Alexandra Hagelüken is always incredibly good.” **Thomas Weitkamp** remains a strong adviser to prominent private equity and asset management firms for his prowess in handling large-scale acquisition finance and syndicated finance mandates. While also covering traditional lending, including high-volume transactions on both the borrower and bank sides, he is particularly regarded for his focus on direct lending and LBOs. **Strengths:** “Thomas Weitkamp embodies all of the qualities I appreciate: he has an extremely high reputation in the market, has absolute market knowledge, and is a very good and reliable lawyer, who delivers an excellent performance, including on very tricky deals.” “He is very commercial and results-driven.” Banks and private equity funds frequently mandate **Christian Jahn** for his strength in acquisition finance and refinancing mandates, especially those with cross-border elements. **Strengths:** “Christian Jahn is a very good lawyer who is very strong when it comes to his commerciality and client service.” **Markus Krüger** showcases a broad regulatory practice with particular expertise in handling M&A transactions and investments in the financial services sector. He also assists with investigations and supervisory proceedings. **Sibylle Münch** is praised for her strength in refinancing mandates as well as acquisition financings, where she often acts for large bank consortiums. She has additional experience in ESG-linked loans, where she also advises on the borrower side. **Strengths:** “Sibylle Münch is a technically good lawyer and pleasant to work with.” “Sibylle Münch is always constructive.”

Linklaters

What the team is known for The team at Linklaters is well regarded by peers and clients alike and offers extensive coverage of all areas of financing. Being highly visible on high-end, cross-border corporate loan transactions, the team offers further capabilities in project and infrastructure finance. In conjunction with its other departments, Linklaters is also a top choice for M&A financings. Furthermore, the law firm benefits from an outstanding regulatory team, which regularly advises on banking M&A and restructuring, fintech and compliance matters. The law firm’s clientele consists of well-known German and international corporates and banks.

Strengths

“The team is able to quickly and efficiently turn around complex documents, able to speak off the

cuff to different ways of structuring concepts and transactions, and is generally very easy and no fuss to deal with.”

“As a client, we know we can reach out at short notice, receive constructive feedback and solve issues quickly and painlessly. We know that Linklaters prides itself on its client service, and this team upholds those values.”

“Linklaters is characterised by its good market expertise, broad network of local counsels and good availability.”

“The lawyers are not only helping us on matters of law, but because they have many other clients, they are able to advise us how the market tends to view certain topics; thus we also value the commercial overlay they provide.”

“The team provides us with a very good service and outstanding expertise.”

Work highlights Linklaters advised an international bank consortium including UniCredit Bank Austria and ING Bank on a EUR1.7 billion syndicated revolving credit facility for Wiener Stadtwerke.

Notable practitioners

Europe managing partner **Andreas Steck** (see p.1491) is held in high esteem for his long-standing expertise in the German regulatory world. He advises on mergers within the financial sector as well as licensing procedures and supervisory compliance. **Strengths:** “Andreas Steck is a pleasant and intelligent lawyer.” “Andreas Steck is a well-known name in the market.” **Andreas Dehio** (see p.1486) handles a plethora of regulatory issues, including reorganisations and M&A transactions in the financial sector as well as regulatory proceedings. He also assists with licensing applications and governance issues, such as the Investment Firms Directive and Institutional Protection Schemes. **Strengths:** “Andreas Dehio possesses outstanding expertise and a good commercial sense.” **Marc Trinkaus** (see p.1491) is frequently mandated by leading banks and corporate clients on syndicated credit facilities, refinancings and infrastructure financings. He also advises on M&A, group and reorganisation financings and is considered a trusted adviser on cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** “Marc Trinkaus is an extremely experienced, very pragmatic partner, who is able to lead transactions well. He knows where the banks want to go and understands them and also doesn’t negotiate every little comma but focuses on the essentials.” “Marc Trinkaus is a good lawyer and very easy to work with.” Frankfurt-based **Michal Hlášek** of Linklaters is a German and English-qualified practitioner and as such in a prime position to advise on cross-border mandates involving UK clients and UK law. His broad expertise ranges from bridge financing and acquisition finance to the financing of large projects, real estate acquisitions and M&A transactions.

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown regularly advises specialty lenders and well-known international banks on acquisition finance transactions, including bank M&A and the financing of P2P takeovers. Further expertise lies in assisting borrowers, such as with revolving credit facilities

and infrastructure acquisition financing. The law firm is particularly visible in the real estate, telecommunications and manufacturing sectors. Its expansive international office network renders the firm a robust choice for cross-border mandates.

Strengths

“Mayer Brown is an extremely professional and dedicated law firm in the finance area. It’s a well-oiled machine; it’s the whole package.”

“Mayer Brown provides a high level of competence combined with the highest level of practical relevance and a very good service mentality.”

Notable practitioners

Martin Heuber is a key contact for clients.

Milbank LLP

What the team is known for Milbank is a well-reputed law firm advising clients across its Frankfurt and Munich offices on a broad range of banking and finance issues. The team is particularly active on complex leveraged finance, refinancing and acquisition finance transactions, and offers noteworthy expertise in syndicated loans and alternative lending structures including Schuldschein loans. Due to its strong global network, the team is well placed to handle multi-jurisdictional deals. Its clientele, which consists of large corporates, private equity funds and multinational lending consortiums, further evidences the firm’s presence in the market and strong visibility among both borrowers and lenders.

Strengths

“The team at Milbank is fast, diligent and well informed. Its lawyers ask the right questions and are always interested in finding commercially sound solutions.”

“Every lawyer in the team is very professional and can handle complex topics with a palatable solution for all parties.”

“We rate the team’s commercial awareness as very strong: Milbank sees a lot of transactions and is always on top of new developments in the market and can hence fully inform and update us.”

“The law firm is capable of handling all kinds of matters, no matter how complex or sophisticated, always to my utmost satisfaction.”

“Milbank is one of the few firms capable of seeing the commercial impacts, pointing them out and giving an opinion on them.”

Work highlights Milbank advised KAEFER on a new EUR650 million syndicated financing with ESG component to refinance its existing 2018 bond and super senior credit facilities.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Ingenhoven enjoys a very strong standing in the German banking and finance market, his clientele comprising corporate and PE borrowers as well as banks and debt funds as lenders. He regularly handles a range of complex cross-border mandates from refinancings to corporate and acquisition financings. **Strengths:** “Thomas Ingenhoven is a very pragmatic and open-minded person and lawyer. He is my go-to for complex matters.” “He is one of the leading leveraged finance lawyers in Germany and clearly someone we like to choose for transactions.” “I could not wish for a better counsel than Thomas Ingenhoven.” **Barbara Mayer-Trautmann** is considered a leading

banking practitioner with prowess in handling complex corporate and acquisition finance mandates. Clients from the borrower and lender sides alike benefit from her considerable experience in cross-border mandates. She has expertise in traditional, leveraged and infrastructure finance transactions. **Strengths:** *"We think highly of Barbara Mayer-Trautmann. She makes herself available within a short amount of time, explains things in an easy-to-understand manner, and we wouldn't hesitate in using her for complicated deals."* *"Barbara Mayer-Trautmann is clearly among the top names in the market."*

Noerr

What the team is known for The team at Noerr offers a broad coverage of banking and finance matters, regularly advising corporates, banks and government entities. Recognised for its capabilities in transactional work, the firm further benefits from its regulatory expertise, which holistically covers issues such as MiFID II and AML as well as BaFin proceedings. The team also assists with licensing issues and online payment services as well as M&A in the financial industry.

Strengths

"The quality of the work from Noerr was impressive."

"Noerr is a very professional firm with highly motivated and sophisticated staff in all areas."

"They are very good at ensuring that the client is well advised throughout the transaction and they're able to present complex issues in an understandable way."

"What appeals most to us is the breadth of the topics Noerr can cover and the team's good connection and cooperation with other relevant departments."

Work highlights Noerr advised a consortium of banks including BayernLB, LBBW and Commerzbank on the financing for Dermapharm's acquisition of Arkopharma from Montagu Private Equity.

Notable practitioners

Jens Kunz is appreciated for his involvement in a wide spectrum of regulatory work ranging from bank M&A and sanctions to audits, BaFin proceedings and anti-money laundering programmes. He is further noted for his expertise in fintech-related mandates, including those pertaining to online platforms. **Strengths:** *"Jens Kunz is one of the best supervisory lawyers in Germany because not only does he understand the banking supervisory law extremely well but also how to pragmatically implement it in practice."* *"Jens Kunz is especially good for novelty topics where there is little advisory history."* **Andreas Naujoks** is known in the market for his comprehensive offering to clients from both the lender and borrower side, regarding corporate and acquisition finance as well as real estate finance mandates.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Due to its broad finance practice, Norton Rose Fulbright is experienced in handling a variety of matters, including corporate and acquisition finance, refinancings, projects and real estate finance, with expertise in syndicated loan agreements. The team predominantly represents lenders, with a substantial

client base consisting of domestic state banks and international financial institutions. The firm is also noted for its advice on aircraft financing and is respected for its low and mid-cap offering.

Strengths

"They helped us with advice that provided value for money and were responsive, getting back to us on time."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Nordzucker on a EUR350 million syndicated loan, whose interest rate was linked to the company's ESG rating.

Notable practitioners

Oliver Sutter advises lenders and borrowers on domestic and cross-border mandates. He has a particular focus on the small to mid-cap segment and regularly assists with corporate loans and group financings. **Strengths:** *"For us Oliver Sutter is the best there is. He is highly intelligent, very commercial and a great negotiator."*

Taylor Wessing

What the team is known for Taylor Wessing is appreciated for its expertise in a variety of banking and finance mandates, including syndicated loans and direct lending. The team regularly advises German banks and international private equity firms on acquisition and project finance as well as refinancings. With a broad bench, the law firm is well placed to cater to a large client base and to advise on cross-border mandates in cooperation with its global offices.

Strengths

"In addition to its high level of legal expertise, its commercial awareness is the reason why we regularly choose Taylor Wessing."

"The team demonstrated excellent communication skills and provided clear guidance."

"Taylor Wessing was able to support us even on complex questions and we always received good drafts and on time."

"The partners working with us have considerable expertise that they always convey in a pragmatic and very solution-oriented way."

Work highlights Taylor Wessing advised Commerzbank as agent on an approximately EUR125 million syndicated financing for KAP.

Notable practitioners

Ulf Gosejacob frequently acts for private equity firms as borrowers on LBO and investment financing. He possesses further experience advising banks as lenders as well as assisting state-owned and private companies as borrowers on acquisition finance and refinancing deals. **Strengths:** *"Ulf Gosejacob has a very pragmatic approach, knows the points that are important to us and is able to assert them without putting the other side off."* *"Ulf Gosejacob is especially good in the mid-cap space and also has particular strength when it comes to direct lending."* *"In negotiations, Ulf Gosejacob convinces with a high level of approachability, a strong hands-on mentality and an extraordinary ability to adapt to different types of negotiation partners. He is a lawyer of invaluable quality for us."*

Experienced practitioner **Clemens Niedner** frequently advises borrowers and lenders on syndicated financing and refinancings. He regularly acts for national and international banks as well as corporates from the real estate

and energy sectors. **Strengths:** *"Clemens Niedner is a very smart person who has deep knowledge of all corporate lending topics and is flexible in providing support to both borrowers and lenders."* *"He has a client-oriented approach, is pragmatic and can find good compromises especially with mid-market actors."* **Sabine Schomaker** predominantly advises well-known German banks as lenders on medium-sized corporate finance transactions, covering both syndicated and bilateral structures. She also assists private equity firms and their portfolio companies with refinancings. **Strengths:** *"Sabine Schomaker is highly experienced and knowledgeable and for me it's a no-brainer to mandate her."*

White & Case

What the team is known for The Frankfurt-based banking and finance team at White & Case is recognised for its ability to lead complex, international deals across all major financial markets. The firm covers a broad array of issues ranging from corporate and acquisition finance to project finance and comes recommended for term loan B facilities, particularly with regard to facility amendments. White & Case further benefits from its regulatory expertise, which forms the final pillar of the practice, with the team advising financial services providers on M&A deals, administrative proceedings and digitalisation, as well as AML compliance.

Strengths

"White & Case were really good to work with. It particularly struck me that any person you asked, they always had the right answer, they delivered what they promised, and they knew when it wasn't necessary to involve us and take care of something on their own."

"The team is very international and is characterised by high levels of competency, client orientation, and good ideas to achieve its goals."

"They are able to provide very high-quality 360-degree assistance. Their presence worldwide helps when transactions involve multiple jurisdictions: you only need to engage one law firm and you'll get your lead team and the local teams speaking the same language and meeting the same quality standard."

"White & Case has an experienced team across seniority levels, reacts quickly and provides very solid analyses and very good briefs."

Work highlights White & Case advised Delivery Hero on a Term Loan B comprising one USD825 million and one EUR300 million credit facility as well as a new EUR425 million revolving credit facility.

Notable practitioners

Qualified in England and Wales as well as Ontario, **Vanessa Schürmann** is well equipped to handle cross-border matters for national as well as international clients from the lender and borrower sides. Her expertise includes acquisition finance and refinancing transactions, with a focus on term loan B and revolving credit facilities as well as amendments to existing structures. **Andreas Lischka** enters the rankings as up and coming due to strong market feedback and his leading role on big-ticket financings for high-profile clients. He advises DAX-listed corporate borrowers

as well as private equity investors and bank lenders. **Strengths:** *"We especially value about Andreas Lischka that he knows what the important questions in a deal are, which points to accept, and which ones are worth pushing back on and fighting for." "Andreas Lischka does a good job and is very committed." "He has substantially increased his visibility on larger deals and should be listed among the top practitioners in the market."*

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher is recognised for its expertise in a variety of banking and finance issues, with a particular focus on acquisition finance transactions. The law firm further assists with restructurings of existing facilities and frequently draws on its large international network to handle cross-border matters. The team's clientele consists of medium-sized and large private equity firms, which the firm assists with banking matters in close cooperation with its private equity team. Willkie Farr & Gallagher has an additional focus on acting for debt funds as well as banks lending in the mid-cap space.

Strengths

"The team consists of experienced lawyers, providing holistic advice and using the entire Willkie network to deliver the best client outcomes."

"One of the key differentiators for Willkie is that its lawyers are very responsive, always friendly and helpful, providing outstanding service levels."

"Willkie demonstrated a consistent ability to simplify complex problems and clarify proposed solutions."

Work highlights Willkie Farr & Gallagher assisted Investec Bank with the financing it provided for a number of investments by Bregal, including the acquisition of SEMA.

Notable practitioners

Jasmin Dettmar demonstrates a particular focus on mid-cap acquisition finance transactions as well as add-on financings. She regularly advises alternative lenders, asset managers and private equity investors. **Strengths:** *"Jasmin Dettmar is one of the best lawyers I've worked with: she is very much on-point, doesn't take too long, and she gives me proper advice rather than wishy-washy statements, meaning she is quite good and firm and knows what she is talking about." "When working with Jasmin Dettmar, I always get rapid responses, efficient diagnoses and commercial solutions to complex transactions." "Jasmin Dettmar is a leading lawyer in the German leveraged finance and direct lending space and provides outstanding client service and knowledge. It is an absolute pleasure to work with her and her team and she has the best interest of her clients at heart."* **Jan Wilms** is acknowledged for his expertise in the refinancing of existing facilities as well as new loan arrangements and investment financing.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Max Birke of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP enters the rankings as an experienced and recognised practitioner, who advises well-known financial investors and corporate borrowers on complex financing transactions. As an important member

of his law firm's far-reaching global network, Max Birke is frequently active on multi-jurisdictional deals, including M&A financings and asset-based revolving credit facilities.

Strengths:

"Max Birke is a trusted party for us in Germany who already knows many of the counterparties in that market and thus gets things done efficiently."

"Max Birke is incredibly detail-oriented and has the ability to penetrate complex issues and creatively draft in a solution-oriented way."

"We highly value that he doesn't just implement simple demands but is a true adviser who also takes the lead in negotiations."

Nadine Bourgeois of Addleshaw Goddard LLP enters the rankings thanks to very strong client feedback and high levels of activity on financings for well-known clients in the lower-mid and mid-market segments. She regularly advises lenders and borrowers on syndicated and bilateral facilities as part of corporate and real estate financing transactions.

Strengths:

"Nadine Bourgeois has built a strong reputation for handling finance matters in a proactive and pragmatic manner."

"Nadine Bourgeois is hard-working, very responsive, always available, able to handle a huge workload, very client-oriented and she pays attention to the details. You feel quite safe when being advised by her, even in tough situations."

"With Nadine Bourgeois we get legally well-founded and at the same time pragmatic advice. She doesn't get hung up in nitty-gritty details but sees the big picture, puts it into perspective and provides us with an excellent service."

Wolfram Distler (see p.1486) of DLA Piper LLP is a known and highly active practitioner in the market. He advises corporate borrowers, bank lenders and financial investors on a number of transactions, including acquisition financing, corporate loans, joint venture financing as well as project financing.

Strengths:

"Wolfram Distler has a high level of expertise, is client-oriented and quick to respond."

"He is very efficient and good when it comes to negotiations."

Bernd Egbers of Astera Legal is a well-known practitioner who is an experienced adviser to borrowers and lenders, including leading banks, debt funds and startups. His expertise includes LBOs and acquisition financing, refinancings and corporate loans.

Strengths:

"Bernd Egbers is very client-oriented and has very good problem-solving abilities."

"Bernd Egbers's vast experience and commercial nature contribute to pragmatic agreements and efficient transactions."

"He provides a very balanced view and up-to-date commercial knowledge."

Thomas Freund of Eversheds Sutherland enters the rankings thanks to receiving very strong client feedback and showcasing convincing work highlights. He is a sought-after adviser to clients in the mid-market segment, where he assists with leveraged and acquisition finance transactions as well as syndicated corporate loans.

Strengths:

"Thomas Freund is an experienced and pragmatic lawyer."

"He provides high-quality service and demonstrates very strong commercial vision."

Isabell Hitzer of Astera Legal enters the rankings due to an increased profile on leading mid-cap transactions in the market and excellent client feedback. She advises banks, direct lenders and sponsors and is particularly active on acquisition finance transactions.

Strengths:

"Isabell Hitzer is a very good and commercial lawyer, with high availability and good seniority."

"What I particularly value about Isabell Hitzer is that she shows a lot of initiative and works in a proactive and independent manner."

"Isabell Hitzer negotiates very well."

"She has a commercial approach and a lot of experience."

Johannes Kremer (see p.1488) of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom regularly advises on large-cap loans and acquisition finance deals. He is particularly experienced in handling cross-border issues, where he cooperates closely with his law firm's various offices. Johannes Kremer also assists with *Schuldschein* transactions.

Anselm Lenhard of GLNS enters the rankings on the back of high activity levels on sophisticated finance transactions. He is particularly experienced in the leveraged finance space while also advising mid-market borrowers on corporate loans and refinancings.

Strengths:

"Anselm Lenhard is a strong, commercial lawyer. With him you get high service levels and immediate access to a senior person who owns his work."

Frank Schäfer of Sernetz Schäfer Rechtsanwälte is recognised for his expertise in regulatory banking law as well as capital markets investments and regulation. Frank Schäfer is also a frequent contributor to academic journals and books, drawing on his experience as a professor at the Ruhr-University Bochum.

Christoph Schauenburg of Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is an experienced finance lawyer in the mid-market space. He advises banks on leveraged finance transactions and on corporate loans to SMEs. He also acts on the borrower side, including for start-ups on venture debt financings.

Strengths:

"Christoph Schauenburg is really pragmatic, able to think outside the box, and is very hands-on and reactive."

"We really value Christoph Schauenburg's understanding of the legal market and the financial industry. Whatever you ask him, you can trust that he can do it and whatever he tells you, you can trust that he is right. He is a very smart and knowledgeable person and also very reasonable in terms of invoicing."

"Christoph Schauenburg is one of the leading lawyers in Germany regarding LBO financing transactions."

Sebastian Schoon (see p.1490) of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP enters the rankings due to excellent client feedback and high levels of activity on transactions for banks, sponsors and portfolio

companies. He is particularly focused on LBOs and real estate finance.

Strengths:

"We felt very well represented by Sebastian Schoon. Both the negotiation side and the pragmatism were very good."

"Sebastian Schoon is a highly regarded lawyer with a very strong understanding of the German mid-market debt financing market."

Foreign Experts

Admitted to practice in New York, Germany and England and Wales, **Sebastian Kaufmann** of King & Spalding LLP is a top choice for the US branches of German banks seeking advice on mid and large-cap real estate financings and other projects in the US. He operates from Frankfurt and New York.

Frankfurt-based **Riko Vanezis** of Watson Farley

& Williams is recognised for his expertise in international finance mandates, with a particular focus on advising lenders on projects in Turkey, including renewable energy plants and motorways. **Riko Vanezis** is English-law qualified.

Strengths:

"Riko Vanezis is a seasoned finance lawyer active on a lot of export credit agency work."

Capital Markets

Capital Markets: Derivatives
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Benzler Marc <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Band 2
Fried Jörg <i>Linklaters*</i>
Scholl Patrick <i>Mayer Brown LLP*</i>
Seitz Jochen <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Storck Christian <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 3
Evenkamp Gregor <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Krauss Stefan <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Krug Tobias <i>Ashurst</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy showcases a solid practice with comprehensive coverage across the capital markets spectrum. The law firm's DCM team is particularly known for its high-yield offering, while also advising on debt issuance programmes and topical issues such as green bonds and crypto ETNs. The department is furthermore respected for its expertise in ECM mandates, acting for corporates and underwriters on capital increases, share placements and convertibles deals. Clients also benefit from the law firm's strength in structured finance matters, which span from complex synthetic securitisations to regulatory work pertaining to issuance platforms and structured products. Its international network renders Allen & Overy a strong choice for clients seeking cross-border assistance.

Strengths

"Allen & Overy has deep insights in debt financing matters, offering strong commercial awareness and very strong service levels."

"The team solved complex issues with great expertise and commitment."

"Partners and senior associates were easily accessible, providing very fast response times and a top service."

Capital Markets: Debt
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hengeler Mueller
Linklaters
Band 2
Clifford Chance
Latham & Watkins LLP
White & Case
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Gleiss Lutz
Norton Rose Fulbright
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

Capital Markets: Debt
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Gleske Christoph <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Maerker Sebastian <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Malaun Rüdiger <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Waltz Peter <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 2
Enderstein Christoph <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Wöckener Karsten <i>White & Case</i>
Band 3
Dreher Oliver <i>Dentons</i>
Plepelits Marc <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Schlee Alexander <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 4
Biedermann Felix <i>Simmons & Simmons LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Birke Kai <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Bliesener Dirk <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Emory Rebecca <i>White & Case</i>
Seitz Jochen <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Wagner Gernot <i>White & Case</i>

"The Allen & Overy team offers a high level of expertise and tailor-made work results."

"The team are able to put themselves in the client's shoes and are open to commercial considerations."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised a consortium of banks including Goldman Sachs Bank Europe on the European Investment Bank's issuance of Luxembourg law-governed dematerialised bonds, which are issued and held via a blockchain-based platform under German law.

Notable practitioners

Stefan Henkelmann (see p.1487) advises on

Capital Markets: Equity
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hengeler Mueller
Latham & Watkins LLP
Linklaters
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 2
Clifford Chance
Band 3
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
White & Case
Band 4
Allen & Overy LLP
Ashurst
CMS
Gleiss Lutz
Noerr
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

cross-border securitisations and covered bond programmes, as well as the development of lending and securitisation platforms. He often acts for asset managers and financial institutions. **Knut Sauer** (see p.1490) heads the German equity capital markets team at Allen & Overy. He enters the rankings based on positive feedback and high levels of activity on sophisticated transactions. His experience includes advising on share placements, convertible bond transactions and capital raises with subscription rights. Sauer acts for corporate issuers and underwriting banks as well as IPO investors. **Strengths:** *"Knut Sauer provides top client service and very strong commercial awareness."* *"It was a pleasant experience working with Knut Sauer."* London-based practitioner **Matthias Baudisch** (see p.1486) is well placed to assist underwriters with cross-border DCM mandates involving the UK and Germany, with a particular strength in high-yield bonds. **Strengths:** *"Matthias Baudisch is a smart lawyer who is especially knowledgeable about the German market."* **Marc Plepelits** (see p.1489) is particularly active on DCM mandates, including high-value bond issuances, and is especially noted for his expertise in high-yield transactions. Admitted to the

Capital Markets: Equity
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Berrar Carsten <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Band 1
Gleske Christoph <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Hutter Stephan <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom*</i>
Seiler Oliver <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
van Aerssen Rick <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Band 2
Carbonare Marco <i>Linklaters*</i>
Czerniecki Krystian <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Hacket George <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Rang Alexander <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Schlitt Michael <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Band 3
Ernst Reinhold <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Rechberger Clemens <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Schlee Alexander <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 4
Aubel Stephan <i>Glücks Lutz</i>
Busch Dirk <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Emory Rebecca <i>White & Case</i>
Gillissen Benedikt <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Klöckner Philipp <i>Milbank LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Maass Roland <i>DLA Piper LLP (ORL) ◇*</i>
Melzer Philipp <i>CMS</i>
Rath David <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Sauer Knut <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Schulze De la Cruz Julian <i>Noerr</i>
von Oppen Matthias <i>Ashurst</i>
Weiss Simon <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP</i>
Wieneke Laurenz <i>Noerr</i>
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

New York Bar and as the head of Allen & Overy's US corporate finance team in Germany, he complements this offering with particular strength in cross-border mandates connected to the US. He is additionally versed in matters relating to Austria, where he also attained his master juris. **Strengths:** "Marc Plepelits has been providing US-related advice, including on complex structures, for decades." "Marc Plepelits is a trusted adviser for debt capital markets matters."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is recognised for its capabilities in a variety of structured finance matters. The department evidences particular prowess in handling securitisations of auto loan receivables, acting for trading platforms as well as national and international financial institutions. The team also advises on the issuance of secured bearer bonds and on regulatory issues pertaining to base prospectuses under EU regulation. Ashurst's established ECM practice is particularly sought after for mid-cap transactions and offers experience in IPOs, share placements and capital increases. Banks as well as corporate clients benefit from the law firm's global network across key jurisdictions, particularly in Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Strengths

"Ashurst offers good delivery to budget, easy access to cross-border advice, fair fees, a high level of service and a very good understanding of banks'

Capital Markets: Structured Finance
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clifford Chance
Linklaters
Band 2
Hengeler Mueller
White & Case
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Ashurst
Baker McKenzie
Dentons
Jones Day
Mayer Brown LLP
Band 4
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Krauss Stefan <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Kronat Oliver <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Band 2
Geiger Martin <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Helms Dietmar <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Heuer Dennis <i>White & Case</i>
Klüwer Arne <i>Dentons</i>
Lauer Barbara <i>Linklaters*</i>
Band 3
Brandt Sven <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Kreppel Ulf <i>Jones Day</i>
Band 4
Eggert Matthias <i>Dentons</i>
Helmke Robin <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Henkelmann Stefan <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Kaiser Martin <i>Ashurst</i>
Rinne Burkhard <i>Linklaters*</i>
Schaepersmann Kerstin <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Wittinghofer Sandra <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Deusch Hannes <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Heckt-Harbeck Jödis <i>Linklaters*</i>

needs."

"The entrepreneurial penetration of issues and the related commercial advice is certainly one of the strengths of this law firm."

"They know their job and thus have an excellent ability to budget a transaction and stay within such budget - Ashurst provides the perfect package for small or mid-cap transactions."

"Ashurst's service couldn't be better: they offer client orientation at the highest level."

Work highlights Ashurst advised Vulcan Energy Resources on a EUR50 million capital increase and equity investment by Stellantis.

Notable practitioners

With his work at the intersection of structured finance, derivatives and DCM, **Tobias Krug** is well placed to assist with a variety of mandates, including large-scale European issuance and offering programmes as well as bundled rolling stock financing and secured bearer bonds. **Strengths:** "I particularly appreciate Tobias Krug's negotiation skills, also in difficult situations. He really stands out for approaching negotiations with a lot of experience as well as a very pleasant style, solving the topics, finding solutions and getting very good results for us." "Tobias Krug is very strong all round, including in his service levels and

Foreign Desks (Based Abroad) Capital Markets
German expertise based in countries listed below
Luxembourg GSK Stockmann SA

Foreign Experts Capital Markets
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
Austria Hacket George <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Austria Hutter Stephan <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher*</i>
Austria Plepelits Marc <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Austria Waltz Peter <i>Linklaters*</i>
Austria Wöckener Karsten <i>White & Case</i>
Switzerland Carbonare Marco <i>Linklaters*</i>
USA Czerniecki Krystian <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
USA Emory Rebecca <i>White & Case</i>
USA Hacket George <i>Clifford Chance</i>
USA Hutter Stephan <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher*</i>
USA Marx Joseph <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP</i>
USA Plepelits Marc <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
USA Wagner Gernot <i>White & Case</i>
German expertise based in countries listed below
Luxembourg Heinzmann Andreas <i>GSK Stockmann SA</i>
Luxembourg Mößner Philipp <i>GSK Stockmann SA</i>
UK Baudisch Matthias G <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
UK Bohr Bernd <i>Mayer Brown International LLP*</i>
UK Bono Simone <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
USA Hekmat Sina R. <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP</i>

commercial awareness." **Martin Kaiser** is appreciated for his expertise in structured finance mandates, including auto and consumer loan receivables securitisations and the update of conduit programmes. **Strengths:** "I found Martin Kaiser really good: he delivered spot-on work on a complex international deal." **Matthias von Oppen** is an experienced practitioner who regularly advises on a broad range of ECM mandates, from capital increases and share placements to IPOs. He often assists prominent underwriters and deal agents. **Strengths:** "Matthias von Oppen is very calm and diligent, a very approachable and reachable lawyer and a good team player." "He is always approachable for sound advice and very good commercial judgement." "Matthias von Oppen provides competent and cost-effective advice at the highest level." "He is very helpful, solution-oriented, patient, pushing where he needs to but also doing extra rounds if needed."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for A robust international law firm, Baker McKenzie is appreciated by clients for its expertise in all matters related to securitisation. The department regularly advises originators and lead managers on auto loan and trade receivables transactions and the structuring of new finance products. Additionally, the team offers expertise in regulatory and fintech issues, and regularly draws on its excellent international network to enable the effective handling of cross-border matters.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie approaches complex matters with pragmatic solutions."

"Baker McKenzie is particularly well positioned to

advise on cross-border topics.”

“The team offers good response times and is always accessible for conversations.”

Notable practitioners

Sandra Wittinghofer regularly handles securitisations, advising on auto loan, trade and lease receivables, including multi-compartment transactions. She is experienced in advising domestic as well as global banks and corporates. **Strengths:** “Sandra Wittinghofer is pleasant to deal with and always approachable, providing accurate and legally sound advice while also focusing on commercial factors and pragmatism.” “Sandra Wittinghofer is someone we like to turn to who is active in the market.”

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance boasts an extremely well-resourced team covering the full gamut of international capital markets matters. The law firm has a formidable presence in structured finance, enjoying a vast deal flow in securitisations, with further coverage of NPL trades and regulatory aspects pertaining to investment platforms. The Frankfurt office furthermore acts for an impressive collection of underwriters and bank issuers on DCM matters, including debt issuance programmes as well as the issuing of green bonds, sovereign bonds and bank bonds. Additionally, clients regularly seek the law firm’s advice regarding IPOs, capital increases and rights offerings. Its excellent client base, which consists primarily of major international banks and corporates across various industries, serves as further evidence of the firm’s strong market position.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance are very reliable, and have a good commercial approach and the knowledge and information to help us.”

“The lawyers were continually responsive and very helpful in structuring solutions.”

“The team has the necessary depth to provide good and practical advice and to execute on transactions.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised a syndicate of international banks, including BofA Securities, Banco Santander, Barclays and Deutsche Bank, on the more than EUR9 billion IPO of Porsche on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Marc Benzler is held in high esteem for his long-standing expertise in the German and European financial regulatory and derivatives world. He is regularly mandated on matters pertaining to industry master agreements and clearing documentation. Leading practitioner **Oliver Kronat** is highly visible in the structured finance world. He is revered for his strength in handling synthetic, trade receivables and RMBS as well as CMBS and expectancy rights securitisations. The set-up of alternative investment structures also falls within his remit. **Strengths:** “Oliver Kronat was able to advise on our more complex and challenging projects.” “Oliver Kronat was great. He knew the issues, brought in other experts where necessary, and did a good job of understanding and meeting our goals.”

Sebastian Maerker is widely considered one of Germany’s top DCM experts, often advising on

large-scale bond issuances, including sustainability-linked and green bonds, MREL notes and AT1 instruments as well as sovereign bonds. He also convinces with his excellence in setting up and updating debt issuance programmes across Germany and beyond. He is a sought-after adviser to an impressive list of German and international banks. **Strengths:** “Sebastian Maerker is very pragmatic and hands-on. He finds good solutions and helps us quickly.” **Gregor Evenkamp** is trusted by clients for his expertise in regulatory and derivatives issues and a focus on alternative investment structures, including the launch of investment platforms and the structuring of cleared notes. **Kerstin Schaeepersmann** is experienced in assisting with synthetic, RMBS and expectancy rights securitisations, with further expertise in the arrangement of new capital streams and loan-on-loan facilities. **Hannes Deusch** assists with a range of structured finance mandates, including trade receivables and the set-up of alternative investment structures and platforms. **Strengths:** “Hannes Deusch has been very supportive and has excellent knowledge of different financing products.” US-qualified practitioner **George Hacket** of Clifford Chance LLP is appreciated for his strength in the ECM space. He regularly advises on prominent IPOs, capital increases and de-SPACs, acting for issuers and bookrunners. He additionally assists with US Rule 144A offerings and is also sought after for his expertise in cross-border mandates involving Austria. **Strengths:** “George Hacket is excellent in handling challenging IPOs, driving processes very effectively and ensuring banks get the required comfort while completing the transaction on time.” “I really love working with George Hacket, who is a great lawyer and thinker. He is one of the leading lawyers in German-speaking countries.” “George Hacket is known to be very good in his field, with a very good and hands-on mentality.”

CMS

What the team is known for CMS is noted for its expertise in ECM transactions, assisting with rights offering and IPOs as well as scrip dividend issues. Additionally, clients mandate the law firm due to its expertise in private placements and Pfandbrief transactions. The team around Philipp Melzer typically acts for German mid-market companies and underwriting banks, while also advising board members of large corporations on their high-profile IPOs. Its vast pan-European network facilitates the handling of cross-border mandates.

Strengths

“We experienced CMS as a law firm with very strong commercial awareness, focusing on important issues rather than creating billable hours, while maintaining the necessary diligence at all times.”

“CMS have great expertise in capital markets law and also deal with complex, demanding problems well.”

Work highlights CMS acted as transaction counsel advising Clearwise on its EUR25 million capital increase via rights offering while also advising the sole global coordinator, Warburg Bank.

Notable practitioners

Underwriters and issuers mandate **Philipp Melzer** for his expertise in IPOs, private placements and base prospectus updates. **Strengths:** “Philipp Melzer is one of the best lawyers I’ve worked with. He is a great team player who provides in-depth knowledge and a client-oriented approach. He is reachable anytime if necessary, as well as prudent and calm under pressure.” “He has very good industry expertise and always remains calm and deliberate, even in difficult situations.”

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons offers a strong practice with particular recognition for its structured finance work. The team regularly advises a diverse clientele of German and international financial institutions on securitisation matters including ABCP programmes as well as trade and lease receivables transactions. With its strong regulatory capabilities, the team is well equipped to advise on complex investment structuring and novel financing platforms. Thanks to its international network of offices, Dentons is well placed to advise on multi-jurisdictional mandates.

Strengths

“Dentons offers a solution-oriented approach and very good availability also on short notice.”

“The team provided us with high-quality legal advice on complex transaction structures involving various foreign jurisdictions.”

“Dentons swiftly understood the problems and actively proposed ways to solve them.”

“The team ensured fast reaction times and a reliable delivery.”

Work highlights Dentons advised HSBC Bank USA on the German-law aspects of a trade receivables securitisation deal involving a US-headquartered corporate.

Notable practitioners

As the head of Dentons’ European structured finance practice, **Arne Klüwer** is praised for his experience in a broad array of matters, including the setting up of ABCP programmes, lease and trade receivables transactions, updates on ISDA arrangements and STS compliance. **Strengths:** “I especially value about Arne Klüwer that he provides proactive suggestions and is actively engaged in not just the legal questions but also in optimising the structures. He ensures a good and clearly formulated documentation and that the transaction is manageable, which makes the cooperation with him very pleasant for us.” “Arne Klüwer stands out because I can use him for complex matters and as a sparring partner when I need to talk about specific legal details.” **Oliver Dreher** remains a trusted adviser due to his longstanding coverage of the DCM market. He has a strong focus on promissory note transactions, including ESG-linked Schuld-schein placements, while also advising on CP and MTN programmes. **Strengths:** “We particularly appreciate that Oliver Dreher provides tailor-made and client-oriented solutions.” “Oliver Dreher is a very good partner with well-founded knowledge. If something gets really complex and challenging in DCM, he is the one I’ll call. If you have something that is hard to solve and you need someone with fresh ideas, he will always find a very good solution to non-standard issues.” “It’s a real pleasure to work with Oliver Dreher: He is calm, proficient, trust-

worthy, supportive and always available to provide explanations and additional details." "He takes the time to explain all complex topics in a simple way."

Matthias Eggert advises on an array of structured finance mandates with a focus on supply chain finance programmes. He also assists with the setting up of trading platforms and frequently advises investors.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer offers exceptional strength across a broad capital markets spectrum. The law firm boasts an enviable client base comprising prestigious corporates and financial institutions. The ECM practice enjoys a regular flow of high-profile mandates, advising on cross-border IPOs, dual-track transactions and capital increases. The law firm exhibits further strength in the areas of accelerated bookbuilding and rights issues. The DCM team handles high-value bond issuances, including high-yield, AT1 notes and hybrid products as well as updates and issuances under note programmes. Clients benefit from the department's considerable experience in cross-border mandates involving Europe, North America and Asia.

Strengths

"Freshfields has experts in all questions we have, who are always very good in providing solutions and advice."

"We've been very happy with their work and advice and have appreciated their proactive approach."

"The team always provides very fast and targeted answers."

"The team's performance is always very good, and invoices are within the range of what was previously agreed."

"The lawyers speak with one voice and share knowledge internally really well."

Work highlights Freshfields advised the banks, including JP Morgan, Berenberg and BNP Paribas, with regard to the IPO of IONOS on the regulated market of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Excellent practitioner **Christoph Gleske** remains a towering figure in both the DCM and ECM worlds. He is highly visible on large-scale note issuances, including AT1 and green bonds, as well as EMTNs and other debt issuance programmes. His further strength lies in acting for well-known manufacturing and telecommunications companies on capital increases as well as advising corporate clients or underwriting banks on IPOs.

Strengths: "Christoph Gleske is the number one lawyer for AT1 instruments and banking capital." "He is a good adviser who is pleasant to work with and commercially very strong." "Christoph Gleske always provides excellent advice in a respectful and pleasant manner." Acting for underwriters and issuers alike, managing partner **Rick van Aerssen** is held in high esteem for his excellent expertise in high-profile ECM mandates including prominent IPOs, capital increases and rights offerings. Clients also benefit from his expertise in convertible bonds. **Robin Helmke** enters the rankings on the back of positive market feedback and an active practice with sophisticated mandates. He regularly advises on securitisation and receivables

transactions. His expertise also covers ABCP and factoring programmes. **Strengths:** "Robin Helmke is a great securitisation lawyer who has experience in large and high-profile deals." "He has a good market overview and profound knowledge, and is able to speak the same language as the client and bring transactions closer to the finish line." "I particularly appreciate his proactiveness and how he tackles potential issues." US and Swiss-qualified practitioner **Simone Bono** is London-based and well respected for her expertise in cross-border mandates involving Germany. She is well versed in handling ECM and DCM-related matters for German corporates or underwriters, ranging from IPOs and capital increases to high-yield bond and senior note issuances. Bono is particularly well positioned to advise on US aspects pertaining to transactions in Germany and vice versa.

Gleiss Lutz

What the team is known for Gleiss Lutz possesses a dedicated DCM and ECM department across its offices. The ECM team predominantly advises issuers and supervisory boards on IPOs, enjoying longstanding client relationships with an array of German corporates. Additionally, the law firm handles capital increases, rights offerings and delistings. The DCM team is highly active on cross-border high-yield bond issuances and Schuldschein transactions as well as debt and capital measures in restructuring mandates. Gleiss Lutz also assists with convertible bond transactions.

Strengths

"Gleiss Lutz has a strong bench, thus availability of qualified resources is always a given."

"We always receive feedback quickly and are satisfied with the rates and services Gleiss Lutz provides."

"The Gleiss Lutz team is of the highest calibre: the lawyers consistently provide pragmatic, actionable advice on complex matters and are a highly trusted resource for navigating difficult situations."

"They never shy away from taking on complicated questions and have shown the ability to find creative solutions to facilitate our company's pursuit of its business objectives."

"They have a great team on the ground in Germany, and are well connected in other jurisdictions and fun to work with."

Work highlights Gleiss Lutz advised SLM Solutions on a 10% capital increase and its public takeover by Nikon.

Notable practitioners

Stephan Aubel focuses on ECM mandates, often in connection with public takeovers. He regularly assists with the planning and execution of IPOs, capital increases and delistings. Convertible bonds also fall within his area of expertise.

Strengths: "Stephan Aubel is always reachable and provides highly skilled, hands-on advice." "Stephan Aubel is my most trusted adviser on all German corporate and capital markets matters. He is one of the most pragmatic lawyers I have worked with, and is unfailingly pleasant and professional, even under extreme time pressure. I cannot overstate Stephan's value to me as in-house counsel." "He is a senior partner and very experienced capital markets lawyer who is very involved in our matters

and gets back to us quickly whenever we have a question." Thanks to his expertise in the DCM world, banking consortiums and issuers alike mandate **Kai Birke** for high-yield bond issuances as well as the restructuring and refinancings of bonds. He is also experienced in transactions involving convertibles and Schuldschein issuances. **Strengths:** "Kai Birke is a very good and commercial lawyer who is very constructive and gets things done." "Kai Birke is a safe pair of hands and technically outstanding on debt issuance and restructuring topics."

GSK Stockmann SA

What the team is known for GSK Stockmann's Luxembourg office houses a team of lawyers who are dual-qualified in Luxembourg and Germany and specialise in all areas of capital markets law. The team regularly handles matters such as regulatory aspects pertaining to lending platforms and fintech-related capital market questions involving the German jurisdiction. The team also has a focus on advising Germany-based corporates and financial institutions on outbound business into Luxembourg.

Notable practitioners

Andreas Heinzmann is admitted to the Bar in Germany and Luxembourg and is regularly involved in cross-border mandates. He is particularly well placed to advise on blockchain-related issues as well as regulatory aspects pertaining to lending platforms. **Strengths:** "Andreas Heinzmann was able to solve really complex and non-conventional transactions perfectly." **Philipp Mößner** is a dual German- and Luxembourg-qualified practitioner who advises clients on capital markets deals in both jurisdictions. He also assists with M&A-related transactions, working at the intersection of capital markets and corporate law.

Hengeler Mueller

What the team is known for Hengeler Mueller boasts an outstanding capital markets practice, top-ranked in equity and debt alike. The DCM team covers a broad range of mandates with a focus on strategically important matters. Acting for banks, public entities and corporate issuers, its expertise includes green bonds, debt issuance programmes and high-yield bonds. The law firm's ECM team is very active on high-profile IPOs and capital increases, with further expertise in dual-track processes, where the firm can draw on its extensive experience in M&A projects. Furthermore, Hengeler Mueller is also highly recognised in the structured finance space, showing prowess in handling large securitisation transactions, and assisting with a broad range of instruments, such as lease and loan receivables. Its clientele of blue-chip corporates and leading financial institutions further evidences the law firm's dominant market position.

Strengths

"Hengeler Mueller provides quick and to-the-point advice and fast response times with a proactive approach."

"Our commercial interests are always taken into account. The team's awareness in that regard is very strong."

"The team are very reliable, very diligent and always

in time when it comes to complex questions despite challenging time schedules.”

“The lawyers immediately understand what is important in complex matters.”

“We worked intensively with Hengeler Mueller and were very happy with the result and service. They are beyond any doubt on the technical side of things and we felt very well advised. It’s a clear A-plus from us.”

Work highlights Hengeler Mueller advised IONOS on its IPO.

Notable practitioners

Experienced practitioner **Martin Geiger** advises on a broad array of structured finance mandates, from lease and trade receivables securitisations to collateralised financing. He also assists with CMBS transactions. **Strengths:** “Whatever Martin Geiger does is always of super quality.” **Alexander Rang** boasts a broad ECM practice, often advising on prominent IPOs, large-scale capital increases and rights offerings. **Strengths:** “Alexander Rang especially stood out for his communication skills. He always kept us up to date on the right topics and solved issues very pragmatically, simply picking up the phone if something needed to be escalated. He also skilfully mediated between the interests of different parties and is very calm in his way.” With his experience in handling IPOs for German corporates as well as cross-border mergers, **Reinhold Ernst** is well placed to offer holistic advice on ECM deals. **Strengths:** “Reinhold Ernst provides very responsive counsel with great commercial awareness, always on point and taking into account the practical needs of an international company.”

Stefan Krauss is revered for his longstanding expertise as one of Germany’s top structured finance and derivatives experts. He has vast amounts of experience, including in the restructuring of synthetic securities, STS securitisations and structured covered bond programmes. **Strengths:** “We particularly valued Stefan Krauss’s technical skills and his excellent availability.” “I love doing deals with Stefan Krauss, who is such a name in the market, has such strong expertise and is always pleasant and thoughtful.” Already a well-known name in the banking regulatory space, **Dirk Bliesener** enters the capital markets rankings after successfully raising his profile on DCM transactions. He is highly active on big-ticket bond issuances involving DAX companies and prominent German and international banks. Bliesener has experience in high-value deals and novel structures, including sustainability-linked and digital bonds. **Strengths:** “Dirk Bliesener is a great capital markets lawyer who is very strong in his commercial awareness and the sophistication of his work.” With his expertise across IPOs, de-SPACs and capital increases, **Dirk Busch** is well placed to advise clients on complex ECM mandates. He also assists with public M&A transactions. **Strengths:** “Dirk Busch was very reliable and convincing. He listened to our questions and came up with answers and solutions that were always to our full satisfaction in a timely manner.”

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells has strong visibility in structured finance transactions, and is particularly active in the area of auto

loan and leasing securitisation, where the team is regularly mandated by financial institutions and service providers. The department also assists with regulatory issues, including the establishment of financing platforms, as well as derivatives mandates. Additionally, Hogan Lovells is recognised for its expertise in ECM mandates, handling IPOs, capital increases and share placements. Its clientele comprises well-known investment banks, which benefit from the law firm’s international reach.

Strengths

“Hogan Lovells is very good at handling and advising on complex matters, using its full network and resources.”

“Due to their flexible and creative way of thinking, the team helped overcome unforeseen obstacles and solve even unusual matters.”

“Hogan Lovells has a very strong team across multiple offices and jurisdictions.”

“The team’s depth and breadth are very strong; the law firm has lots of specialists for all sorts of topics.”

“Hogan Lovells impressed us with their excellent and proactive handling of the whole transaction, with the partner acting not only as legal adviser but also as sparring partner on how to handle the various workstreams of the transaction.”

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised Bank11 on an STS-compliant auto loan securitisation with a volume of EUR500 million.

Notable practitioners

Dietmar Helms is widely appreciated for his strength in the structured finance world, often advising on complex ABS transactions, STS-compliant lease receivables securitisations and the setting up of financing platforms. **Strengths:** “Dietmar Helms is a wonderful partner who offers good advice on innovative transactions in newly developing areas.” “We’ve had a great partnership with Dietmar Helms, who is very strong in his commercial awareness and service levels.” Prominent international banks often mandate **Michael Schlitt** for his longstanding expertise in ECM mandates, ranging from IPOs and share placements to capital increases. He is also a trusted adviser to German public entities and corporates. **Strengths:** “Michael Schlitt is very experienced, has broad knowledge and is a sophisticated communicator.” “Michael Schlitt provides very high availability as well as solution-oriented work and discussions. He is not only an excellent lawyer but also a great sparring partner.” “He is a very experienced lawyer who is very active in the market.”

Jochen Seitz has a cross-disciplinary practice, assisting with DCM as well as structured finance mandates, including regulatory advice on debt issuance platforms and structured products as well as LIBOR replacement and base prospectus updates. He often acts for leading international banks. This year, he ascends in the derivatives rankings due to convincing market feedback as well as strong work highlights centring on structured products and covered bonds. **Sven Brandt** is a trusted adviser on consumer, lease receivables and portfolio securitisations, and acts for prominent banks and auto insurance and leasing companies. **Strengths:** “Sven Brandt delivers great work: he is always pragmatic, friendly and ensures

quick implementation.” “He manages whole projects smoothly and with very high quality.” New York-based **Sina Hekmat** is a popular choice for German clients seeking counsel for US-focused transactions as well as US clients whose matters have substantial German components. His broad capital markets practice includes advising on EMTN programmes, SEC-registered public offerings, green bond offerings involving US Regulation S, and USD-denominated private placements. Hekmat is admitted to the Bar in several US states and qualified to practise in Germany, Ireland, England and Wales. **Strengths:** “Sina Hekmat is highly competent, has a deep understanding of the market and is very responsive.” “He is very efficient, he knows the market, the parties involved and the process, and he always makes himself available to explain things thoroughly when I don’t understand something or have a question.”

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day has notable expertise in structured finance matters, with a focus on assisting domestic and international financial institutions as lead managers, originators and swap counterparties. The law firm is particularly well equipped to handle the structuring and renewal of securitisation programmes as well as auto loan and trade receivables securitisations. The team is also well versed in regulatory issues and STS compliance and provides advice to ratings agencies. Due to its international network of offices, Jones Day is able to address multi-jurisdictional transactions.

Strengths

“Jones Day’s lawyers are very knowledgeable and experienced.”

“The law firm is very well connected worldwide, so that a large number of legal jurisdictions can be covered internally.”

“Compared to other firms, Jones Day especially stands out for its innovative approach when it comes to novelty issues, including on the technology side. The team is not only completely digitalised but also updates us as clients on recent developments and provides a very good newsletter in that area.”

Work highlights Jones Day advised Volkswagen Bank on the renewal of its EUR12 billion auto loan securitisation programme arranged by Commerzbank.

Notable practitioners

Ulf Kreppel is appreciated by well-known financial institutions for his expertise in auto loan as well as trade and lease receivables securitisations. Clients also seek his advice on the update of ABCP and CMBS programmes as well as on warehouse financings. **Strengths:** “Ulf Kreppel has a hands-on style, so I particularly like to work with him where matters have to be handled in a quick and uncomplicated fashion.” “Ulf Kreppel is a very good, solution-oriented lawyer.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins houses highly regarded DCM and ECM teams, allowing a comprehensive coverage across both market segments. The law firm is renowned for its market-leading expertise in high-yield bond deals under both German and New York law. The team

also assists with Yankee bonds and continues to advise clients on the offering of convertibles and other equity-linked products. The law firm additionally enjoys an impeccable standing in the ECM market. The top-tier practice advises prominent corporates and underwriting banks on cross-border IPOs, capital increases and rights issues. It is also very experienced in handling dual-track M&A and listing mandates. Latham & Watkins' global network renders it a prime choice for international clients.

Strengths

"The team provided reasonable and realistic quotes at the outset, a high commitment to the budget, and very good value for money because of high service levels."

"Latham & Watkins has a good bench of associates besides hands-on partners."

"The team are both extremely knowledgeable and pragmatic."

"They have very good industry knowledge and understanding for commercial issues."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised CHE-PLAPHARM on a EUR550 million investment by Atlantic Park and GIC via a subordinated convertible instrument that will mandatorily convert into ordinary shares.

Notable practitioners

As a leading expert in the DCM world, **Rüdiger Malaun** is praised for his excellence in complex bond issuances, with a particular strength in high-yield and green bonds. He impresses with his prowess in handling New York law-governed senior secured notes under Rule 144A.

Strengths: *"Rüdiger Malaun is the figurehead of Latham's high-yield practice in Germany. He is a star in that area."* Leading practitioner **Oliver Seiler** is widely regarded as one of the top ECM experts in Germany. He is regularly mandated for high-profile IPOs, capital increases and complex dual-track transactions including de-SPAC mergers. **Strengths:** *"Oliver Seiler is a superb German ECM partner. He brings international and local German teams together and ensures consistent standards and that solutions are found."* *"He is incredibly user-friendly, hard-working and rigorous."* *"Oliver Seiler is very experienced, pragmatic and has a high willingness to provide an excellent service."* *"Oliver Seiler provides very strong strategic advice."* **David Rath** is sought after for his expertise in IPOs, dual-track transactions and de-SPACs. He is particularly active advising underwriting consortiums. **Strengths:** *"David Rath offers great balance, judgement, rigour and hard work, and is also incredibly good at finding solutions and leaving no stone unturned."* *"David Rath is a next-generation partner who is highly sophisticated and service-oriented."*

Linklaters

What the team is known for Present across the entire capital markets spectrum, with considerable bench strength, Linklaters is recognised by both clients and peers for its excellence. The law firm regularly advises issuers and bookrunners on a wide ambit of DCM products, with extensive experience in green, convertible and Tier 1 and 2 bonds. It is also experienced in assisting with debt issuance programmes. Its outstanding ECM

team handles high-profile IPOs, rights issues and SPAC deals as well as dual-track transactions in conjunction with its strong M&A team. Clients further benefit from Linklaters' comprehensive structured finance offering, with expertise in both synthetic, auto and consumer loan securitisations, while its derivatives experts can assist with EONIA and IBOR transitions and other regulatory issues. Its prowess in handling fintech matters, including cryptocurrency and securitisation platform mandates, complements the law firm's services.

Strengths

"Linklaters provide swift excellence and seamless teamwork while always being available and responsive."

"Linklaters and its international network are a well-oiled machine with very good resources and high-quality associates."

"We particularly valued the team's project management orientation, especially the availability and the easy, eye-level communication. They guided us very well through all the steps in the process in a well-structured manner and came up with good solutions."

"Linklaters has good communication with the regulator, which is very helpful as it makes for a smooth process and helps you stay within the deadlines."

"The team were very client- and results-focused, and their commercial awareness was top notch."

Work highlights Linklaters acted as lead counsel to Volkswagen and Porsche on the more than EUR9 billion Porsche IPO.

Notable practitioners

Jörg Fried (see p.1487) advises financial institutions and associations on ISDA and German master agreements, netting opinions, DRV-compliant documentation and IBOR benchmark fallbacks. He is additionally known for handling OTC transactions and convinces with his strength in equity and cryptocurrency derivatives mandates.

Barbara La (see p.1488) **uer** (see p.1488) is widely respected for her strength in large-scale ABS transactions and consumer and auto loan receivables securitisations. Clients also appreciate Lauer for her expertise in NPL transactions, loan transfers and repackagings. **Strengths:** *"Barbara Lauer is well known and active in the market."* *"She showed great dedication to the client. It's good to have Barbara Lauer on your side."* *"Barbara Lauer is a super diligent and very able lawyer who doesn't overcomplicate things."* **Christian Storck** (see p.1491) covers a broad array of derivatives, regulatory and structured finance mandates, ranging from cryptocurrency securitisations and ESG derivatives to PISA frameworks and the implementation of EMIR requirements. He also assists with the negotiation of master agreements.

Alexander Sc (see p.1490) **hlee** (see p.1490) regularly assists with large-scale bond issuances, including Tier 1, green and convertible bonds. Clients further benefit from his strength in IPOs and SPAC transactions, making Schlee a strong choice for holistic advice. **Strengths:** *"Alexander Schlee is a trusted adviser on any complex matter, always responsive and very pleasant to work with."* *"Not only did we appreciate the content of Alexander Schlee's advice, but he was also pleasant and fun to work with and brought with him a nice calm to a process that was otherwise marked by a*

lot of pressure and friction." **Burkhard Rinne** (see p.1490) is appreciated for his strength in synthetic securitisations, clearing models and equity derivative transactions. Clients equally seek his advice on contentious matters connected to stock market regulation and shareholder liability. Up-and-coming lawyer **Jördis Heckt-Harbeck** (see p.1487) assists with ABS transactions, consumer and auto loan receivables securitisations, warehouse financings and share repackagings.

Strengths: *"Jördis Heckt-Harbeck is discreet, very knowledgeable and good at defending the position of her client in negotiations while trying to find a consensus with the counterparty in a solution-oriented manner."* **Marco Carbonare** (see p.1486) of Linklaters boasts a strong ECM practice across the DACH region, often advising bookrunners and issuers on IPOs, rights issuances and SPACs. Qualified in New York, England & Wales and Germany, he is a primary contact for clients seeking multi-jurisdictional assistance. Additionally, he is recognised as one of only few Switzerland experts based in Germany, having been involved in numerous IPOs on the Swiss Stock Exchange.

Strengths: *"Marco Carbonare offered great client service and remained available, easy to contact and happy to help even after our transaction was finalised."* *"He provided very good legal advice and guidance."* *"Marco Carbonare was absolutely essential for the success of our transaction."* Outstanding practitioner **Peter Waltz** (see p.1491) of Linklaters is renowned for his DCM expertise. He is highly sought after by prominent bookrunners and issuers for his excellence in convertible, green, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 bond issuances. He additionally stands out for his expertise in cross-border mandates, especially in relation to Austria. **Strengths:** *"We appreciated that Peter Waltz is a very senior partner who does a lot of transactions and has high levels of experience but is still very present and on the calls."* *"Peter Waltz is immediately available and sorts things out. He is clear and on-point in his statements, structured in his approach and can quickly clear things up for us when we struggle with the technicalities."*

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown offers a versatile capital markets practice with a solid footing in the securitisation and derivatives market. The team around Patrick Scholl regularly advises on complex documentation issues under EU prospectus regimes for structured products, initial margin documentation and EMIR requirements. It is also mandated for its experience in OTC transactions and master agreements, further assisting with loan and trade receivables securitisation. Mayer Brown's clientele mostly comprises national and international banks, which benefit from the law firm's global network and capability to effectively handle cross-border mandates.

Notable practitioners

Well-known practitioner **Patrick Scholl** (see p.1490) frequently advises national and international banks on prospectus updates, OTC derivatives and derivative portfolio transfers as well as master agreements. He also assists with the set-up of ECP programmes. London-based practitioner **Bernd Bohr** (see p.1486) often advises

issuers on high-yield bonds and revolving credit facilities involving Germany and the UK. Being admitted to the Bar in New York and in England and Wales as well as Germany renders Bohr an excellent choice for clients seeking multi-jurisdictional support. **Strengths:** “Bernd Bohr is a very strong partner in relation to any high-yield-related questions that we have.” “He is a very talented and dedicated lawyer.”

Noerr

What the team is known for The team at Noerr is highly active in the ECM space advising SMEs and international corporations as well as banks and public entities, with a particular focus on capital increases and IPOs. The law firm is also capable of handling mid-cap convertible bonds as well as assisting with rights issues. Noerr additionally assists with large-scale recapitalisation programmes for companies.

Strengths

“Noerr provided very good accessibility and very fast processing of our matters.”

“The team convinced us with their strong ability to handle complex matters.”

“Noerr demonstrated excellent knowledge levels and outside-the-box thinking, bringing additional know-how to the table whenever necessary.”

“We appreciate the highly professional, friendly and cooperative relationship we have with Noerr. The lawyers are very supportive and always think ahead.”

“We use Noerr because the firm has been reliably advising us for many years. They know our company and the financing instruments very well, and they harmonise and coordinate very well with partner firms abroad.”

Work highlights Noerr assisted TAG Immobilien with a EUR202 million rights issue.

Notable practitioners

Julian Schulze De la Cruz is an ECM specialist who often advises SMEs, large corporates and investors as well as banks on IPOs, capital increases and rights issuances. **Strengths:** “I value his high technical expertise and his quick and well-thought-out answers.” **Laurenz Wieneke** is an experienced ECM practitioner who is regularly involved in advising on capital increases as well as IPOs. Public entities also trust his advice on recapitalisation measures. **Strengths:** “Laurenz Wieneke sees the whole picture and is switched on and reliable.”

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright is well equipped to advise a diverse clientele, including mid-market and high-end corporate issuers and bookrunners, on DCM mandates. The team assists with matters including large multi-jurisdictional debt issuance and commercial paper programmes, bearer bonds, green and social bonds and floating-rate notes. Aided by its international office network, the law firm is well placed to assist with cross-border mandates.

Strengths

“Norton Rose stands out for its client service: I never have to chase anyone and everyone we deal with is highly proactive, and whenever I have a spontaneous question, the lawyers are very open

and available ad hoc.”

“In a very short amount of time, we received very good advice on a complex topic that required market knowledge and experience.”

“The lawyers we worked with have gained our complete trust and we have found them to be responsive on any type of query upon first request and without delay.”

“In spite of changes during the course of the matter, we experienced Norton Rose as fully capable of solving any problems that came up within the given timeline.”

“On every trade we work on with them, they are very dedicated and show a high level of engagement while their documentation is impeccable.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright assisted Deutsche Bank with its first issuance of a panda bond, with a value of CNY1 billion.

Notable practitioners

Christoph Enderstein is widely appreciated for his expertise in DCM mandates, often advising issuers and dealers on debt issuance programmes as well as bond issuances. His experience includes assisting with T2 bonds, panda bonds and ESG-linked transactions. Prominent banks and automotive companies belong to his clientele. **Strengths:** “We like to mandate Christoph Enderstein because of his very profound knowledge and his very detailed and thorough way of working.” “Christoph Enderstein is a trusted partner who has a very good network and stands out for his high-quality and to-the-point advice. He is a well-rounded and seasoned global adviser.” “He is extremely proactive, very diligent and has a fantastic understanding of our needs and the market.”

Benedikt Gillessen is well placed to assist with ECM mandates, ranging from capital increases to rights issues and convertibles transactions, often acting for issuers as well as banks. He is also experienced in delistings connected to public takeovers. **Strengths:** “Based on my experience of mandating him for several deals, Benedikt Gillessen has become my go-to person. He offers very strong service levels, commercial awareness and sophisticated advice.”

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom is known for its long-standing coverage of ECM matters, frequently advising investment banks and issuers on IPOs on domestic and international stock exchanges. The department is particularly acclaimed for its expertise in the US market but equally active on pan-European multi-jurisdictional deals. The team also offers strength in capital increases, private placements and rights offerings as well as convertibles transactions and de-SPACs.

Strengths

“Skadden delivered a very strong performance in a complex and time-sensitive negotiation.”

“We received full access to any expertise we needed while key contact persons stayed involved and on top of things at all times.”

“The team provided very strong and thoughtful advice.”

“Skadden’s team acted very professionally, effectively and responsively. The lawyers always final-

ised tasks in the best and most efficient manner possible.”

“The lawyers are pragmatic and efficient and provide tangible recommendations.”

Work highlights Skadden advised SIGMA Sports United on a convertible bond transaction with a value of EUR300 million.

Notable practitioners

Stephan Hutter (see p.1488) of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates remains a sought-after adviser to prominent bookrunners, global coordinators and issuers, whom he assists with IPOs, convertible bonds and capital increases as well as SPAC mandates. His multi-jurisdictional capabilities, especially concerning the Austrian and US markets, add to his status as a renowned practitioner. He attained his doctor juris in Austria and is admitted to the New York Bar. **Strengths:** “Stephan Hutter is a senior partner who gives us advice on potentially critical issues. He simply has the wealth of experience and the perspective that is necessary for such questions.” “Stephan Hutter is our trusted partner and even gets consulted by our board members. He gives well-thought-out and considered advice and always has the best interest of our company at heart.”

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Widely considered the market leader for ECM, the international law firm Sullivan & Cromwell is regularly involved in highly complex and prestigious equity transactions. Its clientele comprises top-tier issuers and underwriters, including blue-chip companies, successful startups and investment banks. Due to its excellent international network, the law firm offers seamless handling of cross-border transactions, with particular strength in US-related matters, including SPACs, ADSs and SEC-registered deals. The team is highly visible advising on IPOs, capital increases and private placements. Clients also benefit from the law firm’s strength in DCM matters, assisting issuers and underwriters with deals including SEC-registered global note offerings and transactions in accordance with Rule 144A.

Strengths

“Sullivan & Cromwell are extraordinarily good technically, always available, extremely robust and resilient, very precise, and work with full dedication. The lawyers are really excellent and definitively the best advisers we have.”

“The team’s deep commercial understanding is one of their biggest advantages.”

“Even within short calls, Sullivan & Cromwell are able to provide the necessary answers and to provide comfort.”

“The team are well prepared and immersed in the topic, including the lead partner, who is as involved and familiar with the details as if he worked only on our case.”

“The Sullivan & Cromwell team have very strong commercial awareness and think beyond just the legal work. They are very experienced, with a pragmatic approach to finding solutions.”

Work highlights Sullivan & Cromwell advised SMG European Recovery SPAC on the listing of its public shares on the regulated market and the introduction to trading of its public warrants on

the open market of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Star practitioner **Carsten Berrar** remains a towering figure in the ECM world, often advising on many of the most prominent IPOs in the German market and beyond. Clients also benefit from his excellence in SPAC transactions and private placements. **Strengths:** “Carsten Berrar is one of the best and probably the most experienced ECM lawyer for the German market.” “He is just an amazing lawyer who within a five-minute call can give you all you need to know.” “Carsten Berrar is simply the best.” “Carsten Berrar is probably the most prominent figure in ECM in Germany.”

Clemens Rechberger advises on the full spectrum of ECM, covering predominantly SPAC transactions as well as US-based IPOs and private placements. **Strengths:** “Clemens Rechberger provides strong legal advice and is a pleasant person to work with.” As a US-qualified practitioner **Krystian Czerniecki** of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP is well placed to handle cross-border ECM mandates, especially those involving the USA. He regularly handles complex IPOs, SPAC transactions and private placements, including SEC-governed IPOs and Rule 144A placements. **Strengths:** “Krystian Czerniecki is technically super, great at drafting and all over the details.”

White & Case

What the team is known for Covering the entirety of the capital market, White & Case is an attractive choice for clients seeking strong legal advice and cross-border capabilities. Its DCM practice is frequently mandated for strategically important issues, such as advising state entities, bookrunners and energy companies on ESG-related bonds. The team is also well versed in assisting with high-yield bonds and Rule 144A issues. The law firm exhibits further strength in structured finance, advising on cross-border synthetic and NPL securitisations, ABS transactions and loan portfolio investments. White & Case’s holistic offering is completed by its expertise in ECM deals, which includes experience in capital increases and IPOs.

Strengths

“White & Case offers very experienced and hands-on partners, excellent cooperation across offices and talented associates.”

“The team has a high degree of understanding for commercial needs.”

“The client service was exceptional throughout the whole mandate, with very responsive partners and associates alike.”

“The team provided excellent knowledge, a highly efficient way of handling the transaction and smart ideas to answer challenges.”

“White & Case are very pragmatic, highly available and very hands-on; if you need a quick and high-quality solution, they deliver.”

Work highlights White & Case advised the managers, including BNP Paribas, BofA Securities and Commerzbank, on Vonovia’s issuance of one social bond and one green bond with an aggregate value of EUR1.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Dennis Heuer rises in the rankings on the back of excellent client feedback, strong work highlights and increased market standing. He specialises in international structured finance mandates, including auto loan, NPL and synthetic securitisations. Heuer also advises on asset-backed financings in the mid-market segment. His clientele comprises well-known banks and financial investors as well as corporates and startups.

Strengths: “Dennis Heuer impressed us with his outstanding technical expertise, very high levels of availability, the speed at which he worked, as well as his negotiation skills, which made us feel well represented.” “I would always wholeheartedly recommend Dennis Heuer. He is plausible, can discuss things with flexible solutions and pushes things forward in the transaction.” “I really value Dennis Heuer and have always had excellent experiences with him.” Issuers and lead managers alike appreciate **Rebecca Emory** of White & Case LLP for her strength in handling large-scale bond issuances with a particular focus on high-yield transactions. Clients additionally benefit from her experience in ECM deals, such as rights issues and IPOs. Being admitted to the New York Bar, she is well positioned to advise on mandates involving the USA.

Strengths: “I appreciate not only her extremely deep technical expertise, but the coupled ability to manage complex transactions smoothly.” “What distinguishes Rebecca Emory from competitors is her excellent commercial understanding and her view of the big picture.” “She provides top service and is very experienced and technically skilled.”

Gernot Wagner of White & Case LLP is known for his expertise in high-yield bond transactions. Clients benefit from his cross-border strength, particularly in relation to the US, where he is admitted to practice in New York. **Strengths:** “With Gernot Wagner, White & Case has a strong position in the high-yield bonds area.” “Gernot Wagner provides a top service and is very experienced and technically skilled.” “I highly recommend Gernot Wagner, who is constructive when dealing with the other side and works to solve problems in a pragmatic way.” **Karsten Wöckener** of White & Case LLP is reputed for his experience in green bond issuances, often advising prominent energy companies, public entities and lead managers. He complements this strong offering with his expertise in sovereign bonds, exchangeable registered notes and Schuldschein transactions. Karsten Wöckener has particular strength in mandates involving Austria. **Strengths:** “I’ve had exclusively positive experiences with Karsten Wöckener, who has a very competent and solution-oriented way of working.” “What stands out about Karsten Wöckener is his well-founded knowledge of both the legal nuances and the market conditions.”

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP enters the rankings after adding a respected and active team to its departments in Germany. The practice offers expertise in IPOs, rights offerings and SPAC transactions. The team

is particularly sought after by German banks as well as international corporates. Due to its international network and US-qualified team members, Willkie Farr & Gallagher is a popular choice for transactions that have a US component.

Strengths

“We are very happy with Willkie because of its interesting platform, its deal flow and experience, and its attractive offering on US-German deals.”

Notable practitioners

ECM specialist **Simon Weiss** regularly advises underwriters, global coordinators and corporates on IPOs, share placements and capital increases.

Strengths: “Simon Weiss is among only a handful of advisers who are simply very good in the area of capital markets and public takeovers. He is a very good and experienced transactional lawyer who is entrepreneurial and solution-oriented.” Frankfurt-based **Joseph Marx** is appreciated for his in-depth expertise in all matters concerning US capital markets law. He is admitted to the Bar in New York, the District of Columbia and Kentucky, which allows him to advise clients holistically on US law-governed capital markets mandates including Rule 144A and Nasdaq listings. He also assists with SPAC transactions. **Strengths:** “Joseph Marx is one of the go-to people in the German market for us for US advice. He is one of the few in Germany who have been here for a long time and advise on US angles of capital markets deals.” “He acts as our lead partner in the ECM area and we really like working with him.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Felix Biedermann of Simmons & Simmons LLP is experienced in handling promissory note and bond issuances as well as programme updates. His clientele is predominantly made up of prominent banks, whom he advises as both underwriters and issuers. He also assists sovereigns and financial investors.

Strengths

“Felix Biedermann is friendly, competent and offers a high level of expertise.”

“He is always available and stands out for his excellent memory; he remembers every deal we have done together.”

“I trust Felix Biedermann and have learned a lot from him.”

Philipp Klöckner of Milbank LLP is appreciated for his prowess in handling complex ECM mandates across the German market. He is visible in prominent IPOs, share listings and private placements, with further strength in de-SPACs.

Clients mandate **Roland Maass** (see p.1488) of DLA Piper LLP for his experience in IPOs, capital increases and public exchange offers of shares. He also assists with SPAC transactions and is often visible on cross-border mandates.

Strengths

“Roland Maass is experienced in IPOs and takeovers and did a very good job for us.”

“His client service and commercial awareness are very strong.”

Competition/European Law

Competition/European Law	Competition/European Law	Competition/European Law
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Schroeder Dirk <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Metzlaff Karsten <i>Noerr</i>	
Gleiss Lutz	Leading Individuals	
Hengeler Mueller	Band 1	Pautke Stephanie <i>Commeo</i>
Band 2	Bach Albrecht <i>Oppenländer Rechtsanwälte</i>	Quack Ulrich <i>WilmerHale</i>
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	Brinker Ingo <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Raible Martin <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Latham & Watkins LLP	Klusmann Martin <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Reher Tim <i>CMS</i>
Linklaters	Mäger Thorsten <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>	Weidenbach Georg <i>Gibson Dunn & Crutcher (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Band 3	Seeliger Daniela <i>Linklaters</i>	Zöttl Johannes <i>Jones Day</i>
Allen & Overy LLP	Band 2	Band 5
Clifford Chance	Besen Marc <i>Clifford Chance</i>	Bahr Christian <i>Fieldfisher (ORL) ◇</i>
Commeo	Bosch Wolfgang <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Bergmann Bettina <i>Bergmann (ORL) ◇</i>
Glade Michel Wirtz	Denzel Ulrich <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Birnstiel Alexander <i>Noerr</i>
Hogan Lovells International LLP	Deselaers Wolfgang <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton</i>	Bodenstein Ines <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Noerr	Grave Carsten <i>Linklaters</i>	Funke Thomas <i>Osborne Clarke Rechtsanwälte (ORL) ◇</i>
Oppenländer Rechtsanwälte	Polley Romina <i>Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</i>	Grafunder René <i>Dentons</i>
Band 4	Rinne Alexander <i>Milbank LLP (ORL) ◇</i>	Hauser Sebastian Max <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Baker McKenzie	Stadler Christoph <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>	Heinz Silke <i>Heinz & Zagrosek Partnerschaft von (ORL) ◇</i>
CMS	Steinle Christian <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Horstkotte Christian <i>Mayer Brown LLP (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Dentons	Westermann Kathrin <i>Noerr</i>	Huttenlauch Anna Blume <i>BLOMSTEIN</i>
Band 5	Wirtz Markus <i>Glade Michel Wirtz</i>	Kahlenberg Harald <i>CMS</i>
Bird & Bird	Band 3	Kamann Hans-Georg <i>WilmerHale</i>
BLOMSTEIN	Ahrens Börries <i>Allen & Overy LLP *</i>	Karbaum Christian <i>Glade Michel Wirtz</i>
BUNTSHECK Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH	Bergmann Helmut <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Klasse Max <i>BLOMSTEIN</i>
Jones Day	Braun Ellen <i>Allen & Overy LLP *</i>	Kredel Nicolas <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH	Hellmann Hans-Joachim <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz</i>	Kübler Johanna <i>Commeo</i>
SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz	Itzen Uta <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Kuhn Tilman <i>White & Case (ORL) ◇</i>
WilmerHale	Karenfort Jörg <i>Dentons</i>	Milde Sarah <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.	Klose Tobias <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Möller Silke <i>Glade Michel Wirtz</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Wagener Dominique S <i>Commeo</i>	Niitväli Evelyn <i>Niitväli Competition Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Band 4	Paul Thomas B. <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
	Bischke Alf-Henrik <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>	Rosenfeld Andreas <i>Redeker Sellner Dahs (ORL) ◇</i>
	Buntscheck Martin <i>BUNTSHECK</i>	Schultze Jörg-Martin <i>Commeo</i>
	Esser Michael <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>	Sura Martin <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
	Holm-Hadulla Moritz <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Wegner Anne <i>Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH</i>
	Karl Matthias <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Wünschmann Christoph <i>Hogan Lovells International</i>
	Linsmeier Petra <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
	Lübbig Thomas <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>	Oest Isabel <i>Commeo</i>
	Ohlhoff Stefan <i>WilmerHale</i>	

Band 1

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields remains one of the standout firms in this area, with the ability to handle both contentious and non-contentious competition law matters. The team frequently acts on the competition and foreign direct investment clearance of high-value mergers, as well as appealing against decisions to prohibit transactions on competition law grounds. The lawyers offer notable expertise in behavioural investigations, representing clients in allegations of abuse of dominance or cartel involvement, and defending them in follow-on damages actions. The firm is a popular choice with clients from the automotive and technology sectors. In addition to its teams in Berlin and Düsseldorf, Freshfields also benefits from having a number of German-qualified lawyers based in its top-tier Brussels office to handle matters before the European Commission and Bundeskartellamt.

Strengths

"Freshfields is the best in the market."

"I have an incredibly positive impression of Freshfields."

"Freshfields sets the industry standards."

"The team has the ability to understand complex arguments and make efficient use of the information."

"The lawyers are very responsive, and give very clear and actionable advice."

Work highlights Freshfields advised Volkswagen on obtaining competition law clearance for a joint venture between its software company CARIAD and Horizon Robotics.

Notable practitioners

Martin Klusmann remains a market-leading individual in Germany, particularly in the field of merger clearance. He is additionally able to handle complex challenges to decisions to prohibit mergers on competition law grounds. He has a strong behavioural practice, representing clients in cartel investigations and defending them in subsequent damages actions. He is particularly popular with clients from the automotive industry. **Strengths:** "He is the best lawyer I have ever met." **Frank Montag** has a well-established reputation as a top Brussels-based competition lawyer. He is best known for his merger control work, having handled notable Phase II investigations on behalf of manufacturers. He offers additional experience in abuse of dominance investigations and appeals against cartel decisions. He is also German law-qualified and is a sought-after adviser to

well-known German companies. **Strengths:** "He has been one of the leading lights for a long time." "He has a perfect overview of what is happening in a case." **Thomas Wessely** attracts particular praise for his activity in significant cross-border transactions in the telecoms sector. Thomas Wessely is based in Brussels and is also qualified to practise in Germany, where his work also includes advising clients on antitrust risks. **Strengths:** "Thomas Wessely is an excellent guy and super easy to work with." "Thomas Wessely provides well-balanced and pragmatic advice not only in merger control but in general competition law aspects." "He is good to work with because he is really adaptive in how he works." Based in the firm's Berlin office, **Helmut Bergmann** often advises clients on merger control mandates. In addition, he represents clients in investigations into possible cartels. **Strengths:** "He is very knowledgeable on multiple European jurisdictions and is thoughtful on tactics." **Uta Itzen** boasts a broad competition law practice, assisting clients with merger clearance filings, behavioural investigations, antitrust compliance and follow-on

Competition/European Law: Litigation
Leading Individuals
Bach Albrecht <i>Oppenländer Rechtsanwälte</i>
Funke Thomas <i>Osborne Clarke Rechtsanwälte (ORL)</i> ◇
Lahme Rüdiger <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart (ORL)</i> ◇
Paul Thomas B. <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Petrascincu Alex <i>Hausfeld Rechtsanwälte LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Quack Ulrich <i>WilmerHale</i>
Richter Ann-Christin <i>Hausfeld Rechtsanwälte (ORL)</i> ◇
Rosenfeld Andreas <i>Redeker Sellner Dahs (ORL)</i> ◇
Schnelle Ulrich <i>Haver & Mailänder (ORL)</i> ◇
Soyez Volker <i>SGP Schneider Geiwitz & Partner (ORL)</i> ◇
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

damages litigation. **Strengths:** “She is very open in communication and gives a good understanding of the risk or areas for justification.” “She is very friendly and easy-going, really fun to work with.” “Uta gave strong and consistent advice and guidance throughout the process.” “She is responsive, gives actionable advice, is open to adapt and has the ability to receive feedback and be there for a dialogue.” Based in Düsseldorf, **Tobias Kloose** acts for clients on merger control filings and foreign direct investment notifications, as well as representing them in follow-on damages claims arising from cartel investigations. Berlin-based **Thomas Lübbig** assists clients with merger clearance notifications and foreign direct investment filings.

Gleiss Lutz

What the team is known for Gleiss Lutz boasts an outstanding competition law practice, offering excellent services in all areas. The firm is widely renowned for its excellence in cartel damages proceedings, often advising prestigious car manufacturers. Additionally, the team is frequently involved in highly complex merger control cases, including merger clearance appeals. The firm further demonstrates prowess in handling abuse of dominance cases and cartel investigations before the Bundeskartellamt, as well as advising on the competition compliance aspects of global cooperation agreements. Gleiss Lutz is very visible in state aid matters, where the firm utilises its strong presence in Brussels to support the team in Germany. It is a popular firm with clients from the technology sector, particularly following the new Section 19a legislation.

Strengths

“The lawyers are pragmatic, well organised, never miss an appointment and meet deadlines without fault. They provide good work and are to the point, very patient and open to addressing things.”

“The individuals at Gleiss Lutz are all brilliant and I would certainly recommend them.”

“The lawyers are very supportive, very much into the details and give a great overview of matters.”

“We appreciate the fast response times and pragmatic approach.”

“We have never worked with lawyers who are better at grasping the complexities of our business.”

Work highlights Gleiss Lutz defended Daimler Truck in damages proceedings following the European Commission's decision to impose fines as a result of its cartel investigation.

Notable practitioners

Ingo Brinker remains a standout competition

Foreign Experts Competition/European Law
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
Ukraine Pustovit Oleksii <i>Linklaters</i>

specialist. He is a particularly popular choice with clients from the technology sector. He often advises on merger clearance filings, as well as representing them in Bundeskartellamt investigations and subsequent appeals. He also has recent experience handling allegations of self-preferencing under Section 19a. **Strengths:** “He is one of the leading lights in German competition matters.” “He is still the top guy, really involved in matters and really great.” **Wolfgang Bosch** offers notable experience in contentious competition matters, including representing clients in appeals against fines for gun-jumping and in damages actions arising from cartel investigations. **Strengths:** “He is intellectually great.” **Ulrich Denzel** is highly regarded for defending clients in antitrust damages actions. In addition he represents clients in behavioural investigations and complaints under Section 19a. **Strengths:** “He has a cooperative spirit.” “I know him well from the litigation side, he is brilliant.” **Ulrich Soltész** is a top lawyer in the state aid field, and as a German-qualified lawyer he regularly represents German companies and public bodies in connection to EC state aid investigations. **Strengths:** “He is very renowned for state aid.” “We are always really happy to work with him for his quality and cooperation.” Well-known practitioner **Christian Steinle** is sought after for his expert advice on competition law, including representing clients in Bundeskartellamt investigations into possible price fixing. **Strengths:** “He is excellent and outstanding.” **Christian von Köckritz** is based in the firm's Brussels office and has notable experience advising clients on Bundeskartellamt investigations into allegations of price fixing and abuse of dominance. In addition, he defends clients in follow-on damages claims. **Strengths:** “He is a smart guy who understands things.” **Moritz Holm-Hadulla** moves up in the rankings on the back of his notable antitrust behavioural work representing clients in investigations into possible cartels and allegations of abuse of dominance. His recent experience includes bringing complaints under the new Section 19a legislation. **Strengths:** “He has always done excellent work for us.” **Matthias Karl** assists clients with the competition compliance aspects of possible collaborations. **Strengths:** “The main qualities are his really outstanding knowledge of the industry and he's always been very careful in understanding our products, which is key in antitrust law. Secondly, he is a really pragmatic adviser.” Head of the firm's competition law department, **Petra Linsmeier** offers experience representing clients in Bundeskartellamt investigations into anti-competitive behaviour, including allegations of abuse of market power. She also advises clients on merger clearance filings. **Strengths:** “She is very supportive, great to work with and very responsive.” Düsseldorf-based **Martin Raible** regularly defends clients in cartel investigations. **Ines Bodenstern** often acts on matters in the technology sector. She assists clients with follow-on damages actions, merger clear-

ance notifications and Bundeskartellamt investigations. **Strengths:** “She is likeable and very good to work with.”

Foreign Experts (Based Abroad) Competition/European Law
German expertise based in countries listed below
Band 1
Belgium Montag Frank <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Belgium Völcker Sven <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Band 2
Belgium Federle Anne <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Belgium Meyring Bernd <i>Linklaters</i>
Belgium Soltész Ulrich <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Belgium Wessely Thomas <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus</i>
Band 3
Belgium Bauer Michael <i>CMS EU Law Office</i>
Belgium Birmanns Stephanie <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt</i>
Belgium Cappellari Silvio <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz</i>
Belgium Murach Jens-Olrik <i>Willkie Farr (ORL)</i> ◇
Belgium Niemeyer Hans-Jörg <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Belgium Röhrig Markus <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Belgium Schmidt Jens Peter <i>Noerr</i>
Belgium von Köckritz Christian <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Belgium Werner Philipp <i>Jones Day</i>

ance notifications and Bundeskartellamt investigations. **Strengths:** “She is likeable and very good to work with.”

Hengeler Mueller

What the team is known for Widely considered one of Germany's top law firms, Hengeler Mueller houses an accomplished competition practice. The team enjoys an incredibly strong reputation for advising on highly complex and cross-border merger control proceedings, including Phase II investigations. Equally, the law firm is held in high esteem for its in-depth ability in handling cartel infringement litigation and follow-on damages claims, often acting for clients from the automotive and energy sectors. Hengeler Mueller is also increasingly present in the digital arena. Clients further benefit from its excellent state aid and abuse of dominance expertise. With its extensive office network in Germany and Brussels, Hengeler Mueller caters to a prestigious and often internationally active clientele.

Strengths

“It is a top-notch firm in Germany.”

“The lawyers have a profound knowledge about legal as well as economic questions.”

“The team provides tailor-made solutions and spot-on analysis, and can join discussions regarding complex matters without spending days on preparations.”

“The team at Hengeler Mueller are top lawyers.”

“Hengeler Mueller has a stellar reputation.”

Work highlights Hengeler Mueller defended MAN in follow-on damages claims after the EC's decision in the trucks cartel case.

Notable practitioners

Thorsten Mäger stands out for the breadth of his competition practice, with impressive experience in both contentious and non-contentious matters. He advises clients on Phase II merger investigations, as well as appeals against merger prohibitions. In addition, he represents clients in FCI investigations into possible abuses of dominance and cartels. **Strengths:** “He is one of the best.” “I value him a lot.” “He is a very good lawyer, who keeps his cool, does his job well and doesn't

get overexcited in a crisis.” **Christoph Stadler** advises clients on both merger clearance notifications and Bundeskartellamt investigations, with a particular focus on acting for high-profile clients from the technology sector. He also acts on matters concerning restrictions on parallel trade. **Strengths:** “Christoph is a person for whom efficiency is very important, which we appreciate.”

Hans-Jörg Niemeyer works on appeals against EU decisions and follow-on damages actions. He is German law-qualified and also assists with merger filings to the German authorities, as well as advising on Bundeskartellamt investigations into commercial agreements. **Markus Röhrig** is admitted to practice in Germany and in Brussels, and he has standout experience in merger filings before the EC and the Bundeskartellamt. He also assists clients with appeals against cartel decisions and defends them in follow-on damages litigation. **Strengths:** “He is very astute and pragmatic.” “He knows the laws and is a very experienced antitrust expert. We were happy with him.”

Alf-Henrik Bischke assists clients with appeals against Bundeskartellamt decisions. He remains a popular choice with clients from the media sector. **Strengths:** “He is technically very good.”

Sarah Milde has a broad competition law practice that encompasses both merger clearance and Bundeskartellamt investigations. She has further experience defending clients in high-profile competition damages actions. She is based in Munich. **Strengths:** “She is very responsive, always on time and proactively anticipates issues before we even know there could be a potential problem.” “She manages to communicate complex legal issues in a way that non-lawyers can understand, which is a big plus.” Based in the firm’s Düsseldorf office, **Thomas Paul** is best known for his work defending clients in follow-on damages actions arising from cartel investigations. He has a number of clients from the food and drink and TMT sectors. **Strengths:** “He is a very bright and nice person.” “He is highly experienced in both legal and economic questions.” “He always gives clear advice by taking all related questions into account.”

Band 2

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton is a sought-after adviser for competition law in Germany. The law firm is able to assist clients with the full range of competition law mandates, ranging from advice on merger clearance and foreign direct investment filings to Bundeskartellamt investigations. The team defends clients in investigations into possible cartels and abuses of dominance, as well as assisting high-profile technology sector clients with investigations under Section 19a. Team members also offer notable experience in both stand-alone and follow-on damages proceedings.

Strengths

“It was really very excellent, the team is very fast, knowledgeable and down to earth.”

“The lawyers ask good questions and listen to my questions, and are super responsive and good to work with, so overall it has been a pleasure.”

“The team has a very pragmatic and hands-on approach, and is very good at tailoring the service level to the needs we have, so it can go into the details when needed but also keep the helicopter view.”

“I was very pleased, the lawyers are proactive and knowledgeable.”

“Their subject matter expertise sticks out, the lawyers are truly up to speed with current jurisprudence. This is really a highlight.”

Work highlights Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton defended Beiersdorf in a cartel follow-on damages action.

Notable practitioners

Dirk Schroeder has longstanding experience defending clients in both follow-on and stand-alone damages actions. **Strengths:** “He is one of the most senior and experienced lawyers in Germany.”

Wolfgang Deselaers frequently represents clients in disputes with the Bundeskartellamt, including cartel investigations, challenges to immunity applications and Section 19a claims. He also defends clients in follow-on damages claims. **Strengths:** “I like him a lot, he is dynamic and good with clients.” “It is really enjoyable working with him, he is very practical.” “He is one of the best antitrust lawyers I know.” “He is always asking the right questions.”

Romina Polley has a broad competition law practice that encompasses assisting clients with obtaining competition law clearance for mergers and joint ventures, as well as representing them in market inquiries and follow-on damages litigation. She also defends clients in Bundeskartellamt investigations under Section 19a. She is based in Cologne. **Strengths:** “Romina Polley is very pragmatic and easy to work with, she is the gold standard in advising in the right way.” “She is very knowledgeable and brilliant, she knew all the regulations in Europe and knew the pitfalls.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins houses a strong practice covering all aspects of competition law, often in close collaboration with its excellent international network, and particularly its market-leading team in Brussels. The team regularly advises on large, cross-border merger control mandates, including Phase II investigations and FDI clearances. The firm is also particularly known for its presence in digital market-related issues, including abuse of dominance allegations. Latham & Watkins complements its services with its abilities in cartel damages claims and other antitrust investigations. Its clientele comprises well-known and internationally active technology, telecommunications and transportation companies.

Strengths

“I really enjoy working with Latham & Watkins; the lawyers are very pragmatic and good at finding a solution, which helps a lot.”

“The team takes the right balanced approach between sharing its experience of transactions and reading what the law says.”

“The lawyers are really proactive looking at new developments.”

Work highlights Latham & Watkins defended Meta Platforms in an abuse of dominance proceeding before the Bundeskartellamt concerning

the overlap between privacy and antitrust regulations.

Notable practitioners

Sven Völcker is often identified as a high-profile individual in Brussels handling top-end merger clearance cases that necessitate significant interaction with the EC, including appeals against prohibited mergers. He also defends clients in sensitive cartel and abuse of dominance investigations. In addition, Sven Völcker is admitted to the German Bar and experienced in handling merger notifications to the German Bundeskartellamt and challenges to its decisions. **Strengths:** “He has a strong reputation for German work.”

“We were in good hands with Sven Völcker.” “He is pleasant to deal with and intelligent.” **Michael Esser** frequently acts for high-profile clients from the technology and telecommunications sectors on Bundeskartellamt investigations into proposed mergers and possible abuses of dominance. In addition, he represents them in damages actions. He has further experience in challenging Bundeskartellamt decisions. The Frankfurt-based **Sebastian Max Hauser** enters the rankings this year on the back of his solid work for clients in the field of merger control and FDI filings. He also has experience in post-closing investigations. He has a number of clients from the private equity sector. **Strengths:** “I really enjoy working with him, he is quite pragmatic and goes to the core point and summarises things in a business-friendly way.”

“Sebastian Max Hauser is really good to work with, because he is accurate, has good risk judgement and stays calm.” “Sebastian Max Hauser is brilliant, very strategic in his advice, calm and approachable and smart.”

Linklaters

What the team is known for With its global reach, aided by its offices in Brussels and across Germany, Linklaters offers comprehensive competition law advice. The team is particularly visible on complex and often cross-border merger control mandates, including prominent stock exchange listings, FDI clearances and appeals against clearance decisions. Another key pillar of the practice is its capabilities in behavioural investigations, often in the automotive industry. The firm also has a number of key clients from other sectors, including technology and life sciences.

Strengths

“We always receive well thought through, solution-orientated and pragmatic legal advice that demonstrates a good understanding of the business.”

“The team’s quality is visible in its to-the-point advice.”

“The team finds a solution even when under a lot of pressure and can bring the topics together, so we feel very comfortable in their hands.”

“The lawyers have very good problem awareness, and provide quick answers and good, practical implementation.”

Work highlights Linklaters advised Audi on the competition law aspects of its proposed entry into Formula 1, with a particular focus on foreign investment control requirements.

Notable practitioners

Daniela Seeliger is a leading individual on a range

of competition law matters, including assisting significant clients with foreign investment regulations and with investigations into exchanges of information. She is particularly popular with clients from the automotive sector. She offers notable experience in matters before both the German authorities and the European Commission. **Strengths:** “She is super responsive, and gives very clear and practical advice.” “Daniela Seeliger is brilliant and top in her league. She is very sharp and smart, and good at communicating with authorities.” “She is very empathetic, calm and smooth, and her solutions and advice have a kind of elegance.” “It is a joy working with her.” **Carsten Grave** is particularly known and respected for his work on merger control matters, frequently advising on the German clearance of multinational filings. He also has notable experience representing high-profile clients as defendants in challenges to clearance decisions. **Strengths:** “He is brilliant in merger control, he is Mr Merger Control in Germany.” “Carsten is an expert in his field with a high level of understanding for the needs of his clients and excellent case management in complex processes.” **Bernd Meyring** heads Linklaters’ competition team in Brussels and is admitted to practice in Germany and in Belgium. He is known for his work on behalf of third-party interveners in abuse of dominance cases. He also assists with merger and FDI filings, particularly for clients in the pharmaceutical and technology sectors. **Strengths:** “I can always reach him so I feel like his only client.” “Bernd Meyring has provided us with excellent, tailor-made advice in a timely and pragmatic manner. We would definitely work with him again in the future.” “Bernd Meyring is calm, listens and tries to understand before speaking.” “He is able to untangle things. He is a good adviser and keeps the global picture of our interests in mind.” **Oleksii Pustovit** joined Linklaters in the autumn of 2023 and offers notable experience in advising clients on obtaining merger clearance before the Ukrainian authorities, as well as advising on alleged abuse of dominance or cartel cases involving Ukraine.

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy is regularly involved in complex and often cross-border merger control mandates, drawing on its excellent global network. In addition to assisting clients with obtaining clearance, the law firm also advises on challenges to Bundeskartellamt decisions. The team is also a popular choice for high-profile defendants in follow-on damages litigation and market inquiries. It has a number of clients from the automotive, life sciences, energy and technology industries.

Strengths

“The team is highly knowledgeable and very accessible and responsive, and the lawyers are pragmatic and extremely intelligent.”

“The lawyers are able to think out of the box because the matter constantly changes and they are able to adapt quickly.”

“Allen & Overy provides pragmatic advice and

expertise.”

“We have an easy cooperation with the firm.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy defended Scania before courts in Munich and Stuttgart in the private enforcement damages action following the trucks cartel.

Notable practitioners

Börries Ahrens (see p.1486) has a strong focus on assisting clients with obtaining merger clearance before the German authorities, in addition to representing them in challenges to merger prohibition decisions. He also advises technology clients on sector inquiries and competition disputes.

Strengths: “He is someone I would recommend.”

Ellen Braun (see p.1486) is noted for handling both merger clearance filings and competition litigation cases, including defending clients in follow-on damages actions. She has a number of high-profile clients from the pharmaceutical, technology and automotive sectors. **Strengths:** “She is a very cooperative lawyer and easy to coordinate with.” “She provided a great assessment of the processes and found a great strategy that was ultimately instrumental to settle the case.”

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance is well known in the market for its comprehensive coverage of competition law. The firm regularly handles large and often cross-border merger control mandates, frequently in collaboration with its broad network of offices. Furthermore, the team represents clients in antitrust proceedings and investigations by the Bundeskartellamt and the European Commission, as well as defending clients in damages actions. The law firm has a number of clients from the TMT industry.

Strengths

“The team provides excellent support, thanks to its proactive approach and ability to liaise with non-legal experts.”

“The team of Clifford Chance manages to prepare and present complex issues for decision-makers quickly and comprehensibly.”

“The lawyers offer familiarity with the authorities at German and EU level, and they are hands-on and service-oriented.”

“The team is very responsive, especially with time constraints.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised GE Gas & Power on the merger clearance and FDI aspects of its proposed acquisition of Nexus Controls from Baker Hughes.

Notable practitioners

Marc Besen is particularly active in merger control and FDI filings. In addition he represents clients in behavioural investigations and damages actions before both the German and European authorities. **Strengths:** “He is really fast and hands-on.” “Business-wise he is a good lawyer, his work is so good it makes you smile.” “Marc Besen has very good relationships and understanding of national case law developments.”

Commeo

What the team is known for Competition law boutique Commeo covers the full spectrum of competition law, representing clients in Bundeskartellamt behavioural investigations and

damages actions, as well as advising on phase I merger control proceedings. The team also offers notable experience in competition compliance matters, particularly concerning distribution agreements and e-commerce.

Strengths

“It is a competition boutique so has a strong, integrated team, and you feel the lawyers all work together, working towards the same goal.”

“The personal involvement and availability are very good.”

“Commeo is a firm we can really trust and would recommend.”

“The team always strikes me as good and dynamic.”

Work highlights Commeo defended Japan Airlines in a damages litigation following the European Commission’s decision in the air cargo cartel case.

Notable practitioners

Dominique Wagener assists clients with obtaining competition law clearance for mergers and advises on the antitrust compliance of distribution agreements. She also has experience in contentious competition law matters. **Stephanie Pautke** defends a number of clients in Bundeskartellamt cartel investigations, particularly in the building industry. She also assists clients with compliance and distribution agreement mandates. **Strengths:** “She is a leading lawyer for Vertical Block Exemption Regulations.” “She is hands-on and really experienced in handling our diverse portfolio.” **Johanna Kübler** offers a broad competition law practice, encompassing merger control filings, cartel investigations, follow-on damages actions and competition compliance.

Strengths: “She is never stressed even though there is a lot of work on her table, which is a great asset.” **Jörg-Martin Schultze** principally assists clients from the chemical and pharmaceutical sectors with the competition law aspects of their distribution agreements. **Strengths:** “He is one of the most strategic lawyers I have ever met.” **Isabel Oest** assists clients with merger control and foreign direct investment notifications, including for multi-jurisdictional transactions. She also advises on the antitrust compliance aspects of distribution agreements. **Strengths:** “Isabel Oest is really one to watch.”

Glade Michel Wirtz

What the team is known for The Düsseldorf-based law firm Glade Michel Wirtz is reputed for its role in damages claims and follow-on litigation, as well as acting on complex merger clearance appeals. Furthermore, the team advises on the competition aspects of joint venture set-ups and foreign direct investment notifications. It also has experience in the overlap between competition law and intellectual property, particularly as regards to the use of standard essential patents.

Strengths

“It would be a go-to firm for specifically German matters.”

Work highlights Glade Michel Wirtz represented Siemens Energy in a private enforcement action arising out of a cartel in the technical building equipment sector.

Notable practitioners

Markus Wirtz has a broad competition law prac-

tice covering both contentious and non-contentious matters. On the non-contentious side, he assists clients with obtaining clearance for proposed mergers and joint ventures. His contentious work encompasses challenges to merger control decisions, private damages actions and disputes concerning refusals to licence. **Strengths:** “He is a famous name of course.” “I have the utmost respect for Markus Wirtz.” **Christian Karbaum** rises in the rankings on the back of his broad and varied practice that covers merger control and FDI filings, opposition to proposed merger clearances and private damages actions. He often acts on cases in the telecoms and energy industries. **Strengths:** “He has good competition law knowledge and gave good cooperation on a tricky case.” **Silke Möller** assists clients with obtaining Bundeskartellamt clearance for mergers and joint ventures. She also has experience in issues of potential exchange of information. **Strengths:** “She certainly has a strong reputation.”

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for A popular choice with clients from the TMT and transportation sectors, Hogan Lovells covers the full range of competition law. The team is experienced in both cartel and abuse of dominance investigations, and also represents clients in follow-on damages actions. The firm additionally advises clients on obtaining clearance for mergers and joint ventures, as well as the competition compliance aspects of proposed collaborations. It offers further expertise in foreign direct investment mandates. The German offices collaborate closely with the firm's team in Brussels on matters before the European Commission.

Strengths

“The firm's main strength is that it finds very practical solutions very quickly.”

“It is a really great team there.”

“The lawyers have a great grasp of the detail. They provided a thorough analysis and were extremely responsive.”

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised on the merger control and FDI aspects of its combination with Adtran.

Notable practitioners

Martin Sura provides clients with competition compliance advice, including around collaborative projects. **Strengths:** “He has a very strong and good client focus and is very quick with finding solutions.” **Christoph Wünschmann** offers a broad competition law practice that encompasses behavioural investigations and damages actions, as well as assisting clients with obtaining competition law clearance for mergers and joint ventures. He also advises clients on issues of selective distribution. **Strengths:** “You know you're in safe hands when he's on the case.” “He does the work well.”

Noerr

What the team is known for Noerr houses a broad competition practice, frequently advising on national and international mandates, often in collaboration with its office in Brussels. The team is sought after for its prowess in handling merger control proceedings, including those involving FDI

clearance, as well as joint venture establishment. Furthermore, the firm is respected for its abilities in cartel investigation proceedings and follow-on damages actions, representing both claimants and defendants.

Strengths

“Noerr is very good in finding practical solutions.”

“The firm does good work in cartel litigation.”

Work highlights Noerr advised solarisBank on the notification to the Bundeskartellamt of its cooperation with ADAC.

Notable practitioners

Karsten Metzloff advises clients from the media sector on complex antitrust proceedings in relation to the misuse of copyright prohibitions. **Kathrin Westermann** has a broad competition law practice, encompassing advice on merger control filings, behavioural investigations and damages actions. She has further experience advising federations on the compliance of their regulations with competition law. **Strengths:** “She has very profound knowledge and is very quick to respond.” “She is one of the strongest cartel litigators in Germany.” **Jens Peter Schmidt** co-heads the Noerr Brussels office and is also admitted to practice in Germany. He advises on mergers that trigger filings to the EC or the German regulators, including those that require supporting FDI notifications. **Strengths:** “Jens Peter Schmidt is a very experienced individual who has outstanding knowledge and is an excellent adviser for successful negotiations.” **Alexander Birnstiel** has experience assisting clients with obtaining competition law clearance for proposed mergers. **Strengths:** “He is a very pleasant person to work with, who is open to creative solutions.”

Oppenländer Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for Oppenländer is particularly held in high esteem for its involvement in complex cartel damages claims, acting for both claimants and defendants. The law firm also assists clients with the competition law aspects of proposed mergers and cooperations.

Strengths

“The lawyers work very fast and are very client-oriented. They really are specialists in cartel law.”

“The team is always responsive and to the point.”

“I like the firm's way of working.”

“The lawyers have high expertise and great experience.”

Work highlights Oppenländer defended Georgsmarienhütte in follow-on damages actions arising out of the steel cartel investigation.

Notable practitioners

Albrecht Bach remains one of Germany's top practitioners in the field of cartel damages claims, particularly standing out for his work defending clients in private enforcement actions and follow-on damages cases. **Strengths:** “He is one of the major competition lawyers in Germany.” “He is super clever.”

Band 4

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie offers comprehensive competition law expertise

to its clients. The law firm is particularly sought after for its capabilities in handling large and often cross-border merger control mandates. Additionally, the team is known for drawing on its expansive office network to assist clients with global compliance programmes and cooperation agreements. Baker McKenzie also offers expertise in follow-on damages proceedings, as well as representing clients in cartel investigations.

Strengths

“Even in urgent cases, we were always reliably supported.”

“The legal advice can always be considered thorough and pragmatic.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Fluidra on the merger clearance aspects of its EUR30 million acquisition of Meranus.

Notable practitioners

Nicolas Kredel often assists clients with obtaining clearance for potential mergers and joint ventures. He also offers experience in cartel investigations and competition compliance matters. **Strengths:** “He is very knowledgeable, fast and straight to the point.”

CMS

What the team is known for CMS boasts a large practice, offering advice on all key areas of competition law across its German and Brussels offices. The team is particularly known for its advice on international merger control issues, including joint venture creations, facilitated by its large European network. Furthermore, CMS offers expertise in cartel damages claims, acting for clients from a range of sectors, as well as for state authorities. Its capabilities in distribution agreements and abuse of dominance proceedings supplement the firm's offering.

Strengths

“The team is pragmatic and solution-oriented.”

“We appreciate the firm's working attitude, efficiency, knowledge and service orientation.”

“We appreciate the competent advice and pragmatic approach.”

Work highlights CMS acted for Scholz on the Bundeskartellamt's Phase II investigation into Scholz's attempt to increase its share in ProMetall.

Notable practitioners

German-qualified **Michael Bauer** is based in the Brussels office of CMS and represents clients before the German courts in disputes around abusive pricing and cartel damages actions. **Tim Reher** is known for defending clients in competition law damages actions. **Harald Kahlenberg** assists clients with obtaining Bundeskartellamt clearance for proposed mergers and joint ventures. In addition he represents clients in disputes concerning vertical agreements and class actions for competition law damages.

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons is particularly visible in cross-border merger control cases and joint venture set-ups, including those requiring FDI clearance, drawing on its various offices in Germany and Brussels. Its abilities in cartel damages claims and other antitrust-related disputes further augment Dentons' offering. The

firm's market presence is illustrated by its clientele, which includes prestigious automotive and financial services companies.

Strengths

"The team has good sector knowledge and provides pragmatic advice."

"Dentons has found a very talented group of people."

Work highlights Dentons advised CARIAD on the antitrust aspects of its acquisition of semvox.

Notable practitioners

Jörg Karenfort represents defendants in competition damages actions. He also offers experience in antitrust compliance mandates. **René Grafunder** represents clients in behavioural investigations. He also advises on compliance with competition law legislation, including the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation. **Strengths:** *"René has a very good sector expertise and understanding of commercial needs. His advice is pragmatic and tailored to business requirements."*

Band 5

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird houses a solid competition practice across its offices in Brussels and Düsseldorf. The law firm represents clients in behavioural investigations at both German and European Commission level, often working closely with Brussels-based colleagues. The team is particularly active in competition compliance matters, including around issues of sustainability and distribution. In addition, the lawyers act on FDI and merger control filings before the German authorities, as well as on antitrust damages actions.

Work highlights Bird & Bird advised Nürnberg-Messe on the competition law aspects of its proposed joint venture with Messe München, including representing the client before the Bundeskartellamt.

Notable practitioners

Based in the firm's Brussels office, **Anne Federle** often acts for clients on competition investigations, representing complainants and defendants in cartel and abuse of dominance cases, before both the European Commission and the German Bundeskartellamt. She is also often involved in mandates concerning competition compliance and distribution issues. **Strengths:** *"The way she renders the advice is just great. I have complete trust in her and whenever we need support, she helps."* *"Anne Federle provides clarity in complex factual constellations."* *"She is an excellent lawyer and a very pleasant person to work with."* *"She is a driving force in German-speaking antitrust lawyers in Brussels."* *"Anne Federle is very pragmatic, down to earth, knows her way around and has a good feeling for how to deal with people."*

BLOMSTEIN

What the team is known for BLOMSTEIN has a strong focus on merger clearance and foreign direct investment mandates, either acting directly on notifications or representing interested parties. Additionally, the firm acts for clients on competition damages actions. Among its clients, the

firm counts several major private equity houses, as well as companies from the energy and technology industries.

Strengths

"The lawyers are easy to reach and available."

"We have always received quick responses in all matters."

Work highlights BLOMSTEIN advised Vodafone on its objection to the competition clearance given to a joint venture between Deutsche Telekom and EWE.

Notable practitioners

Anna Blume Huttenlauch has a broad competition law practice that covers advising clients on merger clearance and antitrust compliance, as well as acting for clients on follow-on damages actions. **Strengths:** *"She is very responsive and competent, and quick to pick up on the subject."*

"She is very approachable and spot on for most issues." **Max Klasse** has a particular focus on merger control mandates, advising clients on obtaining clearance for proposed combinations or assisting third parties with objecting to potential mergers. He has a number of clients from the energy, technology and telecommunications sectors.

BUNTSCHHECK

Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH

What the team is known for BUNTSCHHECK is a competition law boutique based in Munich. The firm is particularly active in merger clearance mandates, often representing private equity houses. It also has notable experience in behavioural matters, representing clients in disputes concerning alleged abuse of dominance and in follow-on damages actions. The team also assists clients with competition compliance matters. It is a popular choice with clients from the automotive sector.

Strengths

"The firm provides very reliable and sound advice."

"The lawyers are always in a position to handle matters quickly."

"The responsiveness is exceptional."

Work highlights BUNTSCHHECK assisted AUCTUS Capital with the merger clearance and foreign direct investment aspects of multiple M&A transactions.

Notable practitioners

Martin Buntscheck is particularly active in assisting clients with merger control and foreign direct investment filings before the German authorities. In addition, he has experience in defending clients in high-profile cartel damages actions and other competition law litigation. **Strengths:** *"He has a good reputation for defending cartelists."* *"There is no question that Martin Buntscheck is definitely a good lawyer."* *"Clients are happy to get him as a lawyer."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day is a law firm with offices across Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Brussels that offer holistic competition advice. The team is particularly known for its handling of merger control issues, with additional expertise in FDI. Additionally, the firm assists with antitrust investigations and represents clients in follow-on

damages actions. Team members also offer experience in state aid matters.

Work highlights Jones Day advised Koch Industries on the competition law aspects of a joint venture with OCP.

Notable practitioners

Based in Brussels, **Philipp Werner** assists clients with obtaining clearance for cross-border mergers and acts on follow-on damages claims. He is also German-qualified and has proven experience in the defence of investigations carried out by the German Bundeskartellamt. **Strengths:** *"He is very clever and a good lawyer."* **Johannes Zöttl** has a strong focus on assisting clients with obtaining Bundeskartellamt clearance for proposed mergers. **Strengths:** *"He is very knowledgeable and experienced."* *"We highly recommend his knowledge and ability."*

Luther Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH

What the team is known for Luther is notably active in matters concerning competition law compliance. In addition, team members assist clients with merger control notifications and competition litigation, including defending clients in antitrust fine proceedings and follow-on damages actions.

Strengths

"The lawyers can always be reached directly or will contact you immediately."

Work highlights Luther advised Hyundai on its distribution agreement, particularly regarding compliance with the new VBER.

Notable practitioners

Anne Wegner has a strong focus on the competition law compliance of distribution agreements, particularly in relation to the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation. She also has experience representing clients in competition law disputes. She is particularly known for representing clients from the automotive industry. **Strengths:** *"She is very responsive, very good at what she does and has a really good knowledge of competition law."* *"She is very commercial and very good at understanding the clients' needs."*

SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz

What the team is known for The German law firm SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz is known for its expertise in cartel damages proceedings, and acts for clients in front of European and national authorities. Furthermore, the firm offers prowess in merger control cases aided by its strong presence in Brussels, often advising international and German Mittelstand clients. The team often assists with FDI screenings. Additionally, the firm advises on the competition compliance aspects of strategic agreements.

Strengths

"The reports made were done in an efficient way, quickly and with knowledge of our situation."

"It is a holistic adviser with a wide range of competencies."

"All the analyses we receive are very deep and detailed but at the same time not long and difficult to understand."

Work highlights SZA advised Silex Microsystems on the foreign direct investment review of its pro-

posed acquisition of a wafer fabrication plant.

Notable practitioners

Stephanie Birmanns leads the Brussels office of SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz and has a strong focus on assisting clients with FDI reviews before the German authorities. She also advises clients on merger clearance reviews and competition compliance issues. **Strengths:** “Stephanie Birmanns is a great communicator with highly developed analytical skills.” “She can answer questions directly in a conversation and understands businesses well.” The German-qualified **Silvio Cappellari** is based in the Brussels office of SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz. He often assists clients with the notification of mergers and with competition compliance mandates. **Strengths:** “He is a very well-known German lawyer in Brussels.” “Silvio Cappellari is really good in advising and presenting.” **Hans-Joachim Hellmann** is particularly noted for his work on cartel cases and damages proceedings, often acting for the defendants. He also assists with competition compliance mandates. **Strengths:** “Hans-Joachim Hellmann is fully engaged for the client.” “His client management is what stands out.”

WilmerHale

What the team is known for WilmerHale is a law firm offering advice on the full spectrum of competition law, often in close collaboration with its US and other European offices. The team is best known for handling cartel damages claims, acting for both claimants and defendants from various industry sectors. Furthermore, the firm assists with merger control filings. Its client base comprises well-known German and international clients from the food, railway and communication sectors.

Strengths

“WilmerHale is very innovative.”

Work highlights WilmerHale represented Deutsche Bahn as a plaintiff in a damages action following the rail cartel decision.

Notable practitioners

Stefan Ohlhoff acts for both claimants and defendants on antitrust damages actions. He offers further experience in merger clearance filings and in requests for amendments to behavioural commitments. **Ulrich Quack** has a particular focus on cartel cases, representing both defendants and plaintiffs in initial investigations and subsequent appeals and damages actions. **Hans-Georg Kamann** has a broad competition law practice, assisting clients with private enforcement damages actions and appeals against Bundeskartellamt decisions, as well as advising on state aid issues and competition compliance.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Christian Bahr of Fieldfisher advises on a broad range of competition mandates, including merger control and cooperation agreements, acting for well-known clients from the automotive sector. He also represents clients in follow-on litigation pertaining to EU-wide cartels.

Bettina Bergmann of Bergmann Rechtsanwaltskanzlei is well known for assisting clients with

cartel investigations. In addition, she advises on merger control proceedings, often acting for board members and executives seeking further guidance.

Strengths:

“She is a very good and experienced lawyer.”

Thomas Funke of Osborne Clarke LLP is particularly noted for representing claimants in follow-on damages actions. He also has experience acting for authorities on contentious competition law matters. Thomas Funke additionally advises clients on competition law compliance and the Vertical Block Exemption Regulation.

Strengths:

“Thomas Funke was flexible but experienced and very cooperative and constructive to work with.”

“He is very successful in the area of cartel damages claims.”

“He knows the details but is commercial, so he can talk through the issues in a way people can understand.”

Silke Heinz of Heinz & Zagrosek Partnerschaft von Rechtsanwälten mbB often acts for clients on behavioural investigations, especially for complainants in the digital and technology sectors. She is also known for handling merger clearance mandates.

Strengths:

“She is really excellent.”

“She is doing a really good job for complainants against big technology companies.”

Christian Horstkotte (see p.1488) of Mayer Brown LLP has a strong focus on assisting clients with obtaining competition law clearance for proposed mergers. In addition, he represents them in appeals against antitrust fines and assists with compliance issues.

Strengths:

“His expertise is very good and he’s very pragmatic in how he approaches cases.”

“He is very well known and very good.”

Tilman Kuhn of White & Case LLP has a broad competition law practice that covers behavioural investigations, damages actions and the competition law clearance of mergers and joint ventures. Additionally, he advises clients on the compliance aspects of their distribution agreements.

Strengths:

“He seems to know our business better than we do so can do things very quickly.”

“He is very approachable, replies immediately and understands what we need.”

Rüdiger Lahme of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP enters the rankings this year on the back of his broad expertise in competition law litigation. He has experience on both the claimant and defendant side and acts on cases involving abuse of dominance and damages actions.

Strengths:

“He is an excellent lawyer, who really knows what he is doing.”

“It is a pleasure to work with him.”

Evelyn Niitväli of Niitväli Competition Law is sought after for her experience in multi-jurisdictional merger control filings, distribution agreements and cartel investigations.

Strengths:

“She is super smart, she lives for antitrust.”

“She is a very good antitrust lawyer.”

Alex Petrasincu of Hausfeld LLP is particularly well known for his ability to handle high-profile competition damages actions.

Strengths:

“He is a key player in Germany for antitrust damages.”

“He is a good person for antitrust litigation.”

“He is a brilliant lawyer.”

Ann-Christin Richter of Hausfeld LLP has a strong reputation for acting on the plaintiff side of private enforcement actions in the antitrust field.

Strengths:

“She is really good.”

Alexander Rinne of Milbank LLP often assists private equity clients with their merger control and FDI filings in Germany. In addition, he defends clients in behavioural investigations before the Bundeskartellamt and represents them in damages actions.

Strengths:

“Alexander Rinne is an excellent lawyer, who has experience in high-profile matters.”

“He is very commercial and very pragmatic, and he knows how we operate, which helps to streamline the approach we take.”

Andreas Rosenfeld of Redeker Sellner Dahs has a strong focus on competition damages actions, with experience representing both claimants and defendants. He has a strong list of public sector clients.

Strengths:

“He is a very good lawyer in my experience.”

Ulrich Schnelle of Haver & Mailänder is particularly known for representing claimants in private enforcement actions arising from cartel decisions. He also has experience on the defence side of cartel and abuse of dominance cases.

Strengths:

“He is pragmatic and a good antitrust lawyer.”

“He has a very good knowledge of our company and our business model, and understands what we need, so that saves time.”

“He is not only a lawyer but someone with entrepreneurial thinking, and helps us beyond the pure legal questions.”

Volker Soyecz of SGP Schneider Geiwitz & Partner enters the rankings this year on the back of his notable activity in damages actions, often acting on behalf of the victims of cartels. He also represents clients in litigation concerning abuse of dominance.

Strengths:

“He is fast, reliable and highly competent.”

“He is best known for litigation, where he has been developing a name for taking clients who want to pursue damages.”

“We have been working with Volker Soyecz for years now and we fully trust him.”

Georg Weidenbach (see p.1491) of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP frequently assists clients with obtaining the German competition clearance for multinational mergers. In addition, he represents clients in cartel investigations and damages actions.

Strengths:

“He is calm, easy to work with him, very creative and thoughtful.”

“He is a brilliant guy.”

Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

Jens-Olrik Murach is based in the Brussels office of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. He regularly advises international corporates and private equity houses on merger notification filings with the German authorities.

Strengths:

"He has the reassuring warmth you need as counsel."
"I felt confident expressing the business needs to him and knowing that he would accommodate them."

Corporate/M&A

Corporate/M&A
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hengeler Mueller
Linklaters
Band 2
Clifford Chance
Latham & Watkins
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Gleiss Lutz
Milbank LLP
Band 4
Baker McKenzie
CMS
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Kirkland & Ellis International LLP
Noerr
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
White & Case LLP
Band 5
Dentons
DLA Piper UK LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Jones Day
McDermott Will & Emery Rechtsanwälte
SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Band 6
ARQIS
Ashurst
Eversheds Sutherland
K&L Gates
Mayer Brown LLP
Morrison Foerster
Norton Rose Fulbright
Oppenhoff & Partner Rechtsanwälte
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe
Pinsent Masons
Taylor Wessing
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

Band 1

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for The highly regarded corporate and M&A practice at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is renowned across the market for handling large-cap, complex deals. It is well equipped to manage both public and private

Corporate/M&A: High-end Capability
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Fabritius Andreas <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i> *
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Schiesl Maximilian <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Wollburg Ralph <i>Linklaters</i>
Band 1
Reichert Jochem <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz</i>
Rieger Norbert <i>Milbank LLP</i>
Seibt Christoph <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Ziegenhain Hans-Jörg <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Band 2
Bauer Jan <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP</i> *
Berrar Carsten <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Cascante Christian <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Waldhausen Stephan <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Band 3
Austmann Andreas <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Favoccia Daniela <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Krause Hartmut <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i> *
Traugott Rainer <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
van Aerssen Rick <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
Vetter Jochen <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Wilsing Hans-Ulrich <i>Linklaters</i>
Band 4
Diekmann Hans <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i> *
Jäckle Christof <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Kästle Florian <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Krecek Thomas <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Leyendecker Benjamin <i>Kirkland & Ellis International LLP</i>
Oberbracht Dirk <i>Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i> *
Rempp Ansgar <i>Jones Day</i>
Schnorbus York <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Schröder Oliver <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz</i>
Selzner Harald <i>Noerr</i>
Strauss Ingo <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Band 5
Arnold Michael <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Clauss Annika <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Erhardt Martin <i>Milbank LLP</i>
Gotsche Heiko <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Hundertmark Stephanie <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus</i>
Illert Staffan <i>Linklaters</i>
Kiem Roger <i>White & Case</i>
Klaaßen-Kaiser Kristina <i>Linklaters</i>
Krüger Astrid <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i> *
Möritz Daniel <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Morshäuser Ralf <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Neuhaus Martin <i>Noerr</i>
Oppenhoff Stephan <i>Linklaters</i>
Paschos Nikolaos <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Reinhardt Wilhelm <i>Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP</i> *
Technau Konstantin <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Topf Cornelia <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
von Riegen Arend <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i> *
Wiegand Daniel <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Zirngibl Nikolas <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Daghles Natalie <i>Noerr</i>

M&A, as well as corporate advice and international reorganisations. It boasts a broad range of expertise, including carve-outs, investments and complex distribution agreements. A strong international network allows the team to manage large-scale cross-border deals. Close links to the law firm's US offices are of particular advantage for its German blue-chip clients and US investors in Germany. The team showcases broad sector expertise, covering automotive, technology, manufacturing and life sciences.

Strengths

"The difference between a very good law firm and an outstanding law firm is that the first one gives you the best legal advice, the second one gives the best legal, strategic and business-driven advice. Freshfields is an outstanding law firm."
"Freshfields displays deep professional knowledge and is able to handle adjacent topics quickly and

thoroughly."

"Freshfields provides first-class preparation and quick response times on different complex and sophisticated matters."

"The team is very strong in the supervised project and well coordinated with each other."

"The lawyers have outstanding skills and are always on top of every potential issue."

Work highlights Freshfields advised CENTROTEC on the sale of its subsidiary CENTROTEC Climate Systems to Ariston Holding for a value of EUR1 billion.

Notable practitioners

Andreas Fabritius (see p.1487) is well known for his many years of experience leading notable mandates. His expertise encompasses private and public M&A as well as general corporate law, with a particular focus on corporate governance and directors' liability issues. **Strengths:** "You see

Corporate/M&A: Mid-Market
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Bruse Matthias <i>POELLATH (ORL)</i> ◇
Maier-Reimer Georg <i>Oppenhoff & Partner</i>
Riehmer Klaus <i>Mayer Brown LLP*</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Glade Achim <i>Glade Michel Wirtz (ORL)</i> ◇
Band 2
Nelle Andreas <i>Raue (ORL)</i> ◇
Parameswaran Benjamin <i>DLA Piper UK LLP*</i>
Renzenbrink Ulf <i>Renzenbrink & Partner (ORL)</i> ◇
Schmidt Gerhard <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*
Band 3
Pappalardo Federico <i>Dechert LLP (ORL)</i> ◇*
von Oppen Andreas <i>GREENFORT (ORL)</i> ◇
Band 4
Becker Sönke <i>Herbert Smith Freehills Germany (ORL)</i> ◇
Besse Dirk <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Heisse Matthias <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
Krause Nils <i>DLA Piper UK LLP*</i>
Lagoni Nicolai <i>Greenberg Traurig Germany, LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Merkner Andreas <i>Glade Michel Wirtz (ORL)</i> ◇
Nase Eva <i>POELLATH (ORL)</i> ◇
Olk Sebastian <i>Gütt Olk Feldhaus (ORL)</i> ◇
Sacher Thomas <i>Ashurst</i>
Schulze Jörn-Christian <i>ARQIS</i>
Sustmann Marco <i>Glade Michel Wirtz (ORL)</i> ◇
Wagner Christoph <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Band 5
Armah Henrik <i>Greenberg Traurig Germany, LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Engelstädter Regina <i>Paul Hastings (Europe) (ORL)</i> ◇
Horn Christian <i>Luther Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft (ORL)</i> ◇
Hye-Knudsen Rebekka <i>Dentons</i>
Inhester Michael <i>POELLATH (ORL)</i> ◇
Meißner Jörg <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Schorling Peter <i>Greenberg Traurig Germany, LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Schult Ludger <i>GLNS (ORL)</i> ◇
Schulte-Hillen Sven <i>Pinsent Masons</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Andreas on complicated deals." **Christoph Seibt** is one of the leading figures in the German market. He particularly stands out for his expertise in large public M&A transactions as well as exclusive distribution agreements. **Strengths:** "Christoph really stands out." "He is very well known and prominent." "He is a strong public M&A partner in Germany." **Stephan Waldhausen** moves up in the rankings after a strong year with excellent market support. He showcases notable expertise in highly complex international mandates. His practice covers multi-jurisdictional transactions that include sophisticated carve-out structures and acquisitions. **Strengths:** "Stephan Waldhausen is an exceptional M&A partner who gives you the overall consulting service and the best advice from legal, strategic and business perspectives." "He is a very strong negotiator. The interests of the client are always in the foreground and are enforced with great persuasiveness." "Stephan is very commercial, to the point and pragmatic." Freshfields' global managing partner **Rick van Aerssen** advises high-profile industrial clients on complex partnership agreements as well as large takeovers in the

Foreign Desks Corporate/M&A
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
China ADVANT Beiten
China Baker McKenzie
China DLA Piper LLP
China Gleiss Lutz
China King & Wood Mallesons
China Taylor Wessing
Japan ARQIS
German expertise based in countries listed below
China CMS
Denmark Horten
France LPA-CGR avocats
Mexico Von Wobeser y Sierra, SC
Norway Advokatfirmaet Grette AS
Poland WKB Lawyers
Portugal Cuatrecasas
Ukraine Arzinger

Foreign Experts Corporate/M&A
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
Chile Cifuentes Edder <i>Oppenhoff & Partner</i>
China Atzler Christian <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
China Braun Heiner <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer</i>
China Gilles Thomas <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
China Link Sandra <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
China Ranft Michael-Florian <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
China Zhao Hui <i>Eversheds Sutherland</i>
India Parameswaran Benjamin <i>DLA Piper UK LLP*</i>
Japan Burian Michael <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Japan Vogl Christopher <i>Kuhn Carl Norden Baum (ORL)</i> ◇
Japan Yamaguchi Shigeo <i>ARQIS</i>
Turkey Engelhardt Timo <i>Linklaters</i>
USA Rempp Ansgar <i>Jones Day</i>
German expertise based in countries listed below
Brazil Roschmann Christian <i>Tauil (ORL)</i> ◇*
China Glueck Ulrike <i>CMS</i>
China Heid Patrick <i>GwW Grafvon Westphalen (ORL)</i> ◇
China Hezel Christoph <i>Taylor Wessing (ORL)</i> ◇
Czech Republic Kusak Barbara <i>Noerr</i>
Czech Republic Ševčík Lukáš <i>Kinstellar (ORL)</i> ◇
Italy von Mensenkampff Sven <i>Legance (ORL)</i> ◇
Mexico Cuesta Salces Luis <i>Macdonel Uribe (ORL)</i> ◇
Norway Mörsdorf Roland <i>Advokatfirmaet Grette AS</i>
Spain de Dios Martínez Luis Miguel <i>CMS</i>
USA Leske Sascha <i>Noerr</i>

pharmaceutical and automotive sectors spanning various jurisdictions. Clients also benefit from his strength in capital markets law. **Strengths:** "Rick is a brilliant guy." **Stephanie Hundertmark** advises well-known German and international clients, with a particular focus on life sciences and private equity deals. She additionally assists with venture capital investments and has experience in the fintech sector. **Arend von Riegen** (see p.1491) has experience in complex cross-border transactions, including public takeovers, carve-outs and exits. He is particularly focused on private equity matters. **Heiner Braun** is appreciated for his expertise in advising Chinese corporates on the acquisition of German targets including those held by founders and investors. He is especially visible on

transactions in the technology sector.

Hengeler Mueller

What the team is known for Hengeler Mueller is a renowned German firm, widely regarded as a market leader in corporate and M&A advice. Its practitioners showcase expertise in domestic as well as cross-border transactions, handling both buy-side and sell-side mandates for multinational corporations. The department comes highly recommended for its strength in all aspects of public and private M&A, carve-outs and strategic partnerships as well as joint venture set-ups. Clients also benefit from the firm's stellar expertise in capital markets transactions, especially those with subsequent business combinations. It provides ongoing corporate advice to a variety of DAX 40 companies and boasts an impressive client roster that includes financial institutions as well as a raft of clients in the TMT, fashion and energy sectors.

Strengths

"I very much appreciate the professionalism and experience that Hengeler Mueller offers us. The team truly help us cut through the complexity during a project."

"Hengeler Mueller does not stop with good answers, but strikes to find the best solution which is practical to implement."

"The lawyers at Hengeler Mueller have a clear overview of the entire transaction and are well positioned to deal with the different elements of the deal. They also provide constructive solutions for unexpected changes."

"Exceptionally responsive and always available, Hengeler Mueller delivers gold service to their clients."

"Hengeler is fantastic at handling complex and sophisticated matters."

Work highlights Hengeler Mueller assisted KKR with the EUR2.4 billion merger of NielsenIQ and GfK.

Notable practitioners

Widely considered a pioneering figure in the market, **Maximilian Schiessl** draws on his vast experience of multi-faceted M&A transactions when advising German and international household-name companies and their supervisory boards on highly prominent takeovers. **Strengths:** "Maximilian is one of the most recognised people in the market." "Maximilian Schiessl is a stellar lawyer." **Hans-Jörg Ziegenhain** enjoys an excellent reputation for leading complex M&A deals, including large-scale acquisitions and sales as well as joint venture exits. He is active on domestic mandates as well as international deals that require global coordination. **Strengths:** "He is very active, knows his stuff and is nice to work with." **Andreas Austmann** is a well-known specialist in public M&A transactions, regularly advising on investments in German start-ups. He is also appreciated for his corporate law expertise. **Daniela Favocchia** is best known for her advice on complex corporate issues with strength in highly sophisticated partnership agreements in the TMT sector. She is also recognised for her experience in M&A transactions and corporate governance reorganisations. **Strengths:** "She is a great lawyer. I admire her intellectual capabilities." **Jochen**

Vetter is well placed to handle public M&A transactions and provide comprehensive corporate law advice to prestigious clients, with a particular strength in cross-border mandates. **Strengths:** “He is driven and clever.” **Christof Jäckle** is well versed at assisting both corporate clients and private equity investors with large cross-border transactions. **Annika Clauss** is sought after by well-known industrial clients for her expertise in complex corporate matters such as joint ventures, while clients also benefit from her experience in China-related M&A transactions. **Strengths:** “Annika is a pleasure to work with. She is approachable and commercially strong, and always presents the legal issues at hand in a very clear and concise manner. She is someone you would want on your team and on your side.” **Daniel Mörizt** continues to rise in the rankings. He is especially notable for his expertise in large-scale M&A transactions in the technology sector, such as public takeovers. **Strengths:** “Daniel is brilliant and a promising up-and-coming partner at Hengeler.” “He is a coming M&A superstar.” Munich-based **Daniel Wiegand** advises on strategic M&A and private equity deals. He has particular expertise in transactions in the IT sector, especially those involving various jurisdictions.

Linklaters

What the team is known for Linklaters boasts an excellent corporate and M&A department that is a top choice for complex, high-value transactions. The firm has an exceptionally strong global presence, which enables the team to perform excellently in cross-border matters. It regularly handles major acquisitions and mergers, as well as large-scale corporate restructurings and joint ventures. It also handles complex carve-outs and takeover bids for multinational companies. The department also routinely advises DAX 40 companies on corporate governance and strategic issues. It is especially active in the energy, materials, financial services and automotive sectors.

Strengths

“The particular strength of Linklaters lies in finding pragmatic solutions.”

“Linklaters provided fantastic support, exploring matters in depth while keeping a pragmatic solution-oriented approach.”

“The team is very precise and sticks to the facts but also with a human touch.”

“Linklaters provides fast and reliable reactions.”

Work highlights Linklaters advised Uniper on negotiations with the German government relating to its EUR13.9 billion stabilisation measure, including its recapitalisation and balance sheet restructuring.

Notable practitioners

Ralph Wollburg has been at the forefront of the market for many years. He is a popular choice for board-level advice at many DAX 40 companies. He also assists with large cross-border transactions as well as corporate and strategic issues such as reorganisations and restructuring. **Strengths:** “He is a great legal authority; his statements simply have weight.” “Ralph Wollburg is always a reliable and very solution-oriented contact person.” “He turned Linklaters into one of the leading corporate/M&A practices in Germany.” Düsseldorf-based

Hans-Ulrich Wilsing enjoys a strong reputation for his longstanding expertise in handling complex corporate law issues. His practice includes advice on prominent public M&A, spin-offs and listings. **Staffan Illert** is appreciated for his work on public and private M&A and advisory as well as corporate restructurings. **Kristina Klaaßen-Kaiser** is sought after for her expertise in large-scale M&A transactions including acquisitions and sales and related listings. She also assists with strategic partnerships and joint ventures. **Strengths:** “Kristina is a good negotiator.” **Stephan Oppenhoff** advises on high-profile transactions in the German market. His experience includes assisting with large and multi-jurisdictional public takeover offers, divestments and management buy-outs. **Strengths:** “Stephan is brilliant and a pleasure to work with.” As the head of the firm’s Turkey desk, **Timo Engelhardt** is a familiar face in the Turkish corporate and M&A market. He assists German companies with transactions in Turkey and vice versa. His expertise includes joint ventures and commercial cooperations, M&A deals and corporate restructuring.

Band 2

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance features a prominent practice that attracts praise for its capabilities in cross-border M&A transactions. The firm regularly handles joint ventures and ensuing transactions and is well equipped to manage significant international carve-outs. Another strength lies in handling overseas market entries for prominent German clients. The team represents major domestic and international corporates, financial institutions and private equity houses. Its industry focus spans life sciences and health, energy, financial services, automotive and real estate.

Strengths

“Clifford Chance is always available and never at a loss for a reply even in more complicated matters.”

“The team has a hands-on working attitude with highly qualified partners along the entire transaction process.”

“At Clifford Chance you always have an extremely strong team at your disposal right from the start.”

“The firm has a well-established, responsive and well-connected team which stands out for its clear communication and competent, commercially minded advice.”

“Clifford Chance have experts for almost all areas.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised Hitachi on a EUR1.66 billion agreement to acquire Thales’ Ground Transportation Business Systems business.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Krecek is best known for his work on M&A transactions in the real estate and financial sectors. He frequently advises on intricate deal structures, such as acquisitions with cooperation agreements, investments by way of capital increase, or business combination agreements. **Strengths:** “Thomas’ pragmatism and efficiency are greatly appreciated.”

Latham & Watkins

What the team is known for The law firm Latham & Watkins is renowned for its impressive cross-border capabilities, with particular expertise in deals originating in the USA. The team is recommended for complex, high-value and cross-border M&A deals, with expertise in both public and private transactions, but also assists with carve-outs, joint ventures and corporate advisory work. Latham & Watkins represents DAX 40 companies and both strategic and financial investors. The law firm’s wide-ranging sector expertise spans the automotive, energy, healthcare, TMT and financial services industries.

Strengths

“The firm is excellent in converting complex legal matters into concrete contractual terms.”

“Latham & Watkins displays excellent commercial awareness.”

“Latham & Watkins’ lawyers are excellent at simplifying the complex, problem solving and presenting clients with solutions rather than issues.”

“The team is fully on top of the details and proactive in their approach.”

“The law firm gives solid legal advice across jurisdictions and thinks outside the box.”

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised Advent International on the formation of a USD6.2 billion joint venture with chemicals group LANXESS.

Notable practitioners

Rainer Traugott is a well-regarded transaction lawyer. He offers expertise in a variety of mandates, including acquisitions, business wind-downs and investments. He frequently acts for well-known clients on large multi-jurisdictional deals. Düsseldorf-based practitioner **Ingo Strauss** offers a diverse practice to well-known German clients. His expertise lies in multi-jurisdictional carve-outs and sales. **Heiko Gotsche** enters the rankings due to his expertise in a range of transactional and corporate matters, such as joint venture creation, share sales and carve-out transactions.

Strengths: “Heiko is a great person to work with.”

Co-head of Latham & Watkins’ German corporate practice, **Nikolaos Paschos** advises on domestic as well as cross-border public M&A transactions including mergers and strategic acquisitions. He also assists with partnership agreements, carve-outs and joint venture formations. **Strengths:** “Nikolaos is really good and I like working with him a lot.”

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell demonstrates an exceptionally strong combination of its public M&A and ECM capabilities. It also has an impressive presence on private M&A mandates. The team specialises in big-ticket, complex transactions, with a strong focus on both inbound and outbound deals involving the USA, representing both buyers and target companies. Its clientele includes private equity houses, investment banks and both traditional and newer large corporates.

Strengths

“The team quickly and very carefully familiarises itself with extremely complex matters and creates room for compromise through creative solutions in

particularly difficult negotiation situations.”

“The team at Sullivan & Cromwell has a commitment to excellence, client service and integrity.”

“The lawyers are very competent and quick and really know how to advise a client well, in language the client understands.”

“Sullivan & Cromwell understands the core of a question and answers to the point, providing tangible real-life advice.”

“Sullivan & Cromwell is very creative to find solutions, especially in an overall difficult environment.”

Work highlights Sullivan & Cromwell advised a bidding company, indirectly owned by Advent and Centerbridge amongst others, on the voluntary public takeover offer for all shares in commercial real estate lender Aareal Bank, valued at EUR1.74 billion.

Notable practitioners

Carsten Berrar is highly regarded for his strength in large public M&A transactions for high-profile German and US corporations, financial advisers and private equity firms. He frequently acts on cross-border sales and acquisitions. Bolstered by his standout ECM background, he regularly assists with public takeover offers connected with delistings. **Strengths:** “Carsten stands out with his technical acumen, creativity and commercial sense.” “He is a true all-rounder, able to cover all aspects of a transaction.” “Carsten Berrar is extremely professional, draws on an extremely deep pool of deal track records and is ultra responsive. He has a strong understanding of financial aspects and a very strong network, and is great to work with.” “Carsten is absolutely precise and his predictions are always accurate as he really understands the regulator.” “He is very agile, committed and smart not just in terms of the legal aspects, but he is also fully aware of the commercial and business implications.” **York Schnorbus** advises on a range of transactions, including complex public and private M&A deals, with notable experience in the private equity sphere. **Strengths:** “York is one of the go-to lawyers in Germany when a creative structuring solution is required.” “He is one of the most creative and commercial lawyers out there.” **Konstantin Technau** acts on a variety of large-scale domestic and cross-border deals in the automotive, TMT and real estate sectors. His clients include financial advisers, real estate investors and prominent corporates. **Strengths:** “He is a very seasoned M&A lawyer with a great level of technical understanding, providing clear and actionable advice.” “Konstantin is a very experienced negotiator with a calm and balanced approach.” “He provides a good service level and quality of advice.” “Konstantin is responsive and possesses deep knowledge.”

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy is renowned for the depth of its international capabilities. It is a popular choice for complex cross-border transactions, including acquisitions, mergers and divestitures. Share buy-back programmes and joint venture expansions are also handled by the team, while further offering

expertise in capital markets-related mandates. It is a trusted boardroom adviser to various DAX 40 companies as well as a strong choice for private equity transactions. The firm’s industry expertise ranges from automotive and manufacturing to transportation and financial services.

Strengths

“Allen & Overy offers a good mixture of senior advisers and associates.”

“The law firm is fast and very proactive, and provides a very good working atmosphere.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised Digital-Bridge Investments on the acquisition of a 51% stake in GD Towers, valued at EUR17.5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Hartmut Krause (see p.1488) is an experienced adviser on public M&A transactions including carve-outs and acquisitions. He acts for German and international corporates as well as private equity firms. **Hans Diekmann** (see p.1486) has extensive experience assisting clients with large-scale acquisitions and takeovers. He offers additional expertise in general corporate and stock corporation law issues, such as conversions and buy-back programmes. He assists with domestic and cross-border mandates. Munich-based practitioner **Astrid Krüger** (see p.1488) is well established in handling mergers, acquisitions and joint venture extensions while also assisting with ECM-related mandates.

Gleiss Lutz

What the team is known for Gleiss Lutz has a robust team that is well regarded for its capabilities in high-end transactions, advising a range of DAX 40 companies. It routinely handles inbound investments and acquisitions for international clients. The scope of its expertise encompasses divestitures and public takeovers whereby the team is often sought after by financial advisers and prominent corporates, while also showing expertise in take-private mandates. The department has an impressive reputation for advising management and supervisory boards of high-profile companies on complex corporate law and governance issues, as well as corporate investigations. It is particularly active in the industrial, automotive, technology and financial services sectors.

Strengths

“The lawyers at Gleiss Lutz take their commitment to providing high-end legal services very seriously.”

“Gleiss Lutz is very responsive and willing to go the extra mile.”

“The lawyers display very strong sector and specialist expertise with a team-based approach and seamless integration.”

“Gleiss Lutz can understand differences and help bridge the gaps between parties.”

“Gleiss Lutz shows depth and breadth in its team. All members of the team share the sophisticated legal minds and flexibility that we value.”

Work highlights Gleiss Lutz advised Deutsche Telekom on the auction process for the sale of a majority stake of 51% in its EUR17.5 billion-valued GD Towers business.

Foreign desks The firm’s China desk assists German companies with the formation of joint ventures and large-scale M&A transactions in

China as well as advising Chinese investors on acquiring targets in Germany. A key contact for Chinese and other East Asian matters is Michael Burian.

Notable practitioners

Christian Cascante is a well-known market participant with many years of experience in M&A transactions and a strong reputation for public takeovers. He is especially focused on cross-border deals, often advising US-based investment companies as well as financial advisers on acquisitions of German and other European targets. **Strengths:** “Christian Cascante is always good.” **Michael Arnold** advises on corporate advisory, compliance and investigations with a particular focus on the automotive sector, whereby he is sought after by supervisory boards. **Ralf Morshäuser** regularly advises on M&A deals in the startup scene especially in the TMT sector. His clients include large international venture investors and traditional German companies.

Strengths: “Ralf is brilliant I must say; he is really good in an M&A deal.” “He is a very good lawyer, loyal and very responsive.” **Cornelia Topf** is sought after by prominent domestic corporates as well as private equity firms for her experience in large-scale acquisitions and sales, including those with cross-border elements. **Michael Burian** is highly experienced in advising Japanese clients on transactions in Germany, including equity capital markets deals in relation to German targets. He speaks Japanese and previously worked at an international law firm in Tokyo.

Milbank LLP

What the team is known for The international law firm Milbank showcases a well-established team with a very strong reputation for advising large public companies on corporate law matters. It offers strategic advice to management, supervisory boards and shareholders, including on cross-border acquisitions and divestitures. The team also assists with corporate reorganisations and partnership agreements as well as financing rounds. Milbank additionally has significant expertise in handling deals for private equity funds and related portfolio company mandates. The law firm’s versatile client base also extends to family offices and family-owned businesses, and it has particular strength in the healthcare and life sciences sectors.

Strengths

“Milbank always finds a solution no matter how complex it gets.”

“The Milbank lawyers are exceptional for their broad and specialist knowledge and expertise.”

“The team’s responsiveness is extraordinary.”

“Milbank’s service level is top.”

Work highlights Milbank advised Sartorius on the acquisition of AlbuMedix from private investors, with a total deal value of GBP415 million.

Notable practitioners

Norbert Rieger is one of the most renowned and well-connected practitioners in the market. He advises prominent German and international corporate clients and private equity investors on high-volume M&A deals. Many of his transactions involve complex structures and cross-border elements. **Strengths:** “Norbert is an excellent and

very smart lawyer. He not only has high legal expertise, but is also a very sympathetic and strategically brilliant adviser." "Norbert is very business-minded, he understands exactly what clients need and what board members appreciate." "Norbert is exceptional." "He is a joy to work with." **Martin Erhardt** is particularly active for domestic and international clients, assisting with divestitures and investments as well as capital markets-related mandates.

Band 4

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie boasts excellent cross-border capabilities thanks to its broad global network of offices. The team regularly advises on large-scale and often multi-jurisdictional M&A transactions, with a strong focus on Chinese and US investments. Extensive partnership agreements and share sales are also handled by the team. The law firm's clientele is made up of domestic and international corporations from sectors including manufacturing, automotive, technology, energy and chemicals.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Baker McKenzie look at practical solutions and really work on the risks and how to mitigate these."

"Baker McKenzie is very knowledgeable on the local and international market, and has a superb ability to leverage its international network to support on global deals."

"At the negotiation stage, the firm makes everything possible, working 24/7."

"Baker McKenzie's service level and responsiveness is very good, on the partner as well as the associate level."

"Its network is a real asset for Baker McKenzie."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Magna International on its USD1.525 billion acquisition of the Veoneer Active Safety business from SSW Partners.

Foreign desks Headed by Thomas Gilles, the firm's China desk is based in Frankfurt and advises Chinese clients on the acquisition of German companies, most notably in the technology sector. The law firm also assists with Sino-German partnership agreements in the automotive sector.

Notable practitioners

Florian Kästle rises in the rankings following increasingly strong work activity on large cross-border transactions. He is especially active on inbound deals for international clients, including complex and large-scale acquisitions in the automotive, chemicals and TMT sectors. **Christian Atzler** speaks Mandarin and has many years of experience advising Chinese companies on M&A and investments as well as joint ventures in Germany. As a former member of the law firm's Shanghai as well as Hong Kong offices, he is familiar with the Chinese legal markets. **Thomas Gilles** is the chairman of Baker McKenzie's EMEA-China group and has a wealth of experience advising international clients on Sino-German M&A transactions.

CMS

What the team is known for CMS offers a strong team that draws on a deep bench of lawyers to handle a multitude of both high-end and mid-cap M&A transactions. The law firm routinely assists with the formation of joint ventures, especially in the energy and electric mobility sectors. CMS is particularly strong in M&A matters that have a significant regulatory component, benefiting from deep-rooted expertise in the TMT, energy, financial services and healthcare sectors. It also has a substantial client base in the automotive industry. Aided by its expansive office network, CMS is well placed to handle cross-border mandates.

Strengths

"The CMS team shows extraordinary expertise in transactional services and supply arrangements as well as on challenging regulatory aspects."

"The lawyers are always straight to the point and available at any time."

"CMS is very responsive with regular updates, in diligent pursuit of the advisory task and close alignment with the customer."

"The team consists of very skilled advisers with lots of experience in their respective fields of activity."

"CMS always takes the economic impact of legal advice into account in its entirety and translates it into a target-oriented strategy."

Work highlights CMS advised the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action on the EUR33 billion stabilisation package for Uniper.

Foreign desks Based in Shanghai, the firm's German desk represents German clients in M&A deals in China. The group also advises clients on joint ventures between German and Chinese companies. It furthermore assists them with corporate, commercial and compliance issues in China. Managing partner Ulrike Glueck is a key contact.

Notable practitioners

Antje Becker-Boley, Richard Mitterhuber and Jacob Siebert are key points of contact.

Madrid-based **Luis Miguel de Dios Martínez** heads the office's German desk and frequently assists German clients with M&A activities in Spain. This includes private equity deals and divestitures in the energy and financial services spheres. Shanghai-based **Ulrike Glueck** has a strong focus on advising prominent German clients on M&A and joint venture transactions in China. Her comprehensive practice also includes expertise in strategic investments, covering sectors such as healthcare, technology and manufacturing. Glueck speaks German, English and Mandarin.

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for The corporate practice at Hogan Lovells is commended for its knowledge and understanding of regulated industries such as energy, life sciences, insurance and telecommunications. It handles asset and share deals and restructurings, as well as auction proceedings and investments in start-ups. The team also handles partnership agreements and assists with supervisory law mandates. It caters to mid-market clients as well as large internationally active companies. The law firm's global network enables the

team to handle multi-jurisdictional transactions, demonstrating broad European capabilities coupled with notable US expertise.

Strengths

"The team is extremely experienced, with fantastic negotiation and communication skills as they proactively drive the process."

"The lawyers at Hogan Lovells have a good understanding of the commercial drivers of transactions and are able to focus on the material matters."

"Hogan Lovells is always keen to understand any special commercial and strategy dynamics to be able to tailor its service and deliverables."

"We feel very professionally accompanied throughout the entire transaction process right from the start."

"Based on long-lasting experience in similar transactions, Hogan Lovells is pragmatic and economically driven."

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised YourNow Holding, BMW and Mercedes-Benz's joint mobility venture, on the sale of its car sharing subsidiary Share Now to Stellantis.

Notable practitioners

Nikolas Zirngibl enters the rankings due to his strong performances in transactional mandates. He is well positioned to advise on complex cross-border acquisitions and sales, as well as investments and minority share deals.

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP

What the team is known for Kirkland & Ellis frequently handles noteworthy transactions, offering particular expertise in private equity deals, acting for prominent sponsors, investors and portfolio companies. It also boasts a strong practice for public takeover deals. The team is well placed to handle cross-border transactions, working closely with colleagues in London and the USA. It is especially active in the manufacturing and technology industries.

Notable practitioners

Benjamin Leyendecker advises well-known investment companies on public M&A deals including public takeovers and dual listings.

Strengths: "His contributions are absolutely paramount to getting deals across the finish line, with terms that are watertight." "The skills he has are superb; he is among those who we would always want to have involved on a matter."

Noerr

What the team is known for Noerr is a German law firm with international offices that comes recommended for handling a variety of matters, including acquisitions, divestitures, public takeovers and corporate reorganisations. Long-term partnership agreements and joint venture formations constitute a further area of expertise. The law firm regularly acts on international deals, including those involving China. It has a strong standing among German SMEs and public entities as well as catering to large corporate clients from Germany and abroad.

Strengths

"Noerr has a very focused team matching our needs perfectly."

"The whole team is very sophisticated and staffed with experts for the topics."

"Noerr provides us with in-depth expertise alongside extensive experience."

"Noerr provides very good accessibility and fast processing of the issues."

"We really like Noerr's hands-on approach, the firm is with you in the trenches."

Work highlights Noerr advised AUCTUS Capital Partners on the EUR1.28 billion sale of PharmaLex Holding to AmerisourceBergen.

Notable practitioners

Harald Selzner is an experienced practitioner who regularly assists German companies with cross-border M&A transactions including large divestments and acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Harald Selzner is very good at giving the right advice, effective transaction management and always finding a solution."* **Martin Neuhaus** is sought after for his expertise in handling acquisitions and carve-outs as well as corporate restructurings and divestitures. **Natalie Daghles** is particularly active on cross-border M&A transactions in the life sciences space. Prague-based **Barbara Kusak** is sought after for her strength in advising German corporates as well as capital funds on the sale and acquisition of Czech assets. She has expertise in the automotive, technology and engineering sectors. Head of Noerr's New York office **Sascha Leske** is German-qualified and frequently assists clients from the technology, media and telecommunications sectors with cross-border M&A transactions, private equity investments and corporate reorganisations. He is particularly noted for representing German clients in transactions connected to the USA.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom displays a strong M&A profile and is best known for its involvement in global and pan-European transactions, drawing on its international network. The team receives regular instructions for complex, high-end M&A and private equity deals. Partnership agreements and joint venture set-ups also fall within the firm's area of expertise. It regularly assists DAX 40 companies as well as large international corporations, investment firms and financial advisers. Many of its clients are headquartered in the USA.

Strengths

"With its multifaceted legal experience, Skadden is always capable of finding integrated solutions for complex matters in a way that helps us achieve our goal."

"The team's efficiency and effectiveness is just extraordinarily high."

"Skadden has very capable experts with impressive backgrounds and experience in Germany and the US."

"The team is able to deliver presentations and memos in a short time and on complex topics."

Work highlights Skadden advised Trimble on the EUR1.88 billion acquisition of Transporeon from private equity investor Hg in an all-cash transaction.

Notable practitioners

Jan Bauer (see p.1486) is highly regarded for his expertise in large cross-border private equity transactions as well as strategic M&A deals. He

regularly advises prominent German and US companies and investment firms as well as financial advisers. **Strengths:** *"Jan is an amazing lawyer with clear assessment of matters and very strong communication skills, providing us with highly valued advice."* *"Jan Bauer is very experienced and has extensive knowledge. He always goes for the client's interests and we love working with him."*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case is an internationally focused law firm advising on a mixture of M&A and corporate matters. It has extensive capabilities in high-end, cross-border transactions, including joint ventures, divestments and acquisitions via auction processes. The team's client roster boasts a number of prestigious domestic and international corporates. It also advises private equity funds and portfolio companies on acquisitions, and commands expertise in the real estate, financial services, technology, automotive and energy industries.

Strengths

"White & Case is characterised by a high level of competence, client orientation and good ideas to always achieve their goals."

"The lawyers at White & Case are fast, deliver on time and have a hands-on approach, and it is great to work with them."

Work highlights White & Case advised ABB on the separation of Accelleron from the ABB group in preparation for its spin-off and listing on SIX Swiss Exchange.

Notable practitioners

Roger Kiem advises well-known German and international clients on strategic M&A, real estate deals and sales and acquisitions in the financial sector. He frequently acts on cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** *"Roger is great to work with, not shy to tackle complicated matters and gives clear advice to clients in critical situations."*

Band 5

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons is noted for its holistic coverage of mandates across Germany and beyond, utilising its impressive network of offices to advise on cross-border matters. The highly active team assists with M&A, corporate advisory and private equity deals. In addition, clients benefit from the firm's expertise in joint venture set-ups. The law firm is particularly active in the automotive, TMT, life sciences, mobility and energy industries.

Strengths

"The team at Dentons houses subject matter experts who are readily available to provide excellent advice on all aspects of the transaction."

"The partners offer hands-on problem solving in complex situations."

"The lawyers give quick and appropriate handling of all questions in a multi-country cross-border transaction."

"In our experience, there is always the right person at hand to handle even uncommon matters."

Work highlights Dentons advised International Chemical Investors Group on the acquisition of

the compounds business of Benvic Group from PVC Europe Group.

Notable practitioners

Newly-ranked **Rebekka Hye-Knudsen** is highly active in private equity-related transactions, often with an international element. **Strengths:** *"Rebekka shows immense knowledge of the business and provides the right suggestions at the right times. In negotiations, she is tough with a touch for the right tone."*

DLA Piper UK LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper boasts a highly regarded practice with expertise across the full corporate and M&A spectrum. Joint venture agreements, corporate reorganisations and large-scale acquisitions and sales are regularly handled by the law firm. Particularly clients from the chemicals, gaming, IT, automotive and manufacturing sectors seek DLA Piper's excellent services. The popular team is recognised for acting on cross-border matters in collaboration with the firm's network of international offices, including on inbound and outbound transactions connected to the USA, China and India.

Strengths

"Because the firm is a global provider, DLA has the breadth of experience in other offices to support us."

"The lawyers at DLA Piper are strategic and know the company well. Because of this, they can think commercially and we have a high degree of trust in them."

"The team offers excellent advice which is very practice-oriented."

"DLA Piper provides the product with the best mixture of commercial goals, customer-friendliness and readability."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Knorr-Bremse and its subsidiary Knorr-Bremse Systeme für Nutzfahrzeuge on the acquisition of a 55% majority stake in Cojali for approximately EUR200 million.

Foreign desks The law firm's China desk acts for German corporations and investors on multi-jurisdictional transactions, especially those involving assets and subsidiaries in China. It also assists Chinese clients with the acquisition of targets and investments into startups in Germany. Nils Krause is a key contact.

Notable practitioners

Nils Krause (see p.1488) has experience in a range of M&A mandates including cross-border divestments and acquisitions across the TMT, logistics, manufacturing and mobility sectors. **Strengths:** *"He is a very strong lawyer."* **Benjamin Parameswaran** (see p.1489) is highly active assisting traditional German corporates and blue-chip companies with M&A and partnership agreements. He regularly acts on cross-border transactions, including advice to international clients on inbound investments, and is well versed in India-related mandates. **Strengths:** *"He is highly responsive, I get what I need anytime. He delivers."* *"He is one of these trusted advisers who you can turn to and make things work in high-pressure situations."* *"He is really excellent."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher has a dedicated corporate team that offers advice on corporate governance to management and supervisory boards of several DAX 40 companies and international businesses. It also handles cross-border private and public M&A transactions, with a particular focus on US-driven deals. The firm offers additional expertise in international joint ventures. Active on both high-end and mid-cap deals, the team routinely handles inbound investments for international clients. It predominantly acts for clients from the life sciences, manufacturing and technology sectors as well as private equity houses and their portfolio companies.

Strengths

"The team is experienced, solution-oriented and pragmatic."

"Gibson Dunn has a very good German team with strong depth and breadth with respect to the relevant specialty areas."

"The lawyers at Gibson Dunn represent our interests well."

"Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher gives us very fast turnaround on enquiries."

"All partners are always available for me and topics are dealt with quickly."

Work highlights Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher advised Muehlhan on the sale of its European and American business, including the respective operating companies, to One Equity Partners.

Notable practitioners

Dirk Oberbracht (see p.1489) frequently advises US clients on large-scale inbound transactions. He also assists German industry clients and portfolio companies with sales and acquisitions as well as corporate advisory. **Strengths:** *"Dirk is very supportive and good for complex transactions."* *"He is well known, recognised and experienced in cross-border transactions."* **Wilhelm Reinhardt** (see p.1489) provides corporate advisory work and assists with public and private M&A. He is well versed in both strategic and private equity transactions and covers a range of deal sizes. He frequently acts on cross-border matters.

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day is a well-known international firm, especially recommended for cross-border and multi-jurisdictional M&A deals. It handles acquisitions and divestitures with particular expertise in transactions involving the US and France. Further expertise includes carve-out and spin-off matters, cooperation agreements and venture capital investments. The law firm's client base includes private equity investors and corporates. Jones Day offers extensive expertise in the technology, automotive and healthcare sectors and also handles transactions for domestic and international clients in the manufacturing sector.

Strengths

"Jones Day's strengths are its client orientation, pragmatic approach to handle complex matters, good responsiveness and on-time deliveries. It has a good commercial understanding of the client's needs."

"The firm is very customer-oriented."

"The team is very good at keeping up to speed and highly responsive."

"Jones Day is very experienced and detail-oriented."

Work highlights Jones Day advised Ansys on its acquisition of DYNAMore.

Notable practitioners

Ansgar Rempp regularly assists well-known domestic and international corporates and private equity firms with sales and acquisitions across various jurisdictions, especially the USA. **Strengths:** *"Ansgar Rempp has very good negotiation skills, can handle complex deal structures and shows high responsiveness as well as drafting and service quality."*

McDermott Will & Emery

Rechtsanwälte Steuerberater LLP

What the team is known for McDermott Will & Emery boasts a strong corporate practice that frequently advises German clients on domestic and cross-border M&A deals, joint ventures and group restructurings. It provides additional expertise in share transactions and private equity deals. The law firm offers broad-ranging sector expertise, with a strong footprint in the manufacturing, technology and automotive industries.

Strengths

"The team offers almost unlimited availability and high flexibility for short-notice changes."

"The firm encourages an entrepreneurial mindset and creative solution-making. They have good process management and negotiation skills."

"McDermott has a great international network to take into account tax and corporate law requirements in several jurisdictions."

"The lawyers have the know-how needed for difficult legal questions and give us different options to fulfil our goals."

Work highlights McDermott Will & Emery advised the shareholders of the Lobster Group on the sale of a majority stake to FSN Capital VI in a structured auction process, which also included a reinvestment by former majority shareholders in Lobster Group.

Notable practitioners

Philipp Grenzebach heads the department and is a key point of contact for clients.

SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz

What the team is known for The German law firm SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz houses a well-regarded corporate law practice that acts primarily for domestic clients, assisting with national as well as cross-border matters. It provides boardroom and shareholder advice to DAX 40 clients, with notable strength in corporate governance matters. The law firm also handles corporate litigation, shareholder agreements and investments. High-value M&A transactions including acquisitions and divestments as well as carve-outs and spin-offs further fall under its expertise. It offers additional strength in corporate reorganisation matters. SZA attracts prestigious clients from a range of sectors, including financial services, automotive, pharmaceutical and technology.

Strengths

"The law firm demonstrates a very confident, structured and clear approach, showing the different facets, possibilities and alternative courses of

action."

"The team has the ability to present complex issues to governing bodies in a structured and understandable manner."

"SZA is very detail-oriented but can see the bigger picture as well."

"We always feel excellently advised by SZA."

"The team is very competent, solution-oriented and fast."

Work highlights SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz assisted Vitesco Technologies with corporate governance and organisation topics following its spin-off and subsequent IPO from Continental.

Notable practitioners

Jochem Reichert is highly regarded for his experience at boardroom level, advising supervisory and management boards of prominent German corporations on governance issues. He additionally assists with joint venture formations. **Strengths:** *"Jochem is a very experienced and confident lawyer with very good service attitude and characteristics. He acts in a very clear, structured and focused manner, coordinates with other law firms and advises with foresight."* *"Jochem is always responsive, can analyse complex facts and structures well and presents them in a comprehensible way. He has an eye for the essentials and works purposefully and far-sightedly in line with our corporate objectives."* *"Jochem's work is very well founded and thorough and he is very experienced in dealing with management and supervisory boards."* *"Dr Reichert is our man for difficult questions."* **Oliver Schröder** is experienced in advising domestic and international companies on mid-cap as well as high-end M&A transactions. He frequently assists with cross-border deals and offers additional expertise on corporate law and joint venture formations. **Strengths:** *"Oliver is consistently competent and always solution-oriented, and acts in the interests of the client."* *"He is very pragmatic, provides simple solutions and demonstrates high levels of responsiveness."*

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for The international law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher's expertise lies in mid as well as large-cap M&A transactions, and the firm acts for domestic and international corporates as well as founders and portfolio companies. Willkie Farr & Gallagher also enjoys a strong standing in private equity-related mandates. The team also assists with joint venture formations. Due to its international office network the firm is in a strong position to handle cross-border mandates across various industry sectors including pharmaceutical, technology, fashion and automotive.

Strengths

"There are really capable people at Willkie who have very broad knowledge and good ideas, can quickly get into a topic and deliver really good results."

"The corporate team is exceptionally helpful in guiding us through the commercial realities of the German M&A market."

"The lawyers manoeuvre through contract negotiations in a goal-oriented, persistent and very competent manner."

"Willkie quickly grasps the facts and shows great business understanding and creativity."

"The team is very strong in dealing with commercially and legally complex matters across multiple jurisdictions."

Work highlights Willkie Farr & Gallagher advised CVC Capital Partners on the acquisition of a majority stake in The Quality Group.

Notable practitioners

Georg Linde is head of the M&A and private equity department and is a key contact for the firm.

Band 6

ARQIS

What the team is known for The team at ARQIS routinely handles cross-border M&A transactions. The firm also assists with the entry of investors and share divestitures. It is particularly popular with Japanese clients looking to acquire German companies, thanks to the law firm's highly regarded Japanese desk. The department frequently acts for companies from the healthcare, manufacturing and hospitality sectors.

Strengths

"They have a great team which is very aligned and focused, with steadily increasing capabilities in Germany. They serve well the interface of legal advice and legislation."

"They were always on time with all of our requests."

"The team were instrumental in finding ways forward in complex negotiation situations and were well versed in the details of the specificities of the market."

"They are highly responsive and have a can-do mentality."

"ARQIS were able to handle highly complex transactions while being pragmatic."

Work highlights ARQIS assisted Omnes Capital with the acquisition of a stake in CCE.

Foreign desks Shigeo Yamaguchi heads the Japanese desk in the firm's Düsseldorf office. The team advises Japanese clients on the acquisition of companies in Germany. Clients benefit from the firm's various Japanese-speaking lawyers as well as ARQIS's Tokyo office.

Notable practitioners

Jörn-Christian Schulze regularly advises SME companies and international buyers on inbound acquisitions and mergers. **Strengths:** *"He is a strong partner in transactions, with an eye for the essentials." "He is extremely service-oriented and clever." "He is extremely easy to work with and has a strong ability to provide a 'bigger picture' view on commercial terms as well as provide exceptional support in negotiations."* German-qualified lawyer **Shigeo Yamaguchi** regularly advises Japanese listed companies on acquisitions and investments into German assets, covering the technology, manufacturing and engineering sectors. He is fluent in English, German and Japanese.

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is noted for advising domestic and international clients on both the buy and sell sides of private equity and strategic M&A deals. The team often acts on joint venture and strategic partnership agreements, as well as corporate advisory matters. It is particularly active on transactions in the energy,

technology, real estate and TMT sectors. Due to a strong international network, the law firm is highly equipped to advise on cross-border matters, while also being well placed in the German market.

Strengths

"Ashurst offers a quick response and a very good service level."

"The firm maintains a good internal exchange between teams."

"The lawyers have a strong and cohesive understanding of complex technical processes."

"The team is very structured and has a good understanding of the complete scenario."

Work highlights Ashurst advised Siemens Energy on the sale of its Heat Transfer Technology business division to Balcke Dürr.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Sacher advises notable German clients as well as international companies on M&A deals and joint ventures. He is particularly adroit with transactions in the energy sector.

Eversheds Sutherland

What the team is known for A strong international network allows Eversheds Sutherland to act on cross-border M&A transactions, with particular expertise pertaining to the UK and the USA. The team represents both German and foreign companies in inbound and outbound sales and purchases as well as multi-jurisdictional mandates. It also provides comprehensive corporate advice and assists with joint ventures, spin-offs and group reorganisations. It is at its most visible in the real estate, technology and energy sectors, and also shows strength in the automotive and banking sectors.

Strengths

"Eversheds has a great internal network of well-informed professionals."

"Commercial awareness is always in focus with Eversheds' lawyers."

Work highlights Eversheds Sutherland advised Sherwin-Williams on the acquisition of an all-partnership interest in Gross & Perthunas as well as a related production facility.

Notable practitioners

Matthias Heisse is appreciated for his wealth of experience in M&A transactions and reorganisations, advising both German and international clients. **Strengths:** *"He is a very strong lawyer."*

Sandra Link joined Eversheds Sutherland in January 2024. She has extensive experience advising Chinese clients on the acquisition of German target companies. She further assists with corporate advisory and restructurings as well as FDI procedures. **Hui Zhao** joined Eversheds Sutherland in January 2024. He is dual-qualified in China and Germany. He is highly experienced in assisting Chinese companies with M&A deals in Germany. He is fluent in Mandarin and German.

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates is a well-established practice advising domestic and international clients from Europe and North America, with particular strength working on transatlantic transactions in cooperation with its offices in the USA. The team advises on M&A and

private equity deals and joint ventures as well as transactions connected to startups. It has additional expertise includes corporate governance and capital markets matters. It is particularly active in the technology, life sciences, automotive and financial services sectors.

Strengths

"The team are always friendly, helpful, professional and on time."

"Their legal advice is excellent and pragmatic. They are also very fast, cooperative and supportive."

"The team has very good legal and management skills, with a good understanding of client needs."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Centrica Innovations on the sale of GreenCom Networks to Enphase Energy.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Lappe is the head of the department and a key contact for clients.

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown is an international law firm popular with private equity funds and their portfolio companies for advice on acquisitions and disposals. The firm represents mid-sized and large clients from both Germany and overseas, including a number of well-known multinationals. The team has ample experience acting on cross-border matters, especially those with a strong connection to the USA. The firm offers expertise across the financial services, automotive and manufacturing sectors.

Strengths

"The team is extremely responsive and offers a good service level."

"Mayer Brown has a very professional approach and is an international firm, which helps a lot on cross-border transactions."

"The lawyers are highly responsive and are able to cut through the detail to provide really comprehensive advice that is strategic."

"The firm has a good understanding of the market, and the lawyers are able to combine that with strong legal advice."

"Mayer Brown always provide a very quick answer to ad hoc questions, and even for quick tasks, the necessary resources are always provided."

Work highlights Mayer Brown advised HOERBIGER on the acquisition of Johnson Matthey Piezo Products.

Notable practitioners

Frankfurt-based **Klaus Riehmer** (see p.1490) is appreciated for his longstanding experience in the German M&A world.

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for Morrison Foerster is an international law firm with a strong focus on the TMT sector. In addition to advising on domestic transactions, the team is well placed to act on both inbound and outbound sales and acquisitions. The firm offers additional expertise in joint ventures. The team acts on private and public M&A deals, including mergers and spin-offs, as well as private equity transactions. Its client base is made up of shareholders, financial investors and multinational corporations.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Morrison Foerster are very respon-

sible with excellent and patient communication skills."

"The firm's ability to navigate intricate legal frameworks, manage diverse stakeholders and secure favourable outcomes is truly recommendable."

"The team consistently demonstrates a deep understanding of the business landscape and industry dynamics relevant to cross-border public and private M&A transactions."

"The lawyers offer brilliant guidance on very complex acquisitions on all matters from planning to execution."

"Morrison Foerster have a very good understanding of our needs and commercial endeavours."

Work highlights Morrison Foerster advised Fujitsu on its voluntary public takeover bid for GK Software.

Notable practitioners

Dirk Besse is active advising on private and public M&A deals and capital markets transactions, especially in the TMT sector. He acts for both large multinationals as well as domestic clients.

Strengths: "Dirk understands the bigger picture of what we are doing and why we are doing the transaction." "He is a very experienced and balanced adviser for complex transactions." "Dirk is very professional yet practical and solution-driven, with very good commercial acumen." "Dirk is an outstanding partner to work with." **Christoph Wagner** regularly advises on mergers and acquisitions in the media sector, including those with cross-border elements. **Jörg Meißner** is experienced in M&A, private equity and joint venture transactions, often in the TMT and manufacturing sectors. **Strengths:** "He is a strong guy in negotiations."

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright is an international law firm with a large network and strong cross-border facilities. The team advises clients on inbound and outbound acquisitions as well as multi-jurisdictional deals. It also acts on joint venture agreements and corporate restructurings, as well as private equity transactions. The law firm's key industries include finance, automotive, energy, manufacturing and technology. Its client base consists of German Mittelstand clients as well as multinational corporations and financial investors.

Strengths

"Their service is excellent, and despite being busy with other transactions, they make you feel like their only client."

"The team show excellent attention to detail and are business-savvy."

"Norton Rose Fulbright has an overall good ability to handle complex issues during transactions."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised MANN+HUMMEL on the carve-out and sale of its plastics business to private equity firm Mutares in a transaction valued at EUR500 million.

Notable practitioners

Nils Rahlf is the department head and a key contact for clients.

Oppenhoff & Partner Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for Oppenhoff & Partner is a well-known German practice active on M&A transactions, as well as showing strength in

complex carve-out transactions. The firm enjoys a strong reputation for its expertise in corporate governance matters, routinely advising on sophisticated corporate reorganisations. The team's client base ranges from family-owned businesses to international corporates as well as capital funds and insurance companies. It also regularly assists shareholders with transactions and corporate issues.

Strengths

"Oppenhoff is very efficient and responsive and has the necessary in-house capabilities for a diverse set of topics as well as the right tone for delivery."

"The lawyers always have very fast response times even when several workstreams are quickly working in parallel."

Work highlights Oppenhoff advised tesa on the sale of tesa Labtec to Adhex Pharma.

Notable practitioners

Georg Maier-Reimer is widely respected for the breadth of his expertise in the German M&A arena, with clients benefiting from his strength in handling cross-border venture capital investments. **Strengths:** "Georg is an excellent lawyer and strong all around." Cologne-based practitioner **Edder Cifuentes** is experienced in advising clients on joint venture formation regarding energy projects in Chile. He is fluent in English, German and Spanish.

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

What the team is known for Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe shows a strong track record in mid-cap M&A transactions and venture deals. The team is particularly adept at handling inbound and outbound cross-border work, with strong expertise in advising on acquisitions and investments in the German startup scene. The firm also assists with the formation of joint ventures. Due to its US ties, the law firm is also a favoured choice for transactions with a US angle. It frequently assists with deals in the technology, energy, financial services and life sciences sectors.

Strengths

"The team is very hands-on, pragmatic and effective."

"Orrick provides comprehensive suggestions and recommendations to clients."

"The firm is client-oriented, flexible and professional."

"The team is always very solution-oriented and fast."

Work highlights Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe assisted Georgia-based company Aptean with the acquisition of ImPuls.

Notable practitioners

A key contact for clients is department head Thomas Schmid.

Pinsent Masons

What the team is known for The law firm Pinsent Masons is active on international matters, advising clients from Asia and the USA on transactions in the German market. The team assists domestic and international clients with strategic investments, M&A deals and joint venture agreements as well as exits. Its clients hail from a variety of industries, including automotive, energy, health-care and technology.

Strengths

"They have an excellent team which is fast and competent, coordinating all the necessary legal components of the M&A process with a sound understanding of the financial implications."

"They offered perfect support throughout the whole deal."

"All matters were dealt with in a timely and sustainable manner."

Work highlights Pinsent Masons advised A.T. Kearny on the acquisition of OPTANO.

Notable practitioners

Sven Schulte-Hillen assists with cross-border acquisitions as well as financings, often acting for clients from the hospitality and life sciences sectors. **Strengths:** "He is an excellent lawyer with a sound understanding of the mid-size M&A market. He has a strong financial and commercial understanding, is very sophisticated and has a tight grasp on complicated matters."

Taylor Wessing

What the team is known for Taylor Wessing boasts a strong transactional focus, advising on a range of deal types including strategic partnerships, mergers, joint ventures, private equity work and takeovers. The firm's clientele includes a number of domestic and international clients from the IT and automotive industries as well as financial investors. The team often collaborates with the firm's offices in the UK and the EU.

Strengths

"Taylor Wessing handles matters of complexity with great experience and excellence."

"The team has very deep domain expertise in complex corporate transactions."

"Taylor Wessing provides good coordination and project management of the various teams involved."

Work highlights Taylor Wessing advised Triathlon Holding on its merger with Sunlight Group Energy Storage Systems, whereby Sunlight Group acquired 51% of Triathlon Holding.

Foreign desks Michael-Florian Ranft heads the firm's international China group. The firm is well placed to handle cross-border M&A transactions for international companies with Chinese subsidiaries. Further expertise lies in the establishment of new business formations in China and corporate law advice.

Notable practitioners

Klaus Grossmann heads the department and is a key point of contact.

Michael-Florian Ranft heads the international China group at Taylor Wessing. He is highly versed in advising Chinese clients on transactions in Germany and regularly assists German companies with their business activities in China. This includes corporate governance of Chinese subsidiaries, joint venture transactions and market entries.

Foreign Desks

ADVANT Beiten

Foreign desks ADVANT Beiten's China desk is well established in the market and has a wealth of experience in cross-border transactions between Germany and China, often advising Chinese clients on the acquisition of German SMEs. The desk

works closely with the firm's Beijing office. Insa Cornelia Müller and Patrick Alois Hübner are two key contacts.

King & Wood Mallesons Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

Foreign desks The Frankfurt office of King & Wood Mallesons offers substantial expertise and resources regarding Sino-German transactions. The team is highly active advising Chinese companies on investments in Germany and vice versa, including assistance with FDI issues. The department also assists Chinese clients with the establishment of German hubs. Hui Zhao is a key contact.

Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)

Arzinger

Foreign desks The Kyiv-based team at Arzinger advises German clients on the restructuring of Ukrainian subsidiaries, corporate law and governance issues, as well as the acquisition and disposal of Ukrainian assets. Alesya Pavlynska is a key contact for the desk.

Cuatrecasas

Foreign desks The Lisbon-based team at Cuatrecasas frequently assists German buyers with the acquisition of Portuguese companies and also handles multi-jurisdictional deals originating from Germany that involve Portuguese subsidiaries. Several of the desk's members are fluent in German and qualified to practise law in Germany. João Mattamouros Resende is a key contact for clients.

Advokatfirmaet Grette AS

Foreign desks The German desk at Advokatfirmaet Grette, which is headed by Roland Mörsdorf, is in a strong position to assist prominent German corporates with large-scale joint venture transactions in Norway. The desk also advises German shareholders on their sales to Norwegian corporates.

Roland Mörsdorf is dual-qualified in Norway and Germany. With a focus on the energy sector, he regularly assists German corporates with projects in Norway, including the formation of joint ventures in the renewable energy space. He also advises German clients on their divestitures to Norwegian corporates.

Horten

Foreign desks The team at Horten offers notable expertise in advising German clients, including private equity funds and corporates from the logistics sector, on the acquisition of Danish targets and vice versa. It further benefits from the German law expertise of dual-qualified lawyer Frans Rossen, who is also a key contact for the firm's German desk.

LPA-CGR avocats

Foreign desks LPA-CGR avocats demonstrates a strong German desk with expertise in transactions in the German market. The team regularly assists German clients with acquisitions of assets in France and vice versa, covering the food, auto-

otive and energy sectors. Divestments of Franco-German portfolios are also handled by the team. Sandra Hundsdörfer and Michael Somol are key contacts for clients.

Von Wobeser y Sierra, SC

Foreign desks The team at Von Wobeser y Sierra assists with the Mexican element of international mandates involving German companies including global restructurings. It also advises clients from both jurisdictions on German-Mexican cross-border transactions and is particularly popular with automotive clients. Based in Mexico City, the desk is headed by Rupert Hüttler and Claus von Wobeser.

WKB Lawyers

Foreign desks The Warsaw-based team at WKB Lawyers has notable experience advising German clients on the Polish aspects of cross-border M&A transactions. It also assists with share purchase agreements, transactional due diligence and W&I Insurance. Anna Wojciechowska is a key contact for the firm's German desk.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Henrik Armah of Greenberg Traurig has impressive expertise in mergers and acquisitions, particularly in the healthcare and biotech industries.

Strengths:

"He provides outstanding advice and very quick responses, with a high level of competence and a robust advocacy for the client's concerns."

"Henrik Armah is extremely responsive, knowledgeable and competent. He brings a lot of calm to otherwise challenging engagements."

"You just tell him what you want to achieve and he will tell you how to do it."

Sönke Becker of Herbert Smith Freehills has impressive experience in M&A transactions, with further strength in joint ventures and corporate law. He is well placed to handle cross-border mandates.

Strengths:

"Sönke Becker is a very strong and capable contact who is always available."

"He displays strong leadership and has an overview regarding the entire, very complex project."

Matthias Bruse of POELLATH is widely appreciated for his longstanding expertise in the German market, advising on cross-border transactions across various industries.

Strengths:

"Matthias Bruse is a very experienced and nice guy."

Regina Engelstädter of Paul Hastings acts on M&A transactions including those via auction processes and buyouts, as well as on shareholder matters.

Strengths:

"Regina Engelstädter is very pragmatic and is able to show new areas where we can find compromises and take the next step."

Top practitioner **Achim Glade** of Glade Michel Wirtz is held in high esteem for his strength in cross-border acquisitions and divestitures, whereby he acts for prominent clients from the manufacturing and engineering sectors.

Strengths:

"Achim offers good responsiveness and effective alignment."

"Achim is a top lawyer who keeps calm in emotional situations."

"It is a pleasure to work with someone that has a rare combination of high ability, pragmatism and empathy."

"He is a bright guy."

"He is a collegiate lawyer and a good negotiator."

Christian Horn of Luther is appreciated for his expertise in the German M&A market. He is active in a range of sectors, including energy and defence, showing particular strength in transactions with political elements. He counts state authorities and government ministries among his clients.

Strengths:

"He is a highly capable lawyer."

Michael Inhester of POELLATH is sought after by prominent corporates in the technology space for his experience handling acquisitions and startup investments.

Nicolai Lagoni of Greenberg Traurig is experienced in handling cross-border acquisitions as well as complex mergers. Clients also benefit from his strength in strategic joint venture set-ups, especially in the automotive sector.

Strengths:

"He is a good lawyer – very committed and really good in SPA negotiations."

Andreas Merkner of Glade Michel Wirtz is particularly active on corporate advisory and governance issues in relation to complex spin-offs and takeovers. He also handles regulatory investigations, M&A transactions and share buy-backs.

Strengths:

"Andreas Merkner is a very strong corporate and capital markets lawyer with an extraordinary level of sophistication and very good overall vision."

Eva Nase of POELLATH advises executive boards and founders on corporate law relating to prominent IPOs.

Strengths:

"Eva is really quality-driven."

Andreas Nelle of Raue is widely appreciated for regularly assisting mid-sized companies and their shareholders with M&A and venture capital deals.

Strengths:

"Andreas Nelle is one of the finest attorneys I have ever worked with."

"Andreas Nelle is a great business lawyer with sophisticated experience and an in-depth M&A and fundraising mindset for high-growth companies."

Sebastian Olk of Gütt Olk Feldhaus is a trusted adviser for founders, shareholders and investors for M&A and private equity transactions in the German market.

Strengths:

"Sebastian Olk is a highly sophisticated M&A adviser with extensive experience and a commercial focus."

"Sebastian Olk is an absolutely central character in the M&A space."

Federico Pappalardo (see p.1489) of Dechert is a well-known practitioner with expertise in cross-border acquisitions, divestitures and investments, acting for clients from the retail, life sciences and technology sectors.

Strengths:

"Federico Pappalardo is an internationally-oriented lawyer who speaks many languages fluently, is effective and very experienced, and always balances possible problem areas with solutions."

Ulf Renzenbrink of Renzenbrink & Partner is a sought-after adviser due to the breadth of his expertise in the German market. He covers private equity deals as well as strategic and distressed M&A, acting for well-known German and international companies on domestic and cross-border mandates.

Strengths:

"Ulf Renzenbrink is always at the forefront of the transaction and is knowledgeable of all relevant details."

"He is an amazing lawyer with great commercial awareness and is likely one of the best lawyers available for mid-market deals in Germany."

Gerhard Schmidt (see p.1490) of Weil, Gotshal & Manges is a highly skilled and well-known adviser. He assists with M&A deals including share acquisitions and voluntary public tender offers. He is particularly well versed in handling international matters, often working in conjunction with the firm's US offices.

Peter Schorling of Greenberg Traurig is well placed to handle cross-border acquisitions while also assisting with the formation of joint ventures across various industry sectors, including technology and real estate.

Strengths:

"Peter Schorling is one of the best lawyers for getting things done, staying on track, being deal-

focused and negotiating."

Ludger Schult of GLNS often acts for privacy equity funds, founders and corporates on acquisitions, divestitures and financing.

Marco Sustmann of Glade Michel Wirtz advises prominent German corporates, supervisory boards and investment firms on large spin-offs and acquisitions as well as compliance investigations and shareholder disputes.

Strengths:

"Marco is our go-to guy if we need quick, high-quality help in corporate matters and beyond."

Andreas von Oppen of GREENFORT is highly active on M&A transactions in Germany and internationally. He is especially active for TMT clients, assisting with acquisitions and divestitures.

Strengths:

"He is a smart negotiator."

"Andreas is a confident and experienced leader."

"He always delivers pragmatic solutions and is good on commercial aspects."

"Andreas is a really strong operator. He is very commercial and at the same time very technical. We always enjoy working with Andreas and highly recommend him."

Foreign Experts

Christopher Vogl of Kuhn Carl Norden Baum is well placed to assist with transactions involving Germany and Japan. In addition to M&A and corporate advisory, he also handles related disputes.

Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

Mexico City-based **Luis Cuesta Salces** of Mac-

donel Uribe Cuesta Llacá & Esquivel is a German, Mexican and Spanish-qualified lawyer. He is a favoured adviser to German clients looking for support with transactions in Mexico, with particular strength in the automotive sector.

As head of the firm's Shanghai office, **Patrick Heid** of GvW Graf von Westphalen is well placed to handle Sino-German transactions. He often assists German corporates with acquisitions of Chinese assets.

Christoph Hezel of Taylor Wessing is a German-qualified lawyer based in the firm's Shanghai office. He frequently acts for German clients establishing joint ventures and subsidiaries in China.

São Paulo-based **Christian Roschmann** (see p.729) of Tauli & Chequer Advogados in association with Mayer Brown is qualified in Brazil and Germany, which makes him a strong candidate to handle M&A and corporate mandates involving both jurisdictions.

Prague-based practitioner **Lukáš Ševčík** of Kinstellar is well placed to advise prominent German clients on acquisitions of Czech assets. He also assists with global transactions involving both the Czech Republic and Germany. He speaks Czech, German and English, and is qualified in both the Czech Republic and Germany.

Milan-based practitioner **Sven von Mensenkampff** of Legance is dual-qualified in Italy and Germany. He is well positioned to assist with inbound acquisitions in Italy from Germany.

Dispute Resolution

Band 1**Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer**

What the team is known for The market-leading law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer continues to impress with its excellent work on the full spectrum of dispute resolution. It is renowned for its ability to handle complex mass claims, often representing defendants in liability matters or insurance disputes. The team offers in-depth expertise in cartel damages claims and in financial and insolvency-related disputes. Furthermore, the firm is held in high esteem for its capabilities in arbitration proceedings, advising on complex energy, post-M&A and contractual arbitration proceedings, as well as state-investor disputes under various national and international rules. Its market position is further illustrated by its client roster, which consists of globally renowned corporates and financial institutions. The team also has experience in cutting-edge climate change litigation.

Strengths

"Freshfields has a lot of good litigation lawyers."

"The team combines litigation and arbitration expertise."

"The litigation team really gets to grips with complex topics extremely quickly and well. The good networking with other technically experienced teams of the law firm certainly contributes to this."

"Freshfields is strong in post-M&A disputes."

"Everything is always explained to me very clearly and in detail, and there is always a contact person available immediately or within one or two hours."

Work highlights Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer acted for Volvo in relation to Volvo/Renault Trucks' defence of damages claims in the EU and elsewhere arising from the European Commission's infringement decision in a truck cartel investigation.

Notable practitioners

Boris Kasolowsky is held in high esteem for his leading expertise as an arbitration counsel, advising clients on investor-state, energy and post-M&A disputes under DIS, ICC and ICSID rules. **Strengths:** *"Boris Kasolowsky offers high-quality advice and is able to mobilise an army of lawyers and collect documents in a proper way, as*

well as knowing how to frame it to the client." *"He is excellent at giving advice on the continental side of strategy."* *"He is a very good lawyer."*

Martina de Lind van Wijngaarden acts for clients in high-profile disputes pertaining to product liability as well as insolvency claims and criminal litigation.

Hans-Patrick Schroeder (see p.1490) advises clients on a broad range of disputes related to M&A, compliance and damages proceedings.

Hengeler Mueller

What the team is known for Considered an exceptional dispute resolution practice, Hengeler Mueller is routinely mandated on complex, multi-jurisdictional cases. The team offers proven excellence in cartel damages litigation, defending prestigious multinationals and DAX-40 companies as well as handling mass claims. Furthermore, the firm is held in high esteem for its breadth of expertise covering intellectual property disputes and professional liability claims, as well as financial sector disputes. The law firm offers deep-rooted expertise in a multitude of industry sectors, including automotive, banking, insurance

Dispute Resolution
Leading Firms
Band 1
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Hengeler Mueller
Band 2
Baker McKenzie
Clifford Chance
CMS
Gleiss Lutz
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Linklaters
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Noerr
SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz
White & Case
Band 4
Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH
WACH UND MECKES und Partner Rechtsanwälte
Band 5
Ashurst
Borris Hennecke Kneisel
Busse Disputes Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH
DLA Piper LLP
Hanefeld Rechtsanwälte
Herbert Smith Freehills Germany LLP
HEUKING
MANNER SPANGENBERG
Oppenhoff & Partner Rechtsanwälte
rothorn legal
Taylor Wessing
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

and TMT. Also, clients benefit from the firm's prowess in handling constitutional complaints, as well as post-M&A disputes, in close collaboration with its outstanding corporate expertise.

Strengths

"The client always receives the necessary advice within the desired timeframe."

"Hengeler Mueller is an outstanding firm. The team is extremely diligent, forward-thinking, and anticipates twists and turns in matters."

"The team is very diversified and can therefore serve the needs of the clients excellently. This extends to the required different seniority of the lawyers, from the specialist lawyer to the associate who does the diligence work."

"The firm is really focused on high-profile litigation and arbitration."

"Its business acumen and economic thinking for the client are decisive for the successful cooperation."

Work highlights Hengeler Mueller represented Meta in contractual claims due to IP peering against Telekom Deutschland.

Notable practitioners

Leading practitioner **Markus Meier** is held in high esteem for his excellence as a litigator, often representing prestigious automotive companies in large-scale M&A and capital market disputes. Clients also benefit from his experience in handling DIS and ICC-governed arbitration procedures. **Strengths:** *"Markus Meier is the best litigator." "He is a distinguished arbitrator." "He is a very good counsel, and very sharp."* **Henning Bälz** represents

Dispute Resolution: Litigation
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Hornung Uwe <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Meier Markus <i>Hengeler Mueller</i>
Rützel Stefan <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Band 2
Bellinghausen Rupert <i>Linklaters</i>
Molitoris Michael <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz</i>
Band 3
Meckes Frank <i>WACH UND MECKES und Partner</i>
Wach Karl <i>WACH UND MECKES und Partner</i>
Band 4
Baus Christoph <i>Latham & Watkins</i>
Brock Ina <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Bussian Wolf <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Chatzinerantzis Alexandros <i>Linklaters</i>
Hass Detlef <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Liebscher Thomas <i>SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschutz</i>
Zimmerling Marc <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Band 5
de Lind van Wijngaarden Martina <i>Freshfields</i>
Grauke Britta <i>Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (ORL) ◇*</i>
Kremer Michael <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Nohlen Nicolas <i>Ashurst</i>
Rakob Sebastian <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Schneider Burkhard <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Schroeder Hans-Patrick <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus*</i>
Wagner Eric <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Weigel Michael <i>Oppenhoff & Partner Rechtsanwälte</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Löhner Anne <i>Latham & Watkins</i>

clients in prominent arbitration proceedings concerning the effectiveness of treaty arbitration clauses, whereby he acts in front of national and European high courts. **Strengths:** *"He is a very good arbitration counsel."*

Band 2

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie is highly regarded for its strength in international arbitration, benefiting from its excellent global network. Its team is often involved in prominent cases in the energy sector, advising on construction and infrastructure disputes. The law firm also frequently acts on post-M&A and IT-related mandates with additional expertise in enforcement proceedings. With its further expertise in insurance, intellectual property and supply chain disputes, the firm completes its holistic offering to clients from the manufacturing and pharmaceutical sectors.

Strengths

"The team provides first-class service, thinks outside the box and explains complex matters concisely."

"The firm has sufficient capacities available at all times, as well as always being approachable."

"Baker McKenzie is very multinational."

"Its lawyers have a good feeling for the client's commercial interests."

Notable practitioners

Excellent lawyer **Jörg Risse** is widely appreciated

Dispute Resolution
Most in Demand Arbitrators
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Gerstenmaier Klaus <i>Haver & Mailänder (ORL) ◇</i>
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Elsing Siegfried H. <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (ORL) ◇</i>
Sachs Klaus Michael <i>CMS</i>
Band 1
Baumann Antje <i>BAUMANN Resolving Disputes (ORL) ◇</i>
Berger Klaus Peter <i>Universität zu Köln (ORL) ◇</i>
Borris Christian <i>Borris Hennecke Kneisel</i>
Hanefeld Inka <i>Hanefeld Rechtsanwälte</i>
Kröll Stefan <i>Sole Practitioner (ORL) ◇</i>
Lörcher Torsten <i>CMS</i>
Risse Jörg <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Trittmann Rolf <i>rothorn legal</i>
Band 2
Busse Daniel <i>Busse Disputes Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft</i>
Gantenberg Ulrike <i>Gantenberg Dispute Experts (ORL) ◇</i>
Kröck Alexander <i>KRÖCK Dispute Resolution (ORL) ◇</i>
Ruckteschler Dorothee <i>Dorothee Ruckteschler (ORL) ◇</i>
Schaefer Jan <i>King & Spalding (ORL) ◇*</i>
Thümmel Roderich <i>Thümmel, Schütze & Partner (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 3
Habersack Mathias <i>Ludwig-Maximilians (ORL) ◇</i>
Kuhli-Spatscheck Annett <i>Kantenwein (ORL) ◇</i>
Nedden Jan-Heiner <i>Hanefeld Rechtsanwälte</i>
Pickrahn Günter <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Rützel Stefan <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>
Schmidt-Ahrendts Nils <i>Hanefeld Rechtsanwälte</i>
Seelmann-Eggebert Sebastian <i>Hanefeld</i>
Spangenberg Jan <i>MANNER SPANGENBERG</i>
Wagner Gerhard <i>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (ORL) ◇</i>

for his strength as an arbitration counsel, representing clients in complex insolvency, energy and construction disputes. He also remains a stellar choice as arbitrator. **Strengths:** *"Jörg Risse is a very good analyst and strategist, as well as an excellent negotiator." "He is always approachable and is rightly held in high esteem." "He is highly regarded in the arbitration world."* Düsseldorf-based practitioner **Heiko Haller** is well positioned to represent prominent clients in cross-border post-M&A, energy, contracts-based and construction arbitration, especially under DIS rules. **Strengths:** *"He is a pleasure to work with. He gets straight to the point and remains cool and calm in challenging situations." "Heiko Haller always helps us find a perfect strategy for the negotiation." "He is very experienced and great at handling complex matters."* **Günter Pickrahn** is in high demand from engineering and energy companies for his strength in construction and licensing arbitration under DIS and ICC rules. Clients equally benefit from his experience as an arbitrator.

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance is held in high esteem for its adeptness at defending parties in highly complex disputes. The firm is a particularly popular choice for large damages claims in a range of sectors, as well as the enforcement of arbitral awards. Furthermore, Clifford Chance demonstrates strong capabilities in large arbitration proceedings including investor-state, mining and energy disputes, as well as post-M&A

Dispute Resolution: Arbitration Counsel	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Busse Daniel	Busse Disputes Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft
Kasolowsky Boris	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*
Risse Jörg	Baker McKenzie
Band 2	
Lörcher Torsten	CMS
Meier Anke	Noerr
Meier Markus	Hengeler Mueller
Pickrahn Günter	Baker McKenzie
Pörnbacher Karl	Hogan Lovells International LLP
Wilske Stephan	Gleiss Lutz
Band 3	
Burianski Markus	White & Case
Haller Heiko	Baker McKenzie
Happ Richard	Luther Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH
Konrad Sabine	Aurelius Cotta Partnerschaft von (ORL) ◇
Masser Anna	Allen & Overy LLP*
Band 4	
Chatzinerantzis Alexandros	Linklaters
Nacimiento Patricia	Herbert Smith Freehills Germany
Rützel Stefan	Gleiss Lutz
Band 5	
Bälz Henning	Hengeler Mueller
Borris Christian	Borris Hennecke Kneisel
Fuchs Arne	Ashurst
Hennecke Rudolf	Borris Hennecke Kneisel
Hombek Jörn	Hanefeld Rechtsanwälte
Klaesener Amy	Jones Day (ORL) ◇
Kneisel Sebastian	Borris Hennecke Kneisel
Quinke David	Gleiss Lutz
Sawang Judith	Ashurst
Schaefer Jan	King & Spalding (ORL) ◇*
Sessler Anke	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher (ORL) ◇*
Spangenberg Jan	MANNER SPANGENBERG
Up-and-coming individuals	
Freiin von Enzberg Donata	Taylor Wessing
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

and joint venture cases. The team has experience in DIS and SCC arbitrations, as well as mediation. With its various offices across Germany and excellent international structures, the team is well placed to handle multi-jurisdictional disputes. Its clientele consists of well-known German and international players from the banking, automotive and technology sectors.

Strengths

"Clifford Chance provides competence, quick feedback, and a high level of expertise."

"The firm is very broadly positioned and can call in experts from all areas for specific topics."

"The team is always available and focused."

"They are very experienced and have a unique practice."

"Clifford Chance is available, responsive and very professional."

Work highlights Clifford Chance represented SEG Automotive in proceedings against Robert Bosch for damages following allegations of market abuse and breach of contractual obligations.

Notable practitioners

Clients appreciate **Uwe Hornung** for his breadth of expertise in the German market. He assists with a variety of mandates including arbitral

Foreign Experts Dispute Resolution	
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below	
China	Hepner Heiko Dentons (ORL) ◇
Kazakhstan	Nacimiento Patricia Herbert Smith
Netherlands	Schaefer Jan King & Spalding (ORL) ◇*
USA	Klaesener Amy Jones Day (ORL) ◇

award enforcements. **Strengths:** "Uwe Hornung has been invaluable in terms of explaining German procedures generally, and advising as to strategy and defence at all stages of the litigation." **Michael Kremer** regularly advises clients from the aviation, automotive and engineering sectors on complex disputes, with a particular focus on anti-trust litigation and follow-on claims. Investors and energy companies mandate **Sebastian Rakob** for his expertise in supply and energy disputes under various rules, including DIS and SCC. **Strengths:** "We are always very satisfied with Sebastian's work." **Burkhard Schneider** is recognised for his long-standing expertise in the German litigation world, with a particular focus on disputes in the financial sector.

CMS

What the team is known for A notable law firm in the dispute resolution world, CMS offers comprehensive services with a particular focus on representing clients from various industries in arbitration. The firm is respected for its prowess in handling commercial and investment arbitration cases, with members of the team regularly being appointed as presiding arbitrators. Furthermore, CMS offers expertise in mass litigation and liability claims and is regularly involved in politically sensitive projects, acting as counsel on multi-jurisdictional disputes. The team is a popular choice with clients from the automotive and energy sectors.

Strengths

"CMS is extremely active in arbitration cases."

"Its lawyers deal with problems in a very focused manner, give very good advice and also quickly grasp the topics."

"The team discusses which matters might come up, what the opponent might argue, and build arguments in the beginning that we can use later on in the dispute."

"The firm has uncomplicated coordination, its lawyers are reachable at any time and enquiries are answered immediately."

"CMS is outstanding in explaining complex matters in layman's terms."

Work highlights CMS represented Mercedes-Benz Group in compensation claims asserted by customers in connection with diesel vehicles.

Notable practitioners

Klaus Michael Sachs is widely considered an outstanding leader in the German and European arbitration world. He frequently sits as party-appointed and presiding arbitrator in complex ICSID and UNCITRAL tribunals, with a focus on construction and financial disputes. **Strengths:** "Klaus Michael Sachs shows great leadership, outstanding experience, and always hits the right note." "He is one of the biggest names in Germany." "He is clearly outstanding." Cologne-based practitioner **Torsten**

Lörcher often acts as party-appointed arbitrator and also enjoys a strong standing as counsel, representing energy companies in DIS and ICC governed post-M&A and financial disputes.

Gleiss Lutz

What the team is known for Housing a highly esteemed disputes practice, the law firm Gleiss Lutz is particularly visible and well reputed for its strength in antitrust litigation and is regularly sought after for its prowess in handling major cartel damages claims. The team also represents clients in liability and distribution disputes. Furthermore, the firm is well versed in investment arbitration, insolvency proceedings and class actions in the capital markets segment. Additionally, Gleiss Lutz offers noteworthy expertise in corporate litigation and general commercial arbitration proceedings, including those pertaining to the construction sector. Its clientele includes well-known players from the technology, telecommunications, energy and automotive sectors.

Strengths

"The team is pragmatic and is always looking for reasonable solutions."

"The Gleiss Lutz team is highly stable and its quality is extraordinary."

"Its lawyers are always accessible and they really care for their clients."

"The firm has an excellent overview of multidimensional, large-volume litigation before foreign courts."

"Gleiss Lutz has strength in its experience with the enforcement of international arbitration awards."

Work highlights Gleiss Lutz represented Deutsche Telekom before the Berlin Court of Appeal in the enforceability of an arbitral award against the state of India in Germany, with around USD132 million in awarded damages.

Notable practitioners

Leading practitioner **Stefan Rützel** is renowned for his litigation strength, acting on large-scale set-aside proceedings, as well as representing clients in liability claims and insolvencies. Additionally, he is an experienced counsel and acts as arbitrator, which makes him a strong choice for clients seeking holistic representation. **Strengths:** "He is a very experienced arbitration and litigation counsel." **Stephan Wilske** operates from the firm's Stuttgart office and is widely appreciated for his prowess in handling large distribution disputes, as well as those related to energy construction. He is experienced with DIS and ICC arbitrations.

Strengths: "He is brilliant." "Stephan Wilske is very experienced in arbitration proceedings."

Düsseldorf-based practitioner **David Quinke** often acts for well-known energy companies on complex disputes. David Quinke also acts on litigation related to arbitral awards. **Strengths:** "David Quinke is excellent."

Governments, automotive giants and technology companies trust **Eric Wagner** with distribution, product liability and insurance disputes. He shows additional skill in insolvencies and recourse claims. **Strengths:** "He is a very good lawyer."

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for With its large team and international office network, Hogan Lovells is

ideally placed to advise a variety of clients from the automotive, technology and pharmaceutical sectors on the full spectrum of dispute resolution. The law firm is particularly well known for its abilities in cartel claims, supply chain disputes and product liability cases, often working in close connection with its other departments. The Munich-based team shows additional strength in arbitration matters, representing clients in ICC and SIAC arbitrations.

Strengths

"Hogan Lovells always has the appropriate manpower to provide the necessary advice within the requested deadline."

"The team gives good advice and is always very attentive."

"The firm is efficient and clear in its communication and advice."

"Hogan Lovells has a large client network with in-depth cross-knowledge and experience."

"Hogan Lovells has a vast experience in different industries and the lawyers are therefore able to think outside the box and provide industry-specific practicable advice."

Work highlights Hegal Lovells represented Google in antitrust damages actions in connection with the European Commission's Google Shopping decision.

Notable practitioners

Well-reputed practitioner **Karl Pörnbacher** regularly represents renewable energy developers in complex Energy Charter Treaty claims under ICSID rules. He is also visible representing state-owned entities in environmental construction matters under SIAC rules. **Strengths:** *"Karl Pörnbacher is a strong partner." "He is a very renowned arbitrator and counsel."* Munich-based practitioner **Ina Brock** specialises in product liability disputes in the pharmaceutical and automotive sectors, as well as environmental litigation. **Strengths:** *"Ina Brock is very knowledgeable, while also being very clear in her instructions and advice." "She is strong in product liability."* Clients mandate **Detlef Hass** for his experience in handling contractual disputes in the automotive sector. **Strengths:** *"He is a strategic and very experience lawyer, known to be very strong in the automotive field." "He is a very good practitioner." "Detlef Hass is a well-known litigator."*

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Due to its extensive international office network, Latham & Watkins is well placed to advise clients on a broad range of cross-border disputes. The law firm demonstrates excellent prowess in handling mass litigation, competition disputes and data protection cases, often in cooperation with its US practice group. Furthermore, the team offers considerable expertise in arbitrations, especially those pertaining to investor-state, energy and post-M&A disputes, with experience in DIS and ICC arbitrations. Its clientele consists of leading car manufacturers, technology companies and states, which further underlines the practice group's market position.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins is very agile and flexible in putting together the right teams for a case."

"The team is clear in communication and analysis."

"The firm covers all areas of disputes and is particularly stellar when it comes to complex multi-jurisdiction disputes, offering great depth in the team and good people from junior associate up to the partner level."

"Its lawyers offer great responsiveness."

"The lawyers are impressively aligned within the team."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins Germany successfully represented ZF Automotive US in a US Supreme Court case deciding the question whether a private commercial arbitration abroad qualifies as a foreign or international tribunal.

Notable practitioners

Christoph Baus works across the firm's Hamburg and Frankfurt offices and offers clients strong support in large litigation matters, including on mass claims. He also shows promise in arbitration matters. **Strengths:** *"He has a good grasp of complex matters."* **Anne Löhner** enters the rankings following endorsement from clients and peers, as well as her experience in large mass litigation cases. She also provides clients with expertise in technological licensing disputes, as well as injunctive relief proceedings. **Strengths:** *"She is a true star. She is diligent and delivers an impressive performance." "In difficult situations she is extremely to the point. She makes her point and fights very hard for her client." "She is definitely an up-and-coming partner." "Anna is a young and talented lawyer." "She does not shy away from telling a client that their strategy does not make sense, as well as always being perfectly prepared and having a grip on all of the details."*

Linklaters

What the team is known for Housing a highly regarded dispute resolution department, Linklaters offers considerable expertise in both litigation and international arbitration. The firm is especially visible in the energy and financial sectors. With its various offices across Europe and Germany, the team frequently advises on corporate, post-M&A and D&O liability cases. Furthermore, the arbitration group at Linklaters is noted for its prowess in handling disputes under various national and international rules. Its clientele consists of players from a variety of sectors, including financial services, automotive, energy and technology.

Strengths

"Linklaters is a really impressive outfit with subject matter experts in litigation."

"The team is very responsive, always providing transparency on when detailed feedback will be provided and delivering on those promises."

"Its lawyers are experts at what they do. They are very smart, know the market well and are part of a good team."

Work highlights Linklaters represented Erste Abwicklungsanstalt in its defence against Portigon in a case regarding tax liabilities of over EUR1 billion.

Notable practitioners

Rupert Bellinghausen is revered for his litigation abilities, often representing domestic and global companies in corporate, distribution, liability and investment disputes. He is visible in the real estate, insurance and tax sectors. **Strengths:**

"He is a capable and very nice guy." **Alexandros Chatzinerantzis** covers a broad array of mandates in the energy sector from liability and construction to M&A disputes. He is respected for his strength as arbitration counsel and litigator.

Strengths: *"Alexandros is a true expert matter who is fast and agile to deliver exactly to clients' needs!" "He is available and delivers timely feedback and good drafts of the briefs."*

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy is an international law firm with excellent cross-border capabilities, offering services on a broad range of dispute resolution cases. The firm excels in litigation in the financial space, especially tax and banking disputes. The team also shows considerable experience in post-M&A and contractual disputes. Allen & Overy operates in the arbitration space, with experience in ICC and UNCITRAL cases and particular experience in the energy and construction matters. Its client roster, which consists of well-known national and international players from various industries, serves as a testament to the firm's standing.

Strengths

"The team is very knowledgeable, has an excellent reputation and is fun to work with."

"Its lawyers are able to think outside the box when the matter is constantly changing."

"The Allen & Overy disputes team continues to impress us with the strategic, meticulous and holistic manner in which they approach the difficult legal and factual questions confronting us."

Notable practitioners

Frankfurt-based practitioner **Anna Masser** (see p.1488) rises in the rankings due to her growing visibility in the German market. She is well versed in representing clients in post-M&A, distribution and investment disputes under ICSID, UNCITRAL and DIS rules. **Strengths:** *"Anna Masser provides excellent legal service in the client's ever-changing business environment with a clear client and commercial focus." "She adapts quickly to the changing circumstances, thinks outside the box and moves things forward." "Anna Masser is a superb lawyer with tactical, analytical and argumentative skills at a very high level." "She is extremely sharp, as well as even-minded and well balanced."* **Wolf Bussian** (see p.1486) advises prominent national and international banks on complex liability and tax disputes in relation to cum-ex transactions, among others. Auditing companies, financial institutions and consultants frequently mandate **Marc Zimmerling** (see p.1492) for his strength in handling financial, insolvency, liability and tax litigation. **Strengths:** *"He is an experienced and highly skilled lawyer. He is focused on litigation and knows how to litigate successfully." "In difficult matters, he never loses patience and is calm in dealing with the matters."*

Noerr

What the team is known for Noerr offers expertise across the full spectrum of dispute resolution, often representing parties in high-profile

disputes. Besides its prowess in liability and insurance cases, the law firm also handles competition and insolvency disputes with further expertise in class actions. Furthermore, the team regularly acts on complex arbitrations pertaining to insurance and the Energy Charter Treaty. Its excellent client roster, consisting of prominent automotive manufacturers, insurers and government entities, further reflects Noerr's market presence.

Strengths

"The team has advanced experts who are strong and detailed."

Work highlights Noerr represented Fidelis Insurance in a W&I insurance claim related to a share purchase agreement.

Notable practitioners

Frankfurt-based practitioner **Anke Meier** is highly sought after by sovereign states for her strength in prominent Energy Charter Treaty claims under ICSID rules as well as related court proceedings.

Strengths: *"Anke Meier is an important player."*

SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz

What the team is known for SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz houses a well-respected dispute resolution practice, with a particular focus on high-stakes litigation. The team is especially visible in damages claims and joint venture and post-M&A disputes. The law firm is also active in class actions, as well as liability issues and insolvency proceedings. The team further assists with arbitration under various rules including DIS and ICC. Its client roster includes well-known, nationally and internationally active automotive, energy, financial and manufacturing companies.

Strengths

"SZA Schilling, Zutt & Anschütz is an excellent firm for complex disputes."

"The support offered is responsive, proactive and highly competent."

"The firm is very transparent on billing."

Work highlights SZA represented Bayer in claims for damages brought by investors regarding breach of disclosure obligations in connection with the acquisition of Monsanto.

Notable practitioners

Munich-based practitioner **Michael Molitoris** is renowned for his strength in product liability disputes, often acting for prestigious automotive manufacturers and suppliers. **Strengths:** *"Michael Molitoris is very strong in product liability."* **Thomas Liebscher** operates from Mannheim and is appreciated for his prowess in handling liability, insolvency and joint venture disputes across the finance, energy and chemicals sectors. **Strengths:** *"Thomas is an excellent litigation lawyer." "He has a deep knowledge of corporate law, litigation and valuation matters." "He is a very tough litigator."*

White & Case

What the team is known for White & Case is appreciated for its excellent capabilities in cross-border dispute resolution. The team is noted for its strength in litigation and arbitration in the energy and chemicals sectors, often involving various proceeding types including DIS, ICC and ICSID as well as VIAC. Furthermore, the firm advises on complex insolvency and post-M&A disputes,

as well as enforcing arbitral awards. Its clientele ranges from financial institutions, car manufacturers, sovereigns and technology companies to insolvency administrators and foreign ministries, which serves as a further illustration of the team's market presence.

Strengths

"The team has impressive legal know-how and great project management skills."

"In case further knowledge was needed, White & Case is able to activate its network."

"The quality of output is impeccable, as is the responsiveness."

"Its lawyers offer highly sophisticated strategic thinking, which is always two steps ahead."

"The partners are exceptionally good."

Work highlights White & Case represented the Republic of India in the partial enforcement of a USD132 million arbitral award regarding a cancelled satellite deal.

Notable practitioners

Clients mandate **Markus Burianski** for his expertise in commercial and investor-state arbitrations, frequently acting on energy, insolvency, post-M&A and construction disputes under DIS, ICC and ICSID rules.

Band 4

Luther Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft mbH

What the team is known for The dispute resolution practice at the German law firm Luther advises on a range of mandates, with a particularly strong focus on investor-state arbitration. The team is especially visible in the energy sector, advising on prominent cases relating to the operation of power plants and wind farms. Furthermore, the firm has prowess in handling litigation pertaining to mass consumer claims, product liability and enforcements claims, as well as considerable experience in insolvencies and other banking disputes. Its client roster includes well-known energy and automotive companies, as well as financial institutions and public bodies.

Strengths

"The Luther team is always able to handle even very complex legal disputes with the necessary care and expertise."

"The firm demonstrates strong knowledge of the complex rules and mechanisms of the energy industry."

"Luther houses a well-trained team with experts in individual areas."

"Its representation of our interest in court was excellent."

"The service level is very high and the response times are short."

Work highlights Luther represented Hauck Aufhäuser Lampe Privatbank in claims for damages in connection with the insolvency of a company.

Notable practitioners

Hamburg-based practitioner **Richard Happ** focuses on energy arbitrations, often representing clients against states relating to nuclear and coal phase-outs. **Strengths:** *"He is a very experienced litigator who offers a good overview of the case and doesn't miss details." "He is a strong*

lawyer focused on the client's goal."

WACH UND MECKES und Partner Rechtsanwalte PartGmbB

What the team is known for As a well-known boutique based in Munich, WACH UND MECKES assists with the full spectrum of litigation and arbitration. The law firm is particularly appreciated for its strength in post-M&A disputes, claims enforcement, and securities-related litigation. Additionally, the team offers advice on arbitration proceedings, often assisting with post-M&A disputes and contractual disputes under DIS and ICC rules. A diverse clientele ranging from well-known international aviation companies and financial investors to board members further speaks to the firm's market position.

Strengths

"The team's foresight is second to none."

"Its lawyers offer round-the-clock availability."

"The partners I have worked with are always very astute, able to grasp issues very quickly and deal with complex matters in a way which is simple to understand."

"A particularly noteworthy strength is the excellent overview of international implications, supported by a large international network and the good sense of litigation tactics."

"Due to the firm's lean approach, lawyers work highly efficiently."

Work highlights WACH UND MECKERS defended Etihad Airways against damages in a EUR2 billion damage claim by the insolvency administrator of a German airline carrier.

Notable practitioners

Frank Meckes rises in the rankings following strong work experience and market feedback. He is experienced in handling insolvency damages cases, as well as offering assistance to clients in corporate and IP disputes. He regularly advises both international and domestic clients.

Strengths: *"Frank Meckes offers good and very thorough strategy at every stage." "He is extremely intelligent and always has creative yet sensible solutions to complex legal issues." "Frank is a very strong and efficient litigator." "He is accurate and precise, as well as pragmatic." "Frank is analytical, sharp, and prepares things very well."* **Karl Wach** offers expertise in insolvency, post-M&A and investor disputes. He operates from Munich. **Strengths:** *"Karl Wach is a very experienced lawyer who is very clear in his advice."*

Band 5

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst enters the rankings this year following sterling feedback from clients and peers alike. The firm shows strong ability in high-value investor-state arbitrations. The team also demonstrates strength in litigation matters, with particular reference to damages claims and insolvency matters. Lawyers are capable of working on both domestic and international matters.

Strengths

"The team is very responsive, as well as being fun to work with."

"Its partners are attentive, proactive and close to the client."

"Ashurst's lawyers are technically very strong, as well as providing the diligence one would expect."

"The firm offers a great level of service."

"Its lawyers always have a good understanding of the problems and what needs to be done."

Work highlights Ashurst represented HeidelbergCement and its French and Italian subsidiaries in a ICSID arbitration against the Arab Republic of Egypt regarding investments in the cement sector.

Notable practitioners

Arne Fuchs represents investors in high-profile investor-state arbitrations, with experience under ICSID and DIS rules. He demonstrates further strength in payment, takeover and liability arbitrations. **Nicolas Nohlen** joins the rankings based on excellent work activity representing clients in follow-on damages actions as well as shareholder, antitrust and insolvency disputes. He is further experienced in litigation in the financial sector. **Strengths:** *"He is very calm and technically very good. Nicolas is on top of things and knows the mandates well."* *"He is very analytical, creative and highly professional."* *"Nicolas Nohlen is very good at giving us sound strategic advice."* **Judith Sawang** joins the rankings following strong support from market commentators. She is particularly known for representing clients in investment and M&A related arbitration.

Borris Hennecke Kneisel

What the team is known for The boutique law firm Borris Hennecke Kneisel is well placed to represent clients from the construction and pharmaceutical sectors in arbitration under DIS and ICC rules. Clients equally benefit from the firm's strength in litigation, assisting with D&O liability, insolvency and joint venture disputes. Besides acting for corporates, Borris Hennecke Kneisel also counts supervisory board members among its clientele.

Strengths

"The partners are all renowned dispute resolution experts and handle all sorts of commercial disputes. The firm also has a very strong team of associates."

"The firm is very prominent in the arbitration scene."

"Borris Hennecke Kneisel's team is very responsive and service oriented."

"The firm offers a lot of partner attention."

Notable practitioners

Christian Borris is in high demand for his excellence as sole and party-appointed arbitrator in complex disputes across the energy and construction sectors under DIS and ICC rules. He also has experience as counsel, handling large-scale contractual disputes in the pharmaceutical sector. **Strengths:** *"He does not let himself be distracted by non-essentials."* *"His name would appear on almost every arbitrator shortlist in Germany."* *"Christian is a sharp-minded and intense worker, as well as being balanced and open."* *"He is a very experienced arbitrator."* Cologne-based **Rudolf Hennecke** is experienced in handling arbitration under ICC and DIS rules in relation to contractual, damages and joint venture disputes across the construction and pharmaceutical sectors. He

also appears as an arbitrator. **Strengths:** *"Rudolf Hennecke handles complex disputes of all types."*

"Working with him on matters is a real pleasure."

Sebastian Kneisel represents clients in front of tribunals under DIS and ICC rules regarding joint venture and financial disputes. He also appears as arbitrator. **Strengths:** *"One can be certain that Sebastian is 100% prepared and has considered and weighed all arguments that have been brought up."*

Busse Disputes Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

What the team is known for The excellent Frankfurt-based boutique Busse Disputes is renowned for its role in complex national and international disputes. The team is particularly well placed to advise on the full breadth of arbitration, handling various proceedings under DIS, ICC and UNCITRAL rules. The firm is especially well equipped to handle post-M&A, energy and construction disputes for its clientele of shipbuilding, manufacturing and investment companies.

Strengths

"Busse Disputes is one of the largest specialist boutique law firms with the capacity to handle the largest energy disputes."

"The team dives deeply into the details of complex economic and technical matters."

"The firm has an impressive understanding of energy economics."

Work highlights Busse Disputes represented international investors in an arbitration case against Greece under ICSID rules, seeking recovery of significant damages following alleged on violations of the investment treaty between Lebanon and Greece.

Notable practitioners

Leading practitioner **Daniel Busse** is widely-recognized for his strength in handling highly complex investor-state and commercial arbitrations with particular strength in post-M&A, supply, pharmaceutical, and energy disputes. He is also appreciated for his role as presiding and co-arbitrator in tribunals under DIS, ICC and SCC as well as UNCITRAL rules. **Strengths:** *"He has superb judgement."*

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for The international law firm DLA Piper is recognised for its litigation practice, with experience in contractual, shareholder and construction disputes, as well as mass proceedings and product liability. The team also assists clients with arbitrations, with particular experience in damages claims. Based across offices in Cologne, Frankfurt and Munich, the team also regularly advises on insolvency-related disputes, acting both for and against insolvency administrators.

Strengths

"The team covers all relevant aspects in terms of experience and diligence on the theoretical aspects."

"Its lawyers are very responsive."

"DLA Piper is our preferred law firm in complicated financial matters globally."

"Its lawyers are knowledgeable and get straight to the point."

Notable practitioners

Dr Thomas Gädtke is the head of the department and a key contact for clients.

Hanefeld Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for The boutique law firm Hanefeld regularly acts as counsel on national and international arbitrations across various industry sectors, including energy, automotive and construction. The team handles tribunals under ICC, ICSID, and DIS rules as well as ad hoc arbitrations. Additionally, the firm offers expertise in investment arbitration claims. Clients also benefit from the firm's second office in Paris, enabling effective cross-border handling of cases. Equally, Hanefeld houses well-reputed arbitrators who regularly preside over national and international arbitration cases.

Strengths

"Hanefeld's team has shown a strong understanding of the complexities involved and has provided effective legal representation, and I have confidence in its ability to navigate the technical and strategic aspects of the case."

"Its lawyers offer broad forward-looking problem identification, in-depth analysis, sound interpretation and realistic, legally sound conclusions."

"Hanefeld's approach is extremely professional; the communication is very good and the availability is pristine."

"The team is very prominent in the arbitration scene."

"The firm has lawyers with different personalities so you can always find someone perfect for a specific client or case."

Notable practitioners

Hamburg-based **Inka Hanefeld** is highly appreciated for her excellence in the German and European arbitration world, acting as president and co-arbitrator on construction and energy disputes under ICC and ICSID rules. **Strengths:** *"One of the best-prepared and most efficient arbitrators. She is second to none."* *"Every word in her documents is perfect. She does perfect drafting and is a perfect lawyer."* **Jan-Heiner Nedden** joins the rankings following excellent feedback from clients and market commentators. He is valued for his ICC arbitration experience, frequently acting on a variety of disputes, including damages claims.

Strengths: *"Jan-Heiner Nedden is very experienced and well versed in dealing with opponents and arbitral tribunals. In addition, he is an extremely gifted negotiator and mediator."* *"He has extensive experience in arbitration, in particular ICC arbitration."*

"He is incredibly quick and smart. The work that he does is reliable, spot-on and he has a total grasp for things." *"He is excellent, extremely diligent and into the details, so he doesn't miss anything. He is extremely efficient, charming and pleasant to work with."*

Nils Schmidt-Ahrendts is recognised for his growing experience as an arbitrator sitting in tribunals under various domestic and international rules. He is particularly visible in energy, post-M&A and automotive as well as investment disputes. **Strengths:** *"He is an excellent arbitrator."* *"Nils is very efficient, sharp-minded and clear in the proceedings."* **Sebastian Seelmann-Eggebert** is well known for his experience as arbitrator. He is well versed in various arbitration rules, including

ICSID as well as UNCITRAL, ICC and SCC. **Jörn Hombeck** joins the rankings following strong market support and praise from clients. He is particularly active in arbitration proceedings in the automotive sector. **Strengths:** “*Jörn Hombeck is highly engaged and proactive in providing legal representation. He shows a deep understanding of the technical aspects of the case and provides strategic legal advice.*” “*He is responsive to my inquiries and keeps me informed throughout the case.*” “*He thinks and acts strategically and long-term, not shying away from technical details and also developing creative ideas.*” “*He has an excellent ability to dissect complex case facts and has very good experience with project management.*”

Herbert Smith Freehills Germany LLP

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is respected for its dispute resolution practice, with expertise in both international arbitration and litigation. The team regularly advises on international investment arbitration, while also assisting in corporate and contractual disputes, including post-M&A, contract and supply chain disputes. The team is particularly acclaimed for its strong international capabilities, offering assistance with various multi-jurisdictional arbitration and litigation proceedings. Herbert Smith Freehills is regularly mandated by sovereign states.

Strengths

“*The firm has a good brand not just internationally but also in Germany.*”
 “*Herbert Smith Freehills delivers very timely and practical service.*”
 “*The team offers a very high level of competence in arbitration proceedings.*”
 “*It is one of the firms involved in the complex and big arbitration matters.*”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills represented QazaqGaz in an ad-hoc investment arbitration proceedings against the Kyrgyz Republic over a multimillion mid-stream investment project.

Notable practitioners

Patricia Nacimiento often advises on investor-state arbitrations and related enforcement proceedings, as well as corporate disputes. She also assists corporates from the manufacturing, technology and automotive sectors with mandates under ICC, Swiss and HKIAC rules. She is especially appreciated for her experience in handling cases relating to Kazakhstan.

HEUKING

What the team is known for Heuking is a German law firm acknowledged for its capabilities in dispute resolution. The team is well known for its strength in arbitration, with experience in DIS, ICC and CEAC proceedings, advising on contract, shareholder and post-M&A disputes across various industry sectors. Furthermore, the firm offers capabilities in litigation, with a focus on damages claims, insolvency, post M&A disputes and D&O liability. Its clientele consists of players from the retail, manufacturing and transportation sectors.

Strengths

“*Its lawyers are reachable at any time.*”
 “*The firm provides a broad field of expertise*

through team-oriented cooperation between various experts.”

“*In addition to their legal expertise, the partners always have an eye on the economic background, think entrepreneurially and understand their advice should be holistic.*”

Work highlights Heuking represented Deka Investment in a Wirecard-related litigation before Munich I Regional Court against Ernst & Young.

Notable practitioners

Christian Strasser and Thomas Wambach are key contacts for the litigation team, while Elke Umbeck and Daniel Froesch head the firm’s arbitration practice.

MANNER SPANGENBERG

What the team is known for MANNER SPANGENBERG enters the rankings following excellent market recognition. The law firm is well known for its expertise in arbitration proceedings, frequently acting on international disputes including litigation. The team is experienced in investor arbitration, damages claims actions and contract disputes. Its lawyers also frequently act as arbitrators under various rules, including ICC and DIS.

Strengths

“*The team provides clear and quick answers to our questions.*”
 “*MANNER SPANGENBERG has very competent and goal-oriented partners and lawyers.*”
 “*The lawyers act with sound legal knowledge, high tactical acumen and impressive procedural precision to win the case on grounds of form and substance.*”

“*The profile of the lawyers is very high and they retain a very entrepreneurial attitude.*”

Work highlights MANNER SPANGENBERG represented the municipality of Brumadinho and families of the victims in litigation against TÜV SÜD related to a dam failure in Brazil.

Notable practitioners

Hamburg-based **Jan Spangenberg** acts as party-appointed arbitrator in W&I matters according to DIS rules, while acting for clients in the pharmaceutical and defence industries. He also demonstrates strength in litigation. **Strengths:** “*He has a good combination of strong legal expertise and equally strong negotiation skills.*” “*He knows the file and will always be well prepared.*” “*He is very professional, makes a good impression and is effective in deliberations.*”

Oppenhoff & Partner Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for Oppenhoff & Partner is a German law firm with a solid track record of representing clients from the automotive, energy and manufacturing sectors in commercial disputes. The team has a particular focus on competition matters, such as cartel damages enforcement, with further expertise in product and professional liability cases. Insolvency-related disputes are also handled by Oppenhoff. Additionally, the Frankfurt-based team assists with shareholder disputes, post-M&A and construction arbitration proceedings and banking litigation cases.

Strengths

“*The team offers smart advice which is business-oriented.*”

“*The team covers all angles of litigation and can bring in the complimentary skills of the larger firm where needed.*”

“*The firm is always up to date with the commercial developments we need.*”

“*Oppenhoff has a small but experienced and sophisticated team.*”

“*The Oppenhoff lawyers are highly analytical, well organised and extremely focused.*”

Work highlights Oppenhoff & Partner represented Bird & Bird in a professional negligence dispute surrounding its alleged involvement in the embezzlement of EUR147 million by the former head of Woelbern Invest.

Notable practitioners

Frankfurt-based **Michael Weigel** assists with a variety of mandates, including product and professional liability, insolvency and contractual disputes, acting for clients across a range of industries. **Strengths:** “*Michael Weigel is an outstanding litigator with a great mind and the instinct that you expect from a successful litigator.*” “*He thinks of us and our needs and concerns.*” “*Michael is always approachable, as well as being very responsive and to the point.*” “*Michael has tremendous experience and is great at presenting the most complex issues in a way that is digestible for the court. He knows how to read the courtroom.*” “*He is client-minded, very responsive, and does a good job.*”

rothorn legal

What the team is known for rothorn legal enters the rankings based on an increasingly strong market reputation. The team is particularly well known for its excellent arbitration expertise, frequently representing clients in insolvency, investment and supply chain arbitration. The firm’s lawyers are also praised for activity on arbitrator appointments. rothorn legal further acts on litigation mandates, including climate change proceedings and mandates in the energy field.

Notable practitioners

Frankfurt-based **Rolf Trittmann** is widely considered one of Germany’s top arbitrators, often presiding over ICC and DIS-governed cases in relation to post-M&A disputes. He is particularly visible in the automotive and technology sectors.

Taylor Wessing

What the team is known for Taylor Wessing offers advice on the full range of dispute resolution matters from its offices across Germany. The team has particular expertise in handling litigation pertaining to product liability and damages claims, while also being involved in antitrust, real estate, post-M&A and insurance disputes. The team also assists clients with arbitration matters. The department also leverages its international standing, regularly employing its strong network of international offices to cater to its clients’ needs.

Strengths

“*The team is great at strategising and handling all the ups and downs of a case.*”
 “*The firm has expertise in many fields.*”
 “*Its lawyers understand that the client does not have a legal problem but a commercial problem. That is their approach and that is how they give their advice.*”

"Taylor Wessing lawyers work efficiently, provide high-quality service, and respond quickly."

Work highlights Taylor Wessing represented Grünenthal in product liability litigation in connection with thalidomide.

Notable practitioners

Donata Freiin von Enzberg represents clients in ICC arbitrations, with focus on energy and corporate matters. **Strengths:** *"She always gives a thoughtful and pragmatic approach to the case and gives us a lot of confidence."* *"She is very efficient and commercially minded."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Antje Baumann of BAUMANN Resolving Disputes operates from Hamburg and is in high demand for her role as arbitrator in ICC and DIS-governed post-M&A disputes. She also acts on ad hoc arbitrations in relation to management dismissals and damages claims.

Strengths:

"She has a spotless reputation."

"She is a very intelligent person and is able to interact with parties in a smooth and interactive manner."

"Antje really understands technical cases."

"Antje Baumann is very experienced in cross-border arbitration proceedings."

Klaus Peter Berger of Universität zu Köln enjoys a strong standing in the market for his prowess as sole and co-arbitrator in ICC-governed disputes across Germany and beyond. He also offers experience in cases under DIS and UNCITRAL rules.

Siegfried Elsing of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe remains a towering figure in the German and European arbitration market, often sitting in complex disputes under ICC, ICSID and UNCITRAL rules, while also being well versed under a number of other arbitration rules. He offers particular expertise in the telecommunications, energy and manufacturing sectors, while also regularly representing sovereigns.

Strengths:

"He delivers really outstanding briefs and submissions."

"He is very good in preparation, analysis and execution. It doesn't get any better."

Ulrike Gantenberg of Gantenberg Dispute Experts enjoys a strong standing in the market for her strength as an arbitrator in post-M&A and corporate disputes. She handles cases under domestic and international rules and has a particular focus on mandates relating to Scandinavia.

Strengths:

"She is very entrepreneurial and structured."

"She is always somebody to consider for arbitration."

Stuttgart-based **Klaus Gerstenmaier** of Haver & Mailänder is widely appreciated for his long-standing experience in the German arbitration world. He sits in tribunals under ICC rules, especially those relating to disputes in the pharmaceutical sector.

Frankfurt-based **Britta Grauke** (see p.1487) of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP is the head of Weil's litigation practice. She often acts in real estate disputes, while showing additional strength in post-M&A and insolvency disputes.

Strengths:

"Britta Grauke knows how to present herself and speaks the language not only of the client but also of the owner of the company."

Mathias Habersack of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München is an experienced arbitrator who is particularly appreciated for his strength in handling corporate disputes.

Sabine Konrad of Aurelius Cotta specialises in complex investor state arbitrations under ICSID rules, acting for both public entities as well as investors from the energy and financial sectors. She is also experienced in handling cases under ICC and SCC rules.

Strengths:

"She is focused on investment arbitration."

Munich-based **Alexander Kroeck** of Kantenwein Zimmermann Spatscheck & Partner remains a trusted arbitrator for his long-standing expertise in presiding over joint venture disputes under DIS rules.

Sole practitioner **Stefan Kröll** is widely held in high esteem for his strength as an arbitrator with experience in handling tribunals under DIS, ICC and UNCITRAL rules.

Annett Kuhli-Spatscheck of Kantenwein Zimmermann Spatscheck & Partner is an experienced arbitrator with particular strength in handling post-M&A and tax-related disputes under DIS and ICC rules.

Strengths:

"She is one of the outstanding young people."

"Annett is very in demand, as well as being excellent."

"She is very good in technical accounting tax disputes."

Stuttgart-based **Dorothee Ruckteschler** of Dorothee Ruckteschler Dispute Resolution is recognised for her expertise as an arbitrator in ICC and DIS-governed tribunals with a particular strength in M&A disputes.

Anke Sessler (see p.1491) of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom handles a broad spectrum of commercial arbitration proceedings from post-M&A and competition to financial and intellectual property disputes. Clients also benefit from her experience as an arbitrator, sitting in ICC and DIS-governed cases.

Strengths:

"Anke Sessler is fantastic. She is responsive, thoughtful, pragmatic and a tough negotiator."

"She provides clear advice and is available."

"Her special strength is this closeness to the company and knowledge of how companies work."

Stuttgart-based practitioner **Roderich Thümmel** of Thümmel, Schütze & Partner remains sought after for his expertise as an arbitrator in post-M&A and D&O liability disputes. He is experienced in handling cases under national and international rules.

Strengths:

"Roderich Thümmel greatly impresses with his skills and experience."

"He is a great guy."

Gerhard Wagner of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is appreciated for his long-standing experience as arbitrator, sitting in tribunals under national and international rules.

Foreign Experts

Frankfurt-based practitioner **Heiko Heppner** of Dentons is a strong choice for Chinese clients from the automotive and manufacturing sectors seeking comprehensive advice on arbitrations and related court proceedings across Germany and beyond.

Strengths:

"Heiko Heppner is curious and open to learn about new legal systems and local jurisdictions. He is a scientist and efficient partner all in one."

"He is a trustworthy and hard-working partner with a vast international expertise."

"He has high analytical skills, a very international educational background and a convincing appearance in court."

"Heiko Heppner is super smart and always sees the big picture. He is very professional, knowledgeable, pragmatic, client-oriented and responsive."

Frankfurt-based **Amy Klaesener** of Jones Day is experienced in handling arbitration proceedings in post-M&A and contractual disputes.

Jan Schaefer (see p.1490) of King & Spalding LLP regularly acts as party-appointed arbitrator and chairman on national and European-wide tribunals under ICC, DIS, SCC and NAI rules relating to telecommunications and manufacturing disputes. He also offers expertise as counsel in commercial and investor-state proceedings with particular strength in cases related to the Netherlands.

Strengths:

"He is very smart and experienced."

"I can only recommend him. He supports me at short notice and always gives detailed and pragmatic legal opinions ultra fast."

"He has an efficient way of handling proceedings."

"Jan Schaefer is a great arbitrator, with a sharp mind and a good grasp of complex issues."

GERMANY: An Introduction to Intellectual Property: Patent Prosecution

Contributed by Braun-Dullaeus Pannen Emmerling

Start of the Unitary Patent System 2023

With the Unitary Patent system progressively gaining momentum and coming into full effect with its work in 2023, one can anticipate an inevitable impact on parts of the services offered for the post-grant period by this new development. How much it will affect these services at its commencement will not only depend on the advantages of a Unitary Patent, but also on the acceptance of the Unified Patent Court (UPC), which will likely be the decisive factor on the trajectory of patent prosecution. Thus, the Unitary Patent system might be an element with a strong influence on the patent prosecution market in Germany in 2023.

As economic aspects always had an impact on the patent prosecution and litigation business, the consequences of the global pandemic and the war in Ukraine will likely also influence the German patent business as they already had an impact on a number of supply chains in, eg, pharmaceutical and automotive industry. Additionally specific branches like renewable energy technologies seem to develop faster than expected. The same seems to be true for the electric vehicle market. This trend indicates that new players will show up and market shares will need to be defended – the global economic conditions being a key incentive for companies to save patent costs and monetise their patent portfolios.

These developments will strongly influence the decisions of the patent portfolio managers as to whether or not a patent fits to the Unitary Patent system, and will contribute to the successful integration of the UPC in view of the specific branch and business model.

While the intricacies for implementing a Unitary Patent have been broadly discussed in the past, one major aspect of discussion in the industry as a pro are the advantages of a lower complexity of the post-grant procedure, as well as lower administrative efforts during and after validation, which may deem the Unitary Patent system attractive, particularly in light of the recent global economic crisis. However, the question remains for specific branches, whether they should opt for a unitary patent or validate in multiple jurisdictions.

Generally, for the majority of the European patents it is not the litigation aspect, but the financial and administrative advantage of the Unitary Patent which will be decisive as to whether or not the patent is opted into the system.

However, for the European patents relevant for litigation, the Unitary patent system may become pertinent for the following reasons: a likely trend of an increase in litigation activity in view of the recent market developments. Hence, some might view the UPC as a game changer in patent litigation, as the injunctive relief, in particular, might make it an attractive alternative to litigate in the US, which will likely further increase the litigation activity in the unitary patent system.

Not only the Unitary Patent system itself, but also the realistic perspectives of a litigation at the UPC will be crucial for a Unitary Patent. Regarding the performance of the UPC, the expectations are high. They include high-quality decisions issued in a timely manner, thereby offering the possibility of a simultaneous injunction in currently 17 countries and the chance to harmonise the decisions in Europe for patent litigation. It is additionally ex-

pected that the decisions will be more predictable and effective as it combines the best practice of national systems.

On the other hand, with about 700 patent litigation cases per year at the main venues in Düsseldorf, Munich, Mannheim and Hamburg, the German national courts are highly respected venues for patent infringement suits. The injunctive relief available as a standard measure in German proceedings and the highly experienced judges keep, and will likely continue to keep, these venues compelling options.

This reputation of the German courts may influence the selection of the respective venue for litigation at the UPC as all four German local divisions of the UPC are located in Düsseldorf, Munich, Mannheim and Hamburg with the respective experienced judges. Whether this will lower patent litigation activity at the German national courts, only time will tell. In contrast to the UPC, the German national procedures are backed by thousands of judgments of the 10th Senate of the German Federal Court of Justice specialised in intellectual property offering a solid basis of settled case law. This rich basis on case law especially might make the German IP courts more appealing for a longer period of time since, for the UPC, a comparable harmonised case law basis still needs to be created within the next decade. Thus, both the German national litigation and the litigation via a German local division of the UPC have their own appeal.

A further aspect, despite the adoption of the Unitary Patent, is that the litigation costs at the UPC will be significantly higher compared to patent litigation at a single German national court. However, if an injunction in the German market is not sufficient to stop a potential infringer, litigation proceedings need to be started in several countries, pushing the litigation costs at the UPC in an attractive range.

A further advantage of Germany in context with these developments is the significant number of patent attorney firms specialised in patent litigation, a stark juxtaposition compared to other European countries. German patent attorneys also represent their clients in patent invalidation proceedings at the German Federal Patent Court and German Federal Court of Justice, and assist in the parallel infringement proceedings. These firms are highly experienced in handling complex and tightly scheduled proceedings efficiently. Thus exists a highly experienced patent attorney “infrastructure” in Germany to handle complex infringement proceedings alongside specialised lawyers, be it in front of the German courts or the UPC.

With such foresight, a number of German patent attorney firms developed their core business in the direction of patent litigation. Due to their specialisation and extensive experience at the litigation courts, they are in collaboration with specialised lawyers well positioned to manage complex litigations at the UPC.

To conclude, it in fact might be that the upcoming Unitary Patent system may have a negative effect on specific services offered by German patent attorney firms; however, it is believed that this will be over-compensated by other aspects. It is particularly expected that the Unitary Patent system further strengthens the position of Germany in the patent prosecution business. Indeed, the more attractive the national courts as well as the local and

regional divisions of the UPC become, the more judicious it is to have a patent in this area, ie, either a national German patent or a Unitary Patent. In essence, it is expected that particular German patent attorney firms will become even more attractive for handling the patent prosecution for non-European patent applicants for being engaged together with specialised law firms for litigation at the UPC.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property: Patent Litigation	Intellectual Property: Patent Litigation	
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Bird & Bird	Bopp Thomas <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>	Graf von Schwerin Wolf <i>Wildanger Kehrwald Graf v.</i>
Hogan Lovells International LLP	Giebe Olaf <i>Klaka Rechtsanwälte</i>	Kather Peter <i>Kather Augenstein Rechtsanwälte</i>
HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER		Rojahn Sabine <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	Leading Individuals	
Band 2	Band 1	Donle Christian <i>Preu Bohlig & Partner</i>
ARNOLD RUESS	Grosch Marcus <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP</i>	Kasper Kay <i>HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER</i>
BARDEHLE PAGENBERG	Haft Klaus <i>HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER</i>	Kellenter Wolfgang <i>Hengeler Mueller (ORL) ◇</i>
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	Hufnagel Frank-Erich <i>Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer*</i>	Kiefer Miriam <i>Kather Augenstein Rechtsanwälte</i>
Rospatt Osten Pross	Schumacher Cordula <i>ARNOLD RUESS</i>	Kommer Jérôme <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP</i>
Band 3	Verhauwen Axel <i>Krieger Mes & Graf von der Groeben</i>	Osterrieth Christian <i>HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER</i>
Kather Augenstein Rechtsanwälte	von Falck Andreas <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>	Steininger Steffen <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Taylor Wessing	von Rospatt Maximilian <i>Rospatt Osten Pross</i>	Wuttke Tobias <i>BARDEHLE PAGENBERG*</i>
Wildanger Kehrwald Graf v. Schwerin & Partner	Band 2	Band 5
Band 4	Harmsen Christian <i>Bird & Bird</i>	de Coster Christoph <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
DLA Piper LLP	Jüngst Oliver <i>Bird & Bird</i>	Gampp Markus <i>DLA Piper UK LLP*</i>
Eisenführ Speiser	Kanz Christine <i>HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER</i>	Gundt Miriam <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Grünecker	Müller-Stoy Tilman <i>BARDEHLE PAGENBERG*</i>	Haag Hosea <i>AMPERSAND Partnerschaft von (ORL) ◇</i>
Hoffmann Eitle	Musmann Thomas <i>Rospatt Osten Pross</i>	Haberl Andreas <i>Preu Bohlig & Partner</i>
Klaka Rechtsanwälte	Weisse Peter-Michael <i>Wildanger Kehrwald Graf v.</i>	Hohagen Gisbert <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
Krieger Mes & Graf von der Groeben	Band 3	Horn Anton <i>HEUKING (ORL) ◇</i>
Preu Bohlig & Partner	Arnold Bernhard <i>ARNOLD RUESS</i>	Kamlah Dietrich <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
Vossius & Partner Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte	Augenstein Christof <i>Kather Augenstein Rechtsanwälte</i>	Kurtz Constantin <i>Klaka Rechtsanwälte</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.	Fähndrich Martin <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>	Lederer Christian <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Geschke Eva <i>Wildanger Kehrwald Graf v. Schwerin</i>	Meyer Peter <i>Simmons & Simmons LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Heselberger Johannes <i>BARDEHLE PAGENBERG*</i>	Nack Ralph <i>Noerr</i>
	Köhler Martin <i>HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER</i>	Prinz zu Waldeck und Pyrmont Wolrad <i>Freshfields*</i>
	Timmann Henrik <i>Rospatt Osten Pross</i>	Riße Arno <i>ARNOLD RUESS</i>
	Band 4	Schönbohm Julia <i>Linklaters (ORL) ◇</i>
	Bühling Jochen <i>Krieger Mes & Graf von der Groeben</i>	Schubert Thure <i>Vossius & Partner Patentanwälte*</i>
	Bukow Johannes <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan</i>	Sonntag Matthias <i>Gleiss Lutz</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

ARNOLD RUESS

What the team is known for ARNOLD RUESS offers a strong practice in the area of patent infringement. The law firm acts for clients from the TMT industry, including notable standard-essential patent litigation, having further expertise in FRAND advice. It also frequently acts in anti-anti-suit injunctions. ARNOLD RUESS is also adept at assisting clients from the life sciences sector with second medical use claims and biosimilar litigation.

Strengths

"It is very impressive how the law firm organise the matters and how efficiently they do it."

"ARNOLD RUESS are an absolutely great team to work with and have a good understanding of what we need. They are able to operate from an in-house perspective without much oversight."

"The team are very proactive in a considered way and have the ability to deliver exactly what we want in the timelines that we need it."

Work highlights ARNOLD RUESS represented Nokia in the enforcement of ten SEPs against Daimler and several interveners with parallel proceedings at the European Commission and in the USA.

Notable practitioners

Cordula Schumacher rises in the rankings after receiving praise for her excellent patent enforcement practice, frequently handling complex litigation, including anti-anti-suit injunctions, as well as nullity actions and coordinating international parallel proceedings. She further supports clients in FRAND licence claims. **Strengths:** "She is a superbly talented lawyer who bridges the German perspective and international perspective. She has a formidable presence in the courtroom." "She knows how to work with the court to make sure they understand our arguments." **Bernhard Arnold** brings to bear solid experience assisting clients with patent infringement cases and enforcement

of IP rights proceedings. His client base includes companies from the technology and pharmaceutical industries. **Arno Riße** joins the rankings following excellent market recognition and strong activity in complex infringement proceedings in the technology field. He also supports clients with FRAND licensing issues. **Strengths:** "He is very strong on technical work." "He is technical and understands our complicated areas of technology. He is our go-to for the whole of Germany for the technical merits of arguing patents." "He can present arguments very well." **Peter Ruess** focuses his practice on trade mark and unfair competition topics. He acts on unfair advertising claims, copyright violation proceedings and trade mark portfolio management issues. **Strengths:** "I particularly appreciate his economic understanding and the ability to think out of the box. He finds a viable and satisfactory solution to every matter, even factually and legally demanding ones." "Peter

Intellectual Property Trade Mark & Unfair Competition
Leading Firms
Band 1
HARTE-BAVENDAMM
Hogan Lovells International LLP
Band 2
Bird & Bird
CMS
Harmsen Utescher
Lorenz Seidler Gossel
Lubberger Lehment
Band 3
Baker McKenzie
BARDEHLE PAGENBERG
Gleiss Lutz
Grünecker
Klaka Rechtsanwälte
Taylor Wessing
Band 4
Boehmert & Boehmert
Noerr
SKW Schwarz Rechtsanwälte
Band 5
Eisenführ Speiser
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER
Nordemann
Vossius & Partner Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Ruess is a very pleasant partner who can adapt well to the client. "He is very responsive and responds very quickly and precisely. He gets to the point and has the tactics and benefit for the client in mind."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie is a popular choice for international clients looking for advice on management of global trade mark portfolios and registration of trade marks. The law firm represents clients in trade mark litigation and enforcement cases, including opposition and cancellation proceedings. It offers additional experience in product piracy cases. The team also advises on parallel imports, employee invention matters, unfair competition cases and advertising matters.

Strengths

"The service provided is always really good. The lawyers provide timely advice and understand the need for practical approaches in line with budgeting constraints."

"Baker McKenzie display complete diligence at all times and always respond in a timely and organised manner."

"The team are always responsive and on the ball."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Calvin Klein on enforcement of its trade mark portfolio, including infringement litigation and product piracy cases.

Notable practitioners

Michael Fammler is often instructed by international clients to advise on the management of their international trade mark portfolios. Fammler offers further support in registrations and infringement actions as well as border sei-

Intellectual Property Trade Mark & Unfair Competition
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Harte-Bavendamm Henning HARTE-BAVENDAMM
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Goldmann Michael HARTE-BAVENDAMM
Lubberger Andreas Lubberger Lehment
Band 2
Bothe Andreas Hogan Lovells International LLP
Hackbarth Ralf Klaka Rechtsanwälte
Band 3
Fammler Michael Baker McKenzie
Keller Erhard Hogan Lovells International LLP
Kinkeldey Maximilian Grünecker
Sandberg Karin Harmsen Utescher
Band 4
Bruhn Dirk Anwaltskanzlei Schultz-Süchting (ORL) ◇
Dissmann Richard Bird & Bird
Draheim Yvonne Hogan Lovells International LLP
Gauss Holger Grünecker
Hasselblatt Gordian CMS
Jackermeier Siegfried Lorenz Seidler Gossel
Jaeger-Lenz Andrea HARTE-BAVENDAMM
Lüken Uwe Bird & Bird
Matthes Jens Allen & Overy LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Nordemann Axel Nordemann
Band 5
Bock Andreas Bock Legal (ORL) ◇
Bogatzy Jana D Young & Co (ORL) ◇
Eckhartt Claus BARDEHLE PAGENBERG *
Fesenmair Joseph Bird & Bird
Kaase Rainer Harmsen Utescher
Koch Benjamin Lubberger Lehment
Koch Matthias Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer *
Mallick Rani Lubberger Lehment
Niebel Rembert Baker McKenzie
Nordemann-Schiffel Anke Nordemann
Rassmann Christian Lorenz Seidler Gossel
Redeker Sandra Sophia SKW Schwarz Rechtsanwälte
Rehaag Constantin Dentons (ORL) ◇
Ruess Peter ARNOLD RUESS
Schulte-Beckhausen Thomas Loschelder (ORL) ◇
Schulz Andreas Klaka Rechtsanwälte
Viefhues Martin Jonas (ORL) ◇
von Gerlach Leopold Hogan Lovells International LLP
Up-and-coming individuals
Elkemann Cathérine HARTE-BAVENDAMM
Maierski Eva Lubberger Lehment

zure proceedings and licensing. **Strengths:** "Michael Fammler is professional, knowledgeable and provides practical solutions to our trade mark challenges." **Rembert Niebel** regularly assists companies with the management of their international trade mark portfolios. He offers additional knowledge in trade mark registrations and infringement proceedings as well as design licensing. **Strengths:** "Rembert Niebel is a great person to work with on complex legal matters. He is very calm at all times and provides clear advice."

BARDEHLE PAGENBERG

What the team is known for BARDEHLE PAGENBERG boasts a broad-based IP practice with thriving teams in both the patent and trade mark arenas. The law firm regularly handles large-

Intellectual Property: Patent Prosecution
Leading Firms
Band 1
Grünecker
Hoffmann Eitle
Vossius & Partner Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte
Band 2
BARDEHLE PAGENBERG
COHAUSZ & FLORACK
Maiwald
Band 3
Boehmert & Boehmert
Eisenführ Speiser
Maikowski & Ninnemann
Meissner Bolte Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte
Band 4
Braun-Dullaues Pannen Emmerling
df-mp
König Szyzka Tilmann von Renesse
Prinz & Partner
Samson & Partner
Uexküll & Stolberg
Weickmann & Weickmann
Zimmermann & Partner
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Bausch Thorsten Hoffmann Eitle
Jaenichen Hans-Rainer Vossius & Partner *
Sties Jochen Prinz & Partner
Band 2
Baumgärtel Gunnar Maikowski & Ninnemann
Freiherr Schenck zu Schweinsberg Elard Vossius *
Lahrtz Fritz Simmons & Simmons LLP (ORL) ◇
Vogel Andreas Patentanwälte Bals & Vogel (ORL) ◇ *
Band 3
Best Michael KRAUS & LEDERER (ORL) ◇
Burrichter Arwed COHAUSZ & FLORACK
Höffe Moritz Grünecker
Keussen Christof Glawe Delfs Moll (ORL) ◇
Kirchhofer Natalie COHAUSZ & FLORACK
Kitzhofer Thomas Prinz & Partner
König Gregor König Szyzka Tilmann von Renesse
Taormino Joseph Hoffmann Eitle

scale patent and utility model infringements, and validity and opposition proceedings, particularly for clients from the TMT and automotive industries. The team assists clients with patent prosecution and opposition at both German and European levels. It additionally covers contentious trade mark and unfair competition matters, as well as trade mark prosecution for clients from the food and drinks industry, also advising on the management of global trade mark portfolios. BARDEHLE's expertise also encompasses design rights and design filing strategy.

Work highlights BARDEHLE PAGENBERG defended Microsoft against Uniloc in patent infringement and parallel invalidity proceedings.

Notable practitioners

Tilman Müller-Stoy (see p.1489)'s well-regarded practice covers high-end patent disputes, including validity proceedings, infringements and compulsory licensing cases. **Strengths:** "He devises clever strategies especially when patents are being challenged before the European Patent Office or Federal Patent Court of Germany." "Tilman is a strategic thinker in developing successful case strategies." **Johannes Heselberger** (see p.1487)

Intellectual Property Patent Attorneys: Contentious
Leading Firms
Band 1
COHAUSZ & FLORACK
df-mp
Maikowski & Ninnemann
Band 2
BARDEHLE PAGENBERG
Braun-Dullaues Pannen Emmerling
Eisenführ Speiser
Hoffmann Eitle
König Szyntka Tilmann von Renesse
Samson & Partner
Vossius & Partner Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte
Band 3
Boehmert & Boehmert
Grünecker
Maiwald
Meissner Bolte Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte
Zimmermann & Partner
Band 4
Uexküll & Stolberg
Weickmann & Weickmann
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Emmerling Friedrich <i>Braun-Dullaues Pannen Emmerling</i>
Molnia David <i>df-mp</i>
Band 2
Baumgärtel Gunnar <i>Maikowski & Ninnemann</i>
Bausch Thorsten <i>Hoffmann Eitle</i>
Kirchhofer Natalie <i>COHAUSZ & FLORACK</i>
Nägerl Joel <i>Zimmermann & Partner</i>
Pohlman Sandra <i>df-mp</i>
Band 3
Ehlers Jochen <i>Eisenführ Speiser</i>
Klusmann Peter <i>Hoffmann Eitle</i>
König Gregor <i>König Szyntka Tilmann von Renesse</i>
Lippich Wolfgang <i>Samson & Partner</i>
von Menges Albrecht <i>Uexküll & Stolberg</i>
von Renesse Dorothea <i>König Szyntka Tilmann von</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

centres his practice on high-profile patent litigation before German patent courts. His client roster includes technology, engineering and life science companies. **Tobias Wuttke** (see p.1492) handles a notable caseload representing clients from the biotechnology, chemicals and technology sectors in patent infringement litigation. **Claus Eckhart** (see p.1486) has an impressive client list that consists of multinational beverage corporations, musical instrument manufacturers and cosmetics companies. He acts in opposition as well as cancellation proceedings, colour mark infringements and worldwide trade mark prosecution.

Bhering Advogados

Foreign desks Philippe Bhering heads the firm's German desk in São Paulo, which has several dual-qualified lawyers. The desk acts for a number of German clients from the automotive and pharmaceutical industries on patent infringement and trade mark nullity actions. The desk also advises German companies on trade mark enforcement and portfolio management.

Notable practitioners

Foreign Desks Intellectual Property
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
Japan Hoffmann Eitle
German expertise based in countries listed below
Brazil Bhering Advogados
Foreign Experts Intellectual Property
Based in Germany with expertise in countries listed below
China Pattloch Thomas <i>Taylor Wessing</i>
France Abel Stefan <i>Klaka Rechtsanwälte</i>
Italy Keßler Nora <i>Klinkert Rechtsanwälte PartGmbH (ORL) ◇</i>
German expertise based in countries listed below
Brazil Bhering Philippe <i>Bhering Advogados</i>
Italy Dalla Costa Mattia <i>CBA Studio Legale (ORL) ◇</i>
Peru Durand Grahammer Juan Carlos <i>(ORL) ◇</i>
Spain Dolde Tobias <i>Noerr</i>
Spain Goebel Burkhardt <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP</i>
Spain Renck Andreas <i>Hogan Lovells (Alicante) S.L. & Cia.</i>
Spain von Bomhard Verena <i>BomhardIP (ORL) ◇</i>

São Paulo-based **Philippe Bhering** frequently acts for German clients from the automotive and food and beverage sectors in trade mark nullity and infringement proceedings.

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird has an outstanding reputation in the field of patent litigation, with a strong track record of representing both plaintiffs and defendants in infringement and nullity proceedings. The law firm is a strong choice for clients from the TMT and life sciences industries. It demonstrates additional experience in trade mark and unfair competition litigation, including injunction proceedings, frequently acting for clients from the media and automotive sectors. The team also assists clients with the management of international trade mark portfolios.

Strengths

"Bird & Bird possesses a broad-based team which ensures high responsiveness and fast processing of legal issues."

"The team is very client-oriented."

"I really like the lawyers' creativity; they look beyond the obvious solution."

Work highlights Bird & Bird provided comprehensive trade mark law advice to Hello Fresh and assists the client with global portfolio management as well as disputes.

Notable practitioners

Christian Harmsen is regularly instructed by prominent international pharmaceutical and telecommunications companies in patent infringement proceedings. **Oliver Jungst** is at his most visible advising clients from the TMT and life sciences sectors. His practice covers a range of contentious matters, including patent infringement and nullity proceedings. **Richard Dissmann** offers notable knowledge in trade mark matters. He regularly handles unfair competition disputes and infringement cases relating to cosmetics and medicinal products. **Uwe Lüken** is a well-re-

garded trade mark practitioner with experience in disputes, including preliminary injunctions as well as portfolio management and trade mark clearance topics. He is further acknowledged for his expertise in colour marks. **Joseph Fesenmair** handles both contentious and non-contentious trade mark matters, including design law contracts, portfolio management and designation of origin disputes. He is particularly active on mandates in the automotive and sports sectors. **Strengths:** *"He provides us with very management-oriented comments and memos. He is very understandable and pragmatic."*

Boehmert & Boehmert

What the team is known for Boehmert & Boehmert is particularly well known for work on patent prosecution matters, acting for clients from a range of fields including electrical and mechanical engineering, life sciences and technology. The law firm's activity includes contentious mandates, assisting clients with patent nullity actions and infringement litigation. The team's areas of expertise also include trade mark applications and unfair competition law. The law firm is additionally equipped to assist with the protection of design rights, further advising on the management of worldwide trade mark portfolios and indication of origin matters.

Work highlights Boehmert & Boehmert assisted the German Bundesdruckerei with patent infringement proceedings against its suppliers.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Bittner and Carl-Richard Haarmann are key contacts for clients.

Braun-Dullaues Pannen Emmerling

What the team is known for Braun-Dullaues Pannen Emmerling is well known for handling contentious patent matters in the telecommunications and technology sectors, including SEP issues. The law firm boasts expertise representing clients in opposition and nullity proceedings before the EPO and German Federal Patent Court. The team also frequently works with attorneys at law to assist clients with complex patent infringement litigation. Advising clients on patent applications further belongs to the law firm's fields of expertise.

Strengths

"The collaboration is extremely professional, efficient and effective. The lawyers always initiate the right measures and implement them efficiently and well."

"The team is very strong on the technical side."

"The law firm provides very good responsiveness and we get the information we want very quickly."

Work highlights Braun-Dullaues Pannen Emmerling represented Philip Morris in EPO opposition proceedings against British American Tobacco.

Notable practitioners

Friedrich Emmerling demonstrates outstanding expertise representing clients in contentious patent mandates. He frequently represents clients in opposition and nullity proceedings and assists with patent litigation with a focus on the technology and telecommunications sectors. **Strengths:** *"His strengths are his professional competence and very profound experience in litiga-*

tion." "He is really one of the best patent attorneys in Germany. He digs really deeply into the matter and understands what it is about in the end." "For me he is the best patent attorney in litigation and nullity actions." "Friedrich Emmerling has very good expertise and knowledge. His preparation is very detailed and thorough, and he always goes the extra mile to see what more can be done."

CMS

What the team is known for CMS has a sizeable IP practice with expertise in trade mark opposition and unfair competition proceedings. It is popular with clients from the medical and pharmaceutical sectors as well as the food and drinks industry. The law firm assists clients with cross-border trade mark portfolio management and prosecution, further advising clients on market access and new product launch strategies. CMS acts on advertising matters, particularly the admissibility of claims in advertising, and also assists clients with trade secrets matters.

Work highlights CMS represented Bayer in a number of unfair competition and healthcare advertising disputes, also related to new market launches.

Notable practitioners

Gordian Hasselblatt offers experience in trade mark, design and unfair competition law matters.

COHAUSZ & FLORACK

What the team is known for COHAUSZ & FLORACK is a market-leading law firm for contentious patent matters. It covers patent and opposition filing, as well as infringement and nullity proceedings. The firm also assists with standard-essential patent cases and FRAND defence, and additionally offers strategic patent advice. It regularly deals with high-profile opposition proceedings for multinational, blue-chip pharmaceutical companies and assists with patent and utility model infringement litigation. COHAUSZ & FLORACK is active across a range of technical fields, including electrical engineering and automotive.

Strengths

"The law firm possesses an excellent skill set of lawyers and IP rights specialists and a very good network of partner firms."

"COHAUSZ & FLORACK are always prompt in their communications, which is essential for patent prosecution. The lawyers are proactive with reminders and other docketing procedures.

"They staff matters appropriately with the right level of technical and legal expertise."

"The firm provides very good service levels and is always available for questions."

Notable practitioners

Arwed Burrichter receives praise for his scientific background and is often mandated to advise on cases involving the chemical industry and life sciences sector. He also deals with opposition and nullity proceedings. **Strengths:** "He has a very broad strategic view and a lot of experience in front of the authorities. He can assess well which arguments are most likely to promise success." "Arwed Burrichter has a great wealth of experience." **Natalie Kirchofer's** practice covers a wide range of IP work with a focus on the pharmaceutical sector. She assists clients with due diligence

and portfolio management and further advises on patent infringement proceedings. **Strengths:** "She learns very quickly and always has an eye for detail."

df-mp

What the team is known for Boutique firm df-mp has a strong focus on matters in the technology and telecommunications industries. The law firm's expertise extends to the field of life sciences and in particular the medical devices sector. The team is especially adept at advising on patent enforcement issues, with additional capabilities in patent opposition cases and portfolio management matters. The team further assists with patent litigation mandates.

Strengths

"df-mp has excellent skills in handling opposition and appeal matters."

"The team is fast and responsive, and the service is of high quality."

"The law firm has a hands-on approach, is super experienced and has a great ability to break down technically complex matters to their essence."

"df-mp provides powerful support for tough cases."

"The lawyers adhere to short deadlines in an exemplary manner."

Work highlights df-mp represented InterDigital in a patent dispute relating to standard essential mobile phone patents.

Notable practitioners

David Molnia has an excellent reputation for representing clients from the technology and telecommunications fields in contentious patent proceedings. He frequently acts for blue-chip clients in patent litigation as well as nullity actions.

Strengths: "He is an excellent adviser and team player."

Sandra Pohlman boasts strong expertise in patent disputes in the healthcare and life sciences field. She regularly represents clients in patent entitlement actions as well as opposition proceedings.

DLA Piper LLP

What the team is known for DLA Piper enters the rankings following increased activity in patent litigation. The law firm is well known for handling disputes in the technology sector, and further represents clients from the automotive and consumer products fields. It also advises on nullity and enforcement actions.

Strengths

"The team demonstrates high availability and responsiveness."

"DLA Piper have an exceptionally strong service attitude and customer orientation."

"They are very responsive and not afraid to highlight potential risks."

Work highlights DLA Piper defended Belkin against infringement and nullity proceedings relating to wireless charging devices brought by Philips.

Notable practitioners

Markus Gampp (see p.1487) enters the rankings due to strong work activity in the patent litigation field. His practice covers a variety of sectors, with a particular focus on the technology and automotive sectors. **Strengths:** "Markus Gampp is competent and self-assured." "He is very plugged in and

I would describe him as a true expert on the court system."

Eisenführ Speiser

What the team is known for Eisenführ Speiser is a strong, full-service IP firm with an extensive coverage of the German market. The law firm boasts a strong patent prosecution practice, supporting clients in EPO oppositions and PCT applications. It also offers significant knowledge in patent infringement cases as well as nullity actions, particularly for clients in the life sciences and technology sectors. The department additionally represents clients in trade mark enforcement and demonstrates expertise in trade mark portfolio management.

Strengths

"The team are very responsive and I feel secure transferring work to the firm."

"It's a savvy team that handles all areas in IP."

"The law firm provides us with quick, out-of-the-box advice."

"Eisenführ Speiser have very good business sense."

Work highlights Eisenführ Speiser represented Koninklijke Philips in EPO appeal proceedings following an opposition.

Notable practitioners

Jochen Ehlers is well known for his experience in contentious patent proceedings. He assists with litigation and enforcement mandates. **Strengths:** "Jochen Ehlers is experienced and commands a lot of respect. He is tenacious in arguing his client's position." "He has the ability to argue with great force and confidence that works in the German system. He has a convincing and persuasive approach to the practice." "He is an excellent patent attorney in litigious cases."

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

What the team is known for Freshfields rises in the rankings thanks to its prominence in high-profile patent litigation and increasing market support. The team is active in the technology, telecommunications and life sciences sectors, representing leading multinationals in cross-border infringement, parallel entitlement and enforcement proceedings. The law firm frequently handles standard-essential patent disputes. Its lawyers are additionally well versed in contentious matters in the areas of trade mark and unfair competition, as well as advertising disputes. Freshfields also offers expertise in the IP aspects of large-scale transactions, including restructurings.

Strengths

"Freshfields' quality is excellent."

Notable practitioners

Frank-Erich Hufnagel (see p.1488) brings to bear extensive experience in a broad range of multi-jurisdictional disputes, including entitlement proceedings, standard-essential patent enforcements and nullity actions. He boasts an impressive client roster in the technology and life sciences spaces. **Matthias Koch** (see p.1488) advises on copyright law as well as unfair competition and related trade secret matters, offering additional experience in trade mark disputes, including colour marks. **Wolrad Prinz zu Waldeck und Pyrmont** (see p.1489) enters the rankings

following excellent market praise for his activity in complex patent infringement litigation in the technology and life sciences sectors. He offers further expertise in anti-anti-suit injunctions as well as recourse claims, trade secret and inventor rights issues. **Strengths:** *"He is really familiar with the details of a case."* *"He provides good quality for his clients."* *"Wolrad is a diligent and hard-working lawyer."*

Glæss Lutz

What the team is known for Glæss Lutz offers strength in the soft IP space, frequently advising on trade mark infringement cases, including those concerning colour marks. The law firm assists with enforcements and oppositions, additionally advising on transactional IP matters. The team further provides strategic advice and is active in branding matters.

Strengths

"Glæss Lutz always respond immediately and you never have to wait a day."

Work highlights Glæss Lutz advised Heidelberg Materials on its international rebranding, including various trade mark registrations.

Notable practitioners

Thomas Bopp enjoys a longstanding reputation in the German IP market. He is experienced in advising clients on contentious IP matters, including patent infringement, opposition and nullity proceedings. **Matthias Sonntag** is particularly active in patent infringement litigation, handling a large caseload for clients from the manufacturing and pharmaceutical sectors. He also advises on transaction-related IP issues.

Grünecker

What the team is known for Grünecker stands out as an extremely well-resourced IP firm with a first-rate reputation for patent prosecution. It also represents clients from the technology and life sciences sectors in patent infringement litigation. The law firm's scope of expertise extends to soft IP, representing clients in trade mark prosecution as well as infringement disputes. It further assists clients with counterfeiting issues, also advising on unfair competition matters, design enforcement and injunction proceedings. Grünecker is particularly popular with clients from the TMT, fashion and automotive sectors.

Strengths

"Grünecker demonstrates a high willingness to get deeply involved in specialist areas. They offer a very good overview in complex proceedings."

"The firm's commercial awareness is one of its biggest strengths."

"Grünecker is an excellent firm with great partners who are very hard-working."

"The team carries out the work quickly and in an extraordinarily well-founded manner. The work performance is of an extremely high quality at all times."

"The lawyers understand the in-house mentality and our way of working. They understand our priorities and what the company is trying to achieve, and act accordingly."

Work highlights Grünecker managed the complete trade mark portfolio of Fuji Corp, including registrations and enforcement proceedings.

Notable practitioners

Moritz Höffe joins the rankings following increasingly strong activity on patent prosecution matters. He frequently supports clients from the technology field with portfolio management and the filing of patent applications. **Strengths:** *"He possesses extremely high competence."* **Maximilian Kinkeldey's** expertise covers trade mark infringement as well as opposition proceedings for prominent international and domestic brands.

Holger Gauss handles a variety of trade mark matters, frequently supporting prominent clients from the fashion sector. He is active advising clients on anti-counterfeiting issues and further advises on trade mark prosecution and portfolio management. **Strengths:** *"He is sharp, well connected, responsive and easy to work with."* *"Holger Gauss's responsiveness and friendly and good-humoured personality are an added bonus to the deep legal partnership."* *"Holger's ability to understand the business and provide practical, actionable advice sets him apart."*

Harmsen Utescher

What the team is known for Harmsen Utescher is a highly acclaimed IP boutique offering clients from the retail, life sciences, food and automotive industries substantial experience in the trade mark and unfair competition field. The law firm handles contentious issues, including representing clients in trade mark infringement, opposition and cancellation proceedings. It also assists clients with design validity questions and portfolio management. The team's expertise also covers copyright claims.

Strengths

"The law firm has a deep bench and is consistently very responsive to enquiries and deadlines."

"The lawyers advise us very soundly and always with several solution paths when these are required."

Work highlights Harmsen Utescher represented Shell in unfair competition proceedings against Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.

Notable practitioners

Karin Sandberg operates an increasingly varied practice, assisting clients with copyright and unfair competition matters as well as trade mark enforcement and prosecution. **Rainer Kaase** is adept at handling large brand portfolios and advising on trade mark matters, also in the context of new market launches. His clients stem from the pharmaceutical and food industries.

HARTE-BAVENDAMM

What the team is known for HARTE-BAVENDAMM boasts an outstanding trade mark and unfair competition team that often acts for clients from the fashion, pharmaceutical and retail industries. It also advises a number of companies from the food sector. The firm is particularly active on contentious matters, representing clients in trade mark enforcement, opposition and infringement proceedings, and offering notable experience in handling 3D trade marks. HARTE-BAVENDAMM also advises on deceptive advertising, passing off and unfair competition matters, further assisting clients with prosecution matters.

Strengths

"HARTE-BAVENDAMM is an absolute go-to firm,

especially for complex and sophisticated matters."

"The team are always to the point and informative." *"The law firm has a strong background in IP and provides excellent off-the-cuff advice. They are successful and creative in their approach to litigation."*

"HARTE-BAVENDAMM is the best of the best. The firm's work is impressive and it is a true joy to work with its team on a personal level."

Work highlights HARTE-BAVENDAMM provided comprehensive trade mark advice to Levi Strauss & Co. and represented the client in various enforcement proceedings.

Notable practitioners

Henning Harte-Bavendamm has an excellent market reputation for his extensive experience and academic work in the intellectual property space. He continues to advise clients on unfair competition matters including deceptive advertising issues. **Strengths:** *"Henning Harte-Bavendamm is one of the very best there is."*

Michael Goldmann frequently provides strategic advice on trade mark matters and also represents clients in trade mark litigation. He further assists with unfair competition matters and demonstrates notable expertise in trade mark registration, including 3D marks. **Strengths:** *"Michael Goldmann is simply a top-notch lawyer and IP litigator."* *"Michael is smart and clever. He has a global view and is very responsive."* *"He has a tremendous base of knowledge and strong commercial instincts."*

"He is a very strong academic and provides very thorough briefs." *"He is very practical."*

Andrea Jaeger-Lenz acts for clients on design and trade mark applications as well as trade mark portfolio management topics and infringement proceedings. Her clients include prominent international and domestic players from the pharmaceutical, food and transport sectors. **Strengths:** *"She is a good litigator who is very aware of our needs and responsive to our questions."*

Cathérine Elkemann joins the rankings following increased activity assisting with a wide range of trade mark issues, including opposition and invalidity proceedings as well as infringement litigation and non-contentious prosecution matters. She is further experienced in copyright, design and unfair competition disputes. **Strengths:** *"She is smart, very fast to respond and turns around comprehensive, well-written documents in good time. She is really quick and I am very impressed by her speed."* *"Cathérine Elkemann is extremely impressive."* *"She is very keen, tough and focused."*

Strengths

"The team are very responsive and come up with creative answers. They know the technical stuff

Hoffmann Eitle

What the team is known for Hoffmann Eitle possesses a deep bench of IP specialists benefiting from market-leading patent prosecution capabilities. The team is highly popular with clients from the life sciences industry, particularly clients based in Japan and the USA, and frequently handles international patent portfolios and patent opposition proceedings. The law firm also assists clients with nullity actions and revocation proceedings. Its expertise extends to patent litigation, acting for both claimants and defendants.

Strengths

"The team are very responsive and come up with creative answers. They know the technical stuff

well and the firm is a big German powerhouse.”

“The lawyers are business-focused, pragmatic and know what is useful in matters.”

“Hoffmann Eitle provides sound and sage advice on brand protection and enforcement matters.”

“The team is able to quickly understand very complex technical and legal situations.”

“Hoffmann Eitle provides excellent and proactive support.”

Work highlights Hoffmann Eitle represented Match Group in a nullity action before the Federal Patent Court and supported the client in parallel patent infringement proceedings.

Foreign desks The firm has several Japanese-speaking lawyers who assist clients with standard-essential patent cases and advise Japanese companies on patent infringement and nullity actions. Key contacts at the firm for Japanese matters include Dirk Schußler-Langeheine and Clemens Steins.

Notable practitioners

Thorsten Bausch boasts extensive experience in patent prosecutions within the life sciences space. He also frequently represents clients before the EPO. **Strengths:** “He is amazing, a go-to-lawyer in Europe for patent opposition. He is a superb litigator.” **Peter Klusmann** is a well-recognised practitioner in the intellectual property space. He often acts for clients from the chemistry and biotechnology sectors. **Joseph Taormino** has experience in patent applications and portfolio management. His practice predominantly focuses on the life sciences field.

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells is an acclaimed market leader in intellectual property, advising on high-profile patent, trade mark and unfair competition issues. The law firm acts on global infringement proceedings and brand name disputes, additionally managing trade mark and brand portfolios. It also handles copyright disputes, anti-counterfeiting issues and unfair competition claims, including preliminary injunction proceedings. Hogan Lovells often acts in patent infringement cases, including defending clients against non-practising entities. The team is popular with clients from the technology, telecommunications and pharmaceutical industries.

Strengths

“We are very satisfied with the support, advice and fast handling of our issues and questions.”

“The firm always reacts precisely and quickly.”

“We are very happy with the advice and representation of the whole team.”

“The team provides excellent service levels and very fast responsiveness.”

“Hogan Lovells are very responsive, do a great job, show good ideas, get things done in time and keep us informed.”

Work highlights Hogan Lovells represented Amazon in patent infringement proceedings and parallel nullity proceedings against Huawei relating to standard essential patents.

Notable practitioners

Andreas von Falck is a highly acclaimed patent litigator with extensive experience in pan-European disputes, including patent right enforcement proceedings and nullity actions. He further

possesses expertise in anti-anti-suit injunctions and assists clients with the protection of utility models. **Andreas Bothe** is widely recognised for his longstanding experience in trade mark matters. He is regularly involved in cross-border mandates, acting in trade mark as well as unfair competition disputes and assisting with trade mark portfolio management. **Strengths:** “He is very pragmatic and far-sighted.” “Andreas Bothe thinks outside the box and is very proactive.” **Martin Fährdrich** regularly handles patent infringement and validity proceedings. He has notable expertise in the technology and telecommunications sectors, acting for German and US-based clients.

Strengths: “He is a clever guy.” **Erhard Keller** has a longstanding reputation for his experience in unfair competition and trade mark matters. He is known for supporting clients in the enforcement of IP rights and further advises on product labelling and advertisement questions. **Yvonne Draheim** rises in the rankings thanks to excellent market recognition for her activity in prominent trade mark infringement cases involving well-known clients from the fashion and pharmaceutical sectors. She also provides strategic advice on various other soft IP matters related to design, copyright and unfair competition law. **Strengths:** “She is very active and dedicated to her clients and is very knowledgeable.” “It is easy and excellent to work with Yvonne.” “She is really good and knowledgeable.” **Steffen Steininger** rises in the rankings based on increasingly strong activity in patent litigation, including infringement and validity proceedings as well as SEP disputes. He offers experience in patents from the technology, renewable energy and automotive sectors. **Strengths:** “He is very smart, professional, hard-working and prompt.” **Miriam Gundt** enters the rankings following excellent recognition for her activity representing clients in patent infringement litigation and damages claims. She is particularly experienced in the life sciences field. **Strengths:** “She is a very intelligent person.”

Leopold von Gerlach offers experience in trade mark litigation gained from representing clients in disputes relating to counterfeits, parallel imports and unfair competition. **Burkhard Goebel** splits his time between the firm’s Hamburg and Madrid offices. German-qualified, Goebel routinely advises international clients on copyright matters and trade mark disputes in the life sciences and telecommunications sectors. **Andreas Renck** is German-qualified and is based in the firm’s Alicante office. He frequently coordinates cross-border trade mark litigation for international clients, as well as international design strategy.

HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER

What the team is known for HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER has an outstanding patent litigation practice that is widely perceived as a go-to for high-stakes disputes in the telecommunications and pharmaceutical sectors. The law firm represents clients in cross-border patent infringement and nullity proceedings, additionally offering a strong advisory practice, assisting clients with employee inventions. Its expertise also extends to standard-essential patent licensing. The team further demonstrates prowess in trade mark matters,

entering the rankings after demonstrating significant activity in the area. The lawyers frequently provide unfair competition advice and assist with trade mark portfolio management and litigation.

Strengths

“The team are dedicated to supporting our cases and provide detailed answers to our questions.”

“The law firm has a dream team of seasoned professionals.”

“HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER always provides convincing and reliable advice.”

“The team provides efficient management of cases across offices.”

“I am very impressed with the firm’s responsiveness, availability to jump on the phone and strategy calls.”

Work highlights HOYNG ROKH MONEGIER represented Apple in patent infringement proceedings against Ericsson relating to 5G patents.

Notable practitioners

Klaus Haft is the team’s leading figure for protecting clients’ interests in patent infringement proceedings, focusing on the technology and telecommunications sectors. His expertise extends to complex SEP and FRAND litigation. **Strengths:** “Besides his legal background, he also has a strong technical background.” “He is among the best lawyers in Germany.” “He is excellent.” **Christine Kanz** ascends in the rankings due to strong market recognition for her notable patent litigation practice. She is particularly popular with life sciences corporations, which she represents in both claimant and defendant patent disputes. **Strengths:** “Christine Kanz is very impressive. She is extremely organised and efficient, tackles all issues in details and sees the big picture as to what is important for the company.” “Her analysis is reliable; she takes the lead and thinks about issues from different angles. Christine is a very communicative and excellent lawyer.” “She is a wonderful and great litigator.” “Christine Kanz is very renowned for her work in the pharma and biotech sectors.” **Martin Köhler** has an impressive client list that includes blue-chip companies from the technology and electronics industries. His litigation practice covers patent enforcement, including infringement litigation and nullity actions. **Kay Kasper** regularly represents clients in patent infringement proceedings and licence negotiations. He acts for a diverse client list that includes companies from the automotive and technology sectors. **Strengths:** “He is an amazing counsel who you can always count on.” **Christian Osterrieth** is known for his work on patent enforcement mandates, including infringement litigation and opposition, nullity and vindication proceedings. His expertise also includes trade secret issues. **Strengths:** “He is a very bright and knowledgeable person.”

Kather Augenstein Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for Kather Augenstein demonstrates strength in handling complex infringement cases, acting for clients from the technology, life sciences and telecommunications industries. The IP boutique acts in nullity actions, validity proceedings and international parallel proceedings, also assisting clients with FRAND licensing issues. The law firm further advises on distribution issues and related injunctions. It

attracts particular attention for its cross-border capabilities, being popular with clients from the USA and Japan.

Strengths

"The lawyers always go the extra mile and do their best for clients, whether small or big."

"A sound understanding of the commercial situation and background of the client is an essential part of Kather Augenstein's assessment of a matter."

"The law firm manages the case very well and is completely aware of the legal perspective as well as the technical part."

"The team's cooperation with technical people in-house and at other firms internationally runs very smoothly."

"The lawyers are very motivated and thorough. It is easy to work with them and they are really dedicated."

Work highlights Kather Augenstein represented Ericsson in a number of patent infringement proceedings against Apple related to standard essential patents.

Notable practitioners

Peter Kather boasts an excellent reputation for his longstanding expertise in patent infringement matters. He continues to assist clients with patent enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** *"He has a very high reputation in Germany and is convincing in front of the court."* **Christof Augenstein** represents clients in complex and often multi-jurisdictional patent disputes, including enforcement and infringement proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Clients appreciate his knowledge, litigation skills and personality."* *"He is very proactive in his thinking and client-focused. He also makes a great impression when pleading in court."* *"He is extremely knowledgeable, especially about the UPC."* *"Christof Augenstein is very knowledgeable, experienced, down to earth, pragmatic and goes the extra mile. He knows when to, when not to and how to fight."*

Miriam Kiefer rises in the rankings following excellent client feedback and work activity. She handles substantial patent litigation and has a particular focus on the life sciences sector. She also demonstrates experience in nullity proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Miriam Kiefer's timely response and very comprehensive explanations convince clients that she is the right practitioner to retain in complex cross-border disputes."* *"She provides a unique and very compelling combination of empathy and intellect."* *"Miriam is strategically very capable, legally highly skilled and a very nice person to work with. She is responsive, and the feedback she gives is always thought through, well prepared and on time."* *"She is an excellent IP litigator with a pan-European perspective."*

Klaka Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for Klaka regularly handles disputes concerning trade marks, including trade mark enforcement, opposition and cancellation proceedings, as well as unfair competition cases and protected designation of origin matters. The law firm showcases strong experience in patent infringement cases, as well as opposition, nullity and compensation proceedings. It further demonstrates particular expertise in standard-essential patent and FRAND cases. Klaka represents a roster of longstanding clients in numerous

sectors, including pharmaceuticals, telecommunications and automotive.

Strengths

"The lawyers have deep and profound knowledge."

"The firms shows a quick understanding of complex technical details."

"The lawyers are very thorough, good strategists and know their cases."

Work highlights Klaka represented Deichmann in trade mark cancellation proceedings before the CJEU.

Notable practitioners

Olaf Giebe enjoys a long-standing reputation in the German patent market. He is well versed in patent litigation, including infringement claims, enforcements and parallel opposition proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Olaf Giebe provides excellent preparation of pleadings and court hearings, and demonstrates a quick perception of technical issues."* **Ralf Hackbarth** is a well-known name in the market and boasts extensive experience in a broad remit of matters, including licensing and domain disputes. He regularly represents leading automotive manufacturing companies in international trade mark and unfair competition proceedings. **Constantin Kurtz** is routinely called upon to act in infringement, nullity and patent entitlement proceedings. His expertise also extends to standard-essential patent matters. **Strengths:** *"Constantin Kurtz is a very good and experienced lawyer. He always finds the missing argument or needle in the haystack that may turn around a case."* *"He offers excellent preparation of pleadings and court hearings."* *"He is very good at putting himself in the shoes of the judges."* *"He is very responsive and looks at the details."* **Andreas Schutz** is particularly active handling trade mark and unfair competition issues in the food sector. He further handles contentious trade mark matters for clients from the finance and fashion industries. Munich-based

Stefan Abel regularly represents French clients in trade mark and unfair competition proceedings against German competitors. He also handles disputes related to design infringement.

König Szyzka Tilmann von Renesse

What the team is known for König Szyzka Tilmann von Renesse is skilled at handling patent prosecution matters, drafting patent applications and supplementary protection certificates. The law firm represents clients in litigation, opposition, nullity and appeal proceedings, as well as in preliminary injunction proceedings. Its expertise also extends to employee invention law. The team is particularly popular with clients from the life sciences sector.

Strengths

"The lawyers are well prepared and do a great job."

"The firm is very experienced in biotech."

Notable practitioners

Gregor König possesses notable expertise assisting with patent litigation and validity proceedings. His practice focuses on the life sciences and engineering fields. **Dorothea von Renesse** is recognised by market commentators for her experience in contentious patent matters. She has a track record of advising biochemistry and pharmaceutical clients.

Krieger Mes & Graf von der Groeben

What the team is known for Krieger Mes & Graf von der Groeben is a highly regarded boutique firm with substantial expertise in patent litigation and patent enforcement cases, with additional skills in nullity proceedings. The law firm represents clients from the technology, electronics, engineering and life sciences sectors in high-profile infringement cases. The team demonstrates further strength in utility model law and employee invention law.

Notable practitioners

Central to the firm's patent litigation practice, **Axel Verhauwen** offers a wealth of experience in a variety of disputes including nullity actions and infringements. He frequently handles SEP enforcement for clients from the technology and telecommunications sectors. **Strengths:** *"Axel Verhauwen is an excellent litigator and a person of high integrity, professionalism and collegiality. It is a pleasure working with him as a patent attorney."*

Jochen Bühling has experience in cross-border patent litigation and is often preferred by clients in the technology sector.

Lorenz Seidler Gossel

What the team is known for Lorenz Seidler Gossel offers capabilities in trade mark infringement litigation, as well as registration and enforcement. The boutique additionally assists with design, copyright and contentious unfair competition matters, particularly unfair advertising and marketing. It also demonstrates skills in transferring IP as part of corporate transactions as well as in portfolio management, anti-piracy measures and domain name cases. The team acts for clients from the fashion, TMT and software industries.

Work highlights Lorenz Seidler Gossel represented Casio Europe in trade mark infringement proceedings.

Notable practitioners

Siegfried Jackermeier has experience in unfair competition and trade mark infringement disputes. **Christian Rassmann** is particularly active in contentious trade mark proceedings, frequently representing well-known clients from the fashion sector. He is also adept at handling counterfeiting issues.

Lubberger Lehment

What the team is known for Lubberger Lehment holds a strong track record of assisting brand owners with trade mark, unfair competition and copyright law. Its clients hail from the luxury goods, cosmetics and technology industries. The team has notable expertise in portfolio management and selective distribution matters, further assisting with parallel import cases. The law firm is also well versed in the intellectual property aspects of transactions, including due diligence.

Work highlights Lubberger Lehment advised Coty on trade mark and unfair competition law matters and represented the company in several proceedings before the federal supreme court.

Notable practitioners

Andreas Lubberger maintains a market-leading reputation for his longstanding experience in the IP field. He is routinely instructed by multinational as well as German companies to represent them

in trade mark infringement, distribution and unfair competition disputes. **Benjamin Koch** frequently acts for high-profile clients in the technology, luxury goods and fashion sectors. He represents clients in trade mark and unfair competition litigation, including preliminary injunctions, and advises on counterfeiting and advertising matters. **Rani Mallick** enters the rankings following strong market support and work activity. She assists clients with design, trade mark and counterfeiting issues and regularly advises well-known clients from the cosmetics industry. **Eva Maierski** enters the rankings after receiving impressive support from market commentators. She is particularly active in counterfeiting matters, further assisting with trade mark and design questions. She also represents clients in litigation and demonstrates a strong focus on the cosmetics sector. **Strengths:** “She is very experienced in the field of fighting counterfeiting and enforcement actions.”

Maikowski & Ninnemann

What the team is known for Maikowski & Ninnemann boasts an excellent reputation for contentious patent work. The boutique demonstrates particular activity in the telecommunications, technology and automotive industries. The law firm frequently represents clients in EPO oppositions as well as invalidity and nullity proceedings. It offers additional experience assisting attorneys at law with patent litigation matters. The team further supports clients with worldwide patent portfolio management, patent filing and licensing matters.

Notable practitioners

Gunnar Baumgärtel frequently represents clients in contentious patent proceedings. He is further active filing patent applications and providing strategic patent advice.

Maiwald

What the team is known for Maiwald has a broad-based patents practice spanning the fields of life sciences, technology and manufacturing. The law firm regularly represents clients in opposition, infringement and nullity proceedings, while also advising on patent applications and portfolio management. It assists with supplementary protection certificates, further commanding expertise in plant variety protection. Maiwald is popular with international companies and has a strong client base in the USA and Japan.

Strengths

“The law firm has a very good understanding of complex issues.”

“Maiwald’s team members are very open and committed.”

“The lawyers are technically very experienced, versatile, friendly and approachable.”

Work highlights Maiwald handled the European prosecution of Acadia’s patent portfolio, including various acquisitions.

Notable practitioners

Eva Dörner is a key contact for clients.

Meissner Bolte Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte Partnerschaft mbB

What the team is known for Meissner Bolte has a large team with an extensive presence across

Germany, representing clients in patent cases before German and European authorities. The team boasts particular expertise in assisting with patent litigation and offers further experience in handling nullity and opposition proceedings. The law firm also supports clients with the management of patent portfolios. It attracts clients from a range of sectors, including industrial, manufacturing, automotive, technology and IT.

Strengths

“The firm demonstrates a well-structured work approach and excellent legal analysis, and is able to craft good argumentation. The lawyers are super professional in conducting oral proceedings.”

“Meissner Bolte always provides a specialised team fully adapted to its clients’ needs.”

“The team’s service levels and responsiveness are excellent and always reliable.”

“The team is well structured, provides good reporting and is very responsive.”

Work highlights Meissner Bolte represented CommScope in patent infringement and nullity proceedings and further assisted with patent prosecution matters, including oppositions.

Notable practitioners

Stefan Zech and Jochen Kilchert are key contacts for clients.

Noerr

What the team is known for Noerr showcases a solid presence in the area of soft IP, where the team chiefly handles trade mark litigation, acting on the defence side. The firm possesses prowess in preliminary injunction proceedings relating to trade mark infringement and product piracy issues. Further strengths include advice on trade mark portfolio management, unfair competition issues and anti-counterfeiting strategies. Noerr’s clientele comprises clients from the electronics, retail and fashion sectors.

Strengths

“The entire department shines with competence, a lot of know-how and fast processing. Their always-friendly approach is to be mentioned.”

“The lawyers are very responsive and clear in their advice.”

“The lawyers are excellent communicators, very strategic in their advice and see issues that we may encounter down the road. They are very professional and knowledgeable.”

“The team is composed of skilled lawyers with an entrepreneurial mindset.”

“Noerr provides very good advice and farsightedness.”

Work highlights Noerr represented Barry’s Bootcamp in preliminary injunction and EUIPO nullity proceedings against a Danish sports equipment manufacturer.

Notable practitioners

Ralph Nack primarily advises clients on patent enforcement and infringement work. He possesses additional expertise in SEP, trade secret and FRAND litigation. **Strengths:** “Ralph Nack is a skilled litigator with extensive skills in communicating with foreign clients.” “Ralph is very diligent.” Alicante-based **Tobias Dolde** regularly acts for German clients before the EUIPO on matters including trade mark enforcement and unfair competition proceedings.

Nordemann

What the team is known for Nordemann boasts an excellent market reputation in copyright matters. The law firm regularly advises high-profile clients from the media industry in portfolio management and copyright protection litigation as well as rights acquisitions. The team further assists with matters of trade mark law, acting on prosecution and enforcement mandates. Nordemann possesses additional expertise in advertising, design and unfair competition questions.

Strengths

“Nordemann’s lawyers have great expertise in the subject matter but also have a really good understanding of our industry.”

Work highlights Nordemann assisted Airbnb with the protection of its trade mark, including EU portfolio management and representation in opposition proceedings before the EUIPO.

Notable practitioners

Axel Nordemann is a renowned figure in the IP field, with notable experience in copyright law. He advises clients on matters pertaining to the management of international trade mark portfolios.

Anke Nordemann-Schiffel demonstrates experience in advertising and labelling matters. She further advises clients on trade mark portfolio management and represents them in contentious trade mark and copyright proceedings.

Preu Bohlig & Partner

What the team is known for Preu Bohlig & Partner is well known for expertise in patent litigation, regularly acting for clients from the technology, manufacturing and life sciences sectors. It represents clients in patent infringement and parallel validity proceedings. The law firm is active for both claimants and defendants. Additionally, Preu Bohlig advises pharmaceutical clients on patent questions relating to market launches of new products.

Strengths

“Preu Bohlig & Partner handles legal as well as technical complications with ease and efficiency. It is always possible to obtain a clear view on the issue, whether this is the general strategy or the preparation for a hearing.”

“Preu Bohlig & Partner are very strong in handling complex and sophisticated matters.”

“The law firm knows how to meet expectations in a usually short time frame.”

“The team provides very good advice and is very accessible.”

Work highlights Preu Bohlig & Partner represented 4Inno Ingenieurgesellschaft in patent infringement proceedings against Philips relating to lighting products.

Notable practitioners

Christian Donle has a notable presence in the patent litigation field and carries out a substantial caseload of infringement proceedings, including SEP matters. He is also active in patent vindication proceedings. **Strengths:** “He can understand the technology and translates it for the judge.” “His advice is prompt and holistic.” **Andreas Haberl** regularly handles patent infringements on behalf of clients from the manufacturing and biotechnology sectors. He also possesses experience dealing with patent ownership claims. **Strengths:**

"Andreas Haberl gives the strategy a framework and always takes the commercial interests of the client into account."

Prinz & Partner

What the team is known for Prinz & Partner regularly advises clients on broad patent strategy and portfolio management, particularly the drafting and filing of both domestic and international patent applications, as well as freedom-to-operate studies. The law firm represents clients in opposition proceedings, also advising on anti-piracy measures and inventor compensation schemes. The team is a popular choice for clients from the automotive industry, as well as from the technology and biotech sectors.

Strengths

"The team always thinks the matter through very intensively and also offers alternative solutions."

"Prinz & Partner always provides good preparation and transparent suggestions on how to handle complex issues."

"The lawyers always try to understand the underlying business case to give the best advice possible."

"The team demonstrates strong depth and breadth of knowledge and expertise in all areas of technology."

Work highlights Prinz & Partner assisted Bürkert Werke with filing patent applications worldwide and represented the company in opposition proceedings.

Notable practitioners

Jochen Sties handles a broad remit of patent prosecution issues, including opposition proceedings, patent applications and employee invention matters. **Strengths:** *"Jochen Sties is knowledgeable and has a good, practical approach."* **Thomas Kitzhofer** assists clients with the filing of their patents in Germany and internationally, also representing them in opposition proceedings. **Strengths:** *"He has a strong and practical approach to patent prosecution matters."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for Quinn Emanuel has an excellent reputation for its patent litigation practice. The law firm is a popular choice for cross-border patent disputes, benefiting from a strong international network. Its dedicated litigation team represents claimants and defendants from the life sciences and automotive sectors in patent infringement as well as nullity proceedings, and assists with oppositions. The law firm is highly regarded by a number of technology sector clients for advice on standard-essential patent cases.

Strengths

"Quinn Emanuel boasts one of the best, if not the best, patent litigation teams in Germany. The team's preparation and game plan is exceptionally detailed."

"I will go to Quinn Emanuel's German patent litigation team for any and all high-risk patent litigation matters in Germany."

"The law firm demonstrates impressive attention to detail and understanding of technical and legal concepts."

"The lawyers provide excellent responsiveness."

Work highlights Quinn Emanuel represented Dexcom in various patent infringement and invalidity proceedings against Abbott in Germany and the USA.

Notable practitioners

Marcus Grosch operates at the forefront of the German IP market and is the team's leading figure for protecting the interests of clients in patent disputes. He is especially popular with clients from the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Marcus Grosch is great to work with. The results speak for themselves."* **Johannes Bukow** has a strong client base among technology and life sciences companies. He regularly acts on high-profile patent infringements, validity proceedings and standard-essential patent litigation. **Jérôme Kommer** rises in the rankings following strong work activity and excellent feedback from clients. He frequently represents leading German and multinational companies in high-profile patent infringement and nullity proceedings. **Strengths:** *"He provides very comprehensive advice."* *"He does excellent work and is making his way."* *"I will always trust Jérôme to do an excellent job on the highest-risk cases."*

Rospatt Osten Pross

What the team is known for Rospatt Osten Pross regularly represents defendants in patent infringement cases. The well-regarded IP boutique handles high-profile proceedings for a roster of prestigious clients from the technology, pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. The law firm is regularly instructed by international companies to act in enforcement actions against non-practising entities and generic competitors. It also assists clients with standard-essential patent cases and utility model infringement cases.

Strengths

"The law firm is client-focused and very responsive."

"The attorneys are very knowledgeable and understand complex issues quickly."

Work highlights Rospatt Osten Pross represented Biogen in preliminary injunction proceedings to fight the premature market entry of generics to its blockbuster MS drug Tecfidera.

Notable practitioners

Maximilian von Rospatt offers a wealth of experience in all aspects of patent litigation, including infringement, nullity and enforcement proceedings. He specialises in cases involving the life sciences and technology sectors. **Strengths:** *"He is always spot on, he provides an exceptional work product, and his advice and guidance is the best in Germany."* **Thomas Musmann** is an established figure in the German IP market, offering clients support with patent infringement cases before German and European courts. His strength lies in disputes involving the life sciences sector. **Strengths:** *"Thomas Musmann is a very experienced attorney."* **Henrik Timmann** assists clients with utility model and patent infringements, as well as nullity actions. He also advises on non-contentious SEP and FRAND questions. **Strengths:** *"He is a very good attorney and has a high level of technical understanding and legal knowledge."* *"Henrik's legal knowledge is impeccable and he*

is good at understanding the technical aspects of the case well. He explains issues really well to the judges." *"He is very smart, efficient and likeable."*

Samson & Partner

What the team is known for Samson & Partner has a strong reputation for enforcement actions against infringers and represents defendants in nullity actions, also having a good track record in licensing and strategic advice. The law firm further acts on patent, utility model and design applications. The Munich-based boutique is known for its presence in significant standard-essential patent cases in the telecommunications sector. Its expertise also extends to the electronics, mechanical engineering and biochemistry sectors.

Notable practitioners

Wolfgang Lippich is a notable practitioner in contentious patent matters, routinely representing clients in opposition and nullity proceedings. His practice focuses on the fields of technology, telecommunications and engineering.

SKW Schwarz Rechtsanwälte

What the team is known for SKW Schwarz represents clients from the TMT sector, as well as the pharmaceutical and consumer goods industries. The law firm assists companies with brand management topics, as well as advertising law disputes and the management of international trademark portfolios. The team routinely handles trademark infringement cases, unfair competition proceedings and the protection of design rights. It possesses additional expertise in copyright law and counterfeiting issues.

Strengths

"The lawyers handle complicated matters with great accuracy and have a good understanding of the overall situation, including commercial and technical aspects. When communicating with the client, they are very good at simplifying and clearly explaining the legal situation even to non-lawyers."

"What I really appreciate about SKW is a great willingness to make pragmatic decisions. The colleagues are very close to the in-house work and you get an open and realistic assessment of your legal position."

"The law firm provides very swift and to-the-point responses."

"The lawyers are super efficient and proactive. It is really pleasant to work with them and at the same time they are really hands-on, to the point and very practical."

Work highlights SKW Schwarz took over the management of the entire brand portfolio of Penguin Random House and its subsidiaries.

Notable practitioners

Sandra Sophia Redeker boasts experience in a wide variety of soft IP matters, including management of international brand and design portfolios and food labelling issues as well as trademark licensing. She is also active in trade secret and trademark litigation. **Strengths:** *"Sandra has her finger on the pulse of the times, she is a real thought partner and we have a very open exchange, which I appreciate."* *"Sandra is extremely sharp and very dedicated. She is definitely a reliable litigator."*

Taylor Wessing

What the team is known for Taylor Wessing boasts notable activity in patent litigation, representing clients in infringement and nullity cases in the life sciences, telecommunications and technology sectors. The law firm additionally acts for clients in a range of trade mark litigation, including disputes concerning customs seizures and trade mark enforcement. It also advises on unfair competition and advertising matters, as well as assisting clients with portfolio management.

Strengths

"Taylor Wessing provide extremely quick responses and are service-oriented."

"The law firm provides fast responses, is commercially minded and has a practical approach. It also demonstrates availability for urgent matters."

"The lawyers are creative and I would recommend them."

"The lawyers are extraordinarily dedicated. They bend over backwards to give times and consideration and make themselves available."

"The lawyers have an in-depth technical approach to German procedural issues and an exceptional understanding of how German procedures are perceived in other jurisdictions."

Notable practitioners

Sabine Rojahn has a longstanding reputation in the IP world and continues to support clients in patent infringement disputes. **Strengths:** *"Sabine Rojahn is a greatly experienced attorney."*

Christoph de Coster is frequently instructed by clients from the life sciences industry to handle patent infringement cases, including preliminary injunctions. He routinely advises pharmaceutical companies before the German and European authorities. **Gisbert Hohagen** represents clients from life sciences field in patent litigation and also offers expertise in employee invention matters.

Dietrich Kamlah represents life sciences and telecommunications clients in patent infringement disputes, offering additional knowledge of SEP matters. **Strengths:** *"Dietrich Kamlah is an incredibly in-depth, hard-working and precise legal analyst. He is a great advocate who shows an in-depth understanding of the German court system."*

Christian Lederer advises on nullity and patent infringement proceedings, frequently acting for clients in the life sciences and technology sectors. **Strengths:** *"He knows how to communicate, has a feeling for where people stand and is well prepared."* **Thomas Pattloch** heads Taylor Wessing's China Group. He speaks fluent Mandarin and advises Chinese clients on patent disputes in Germany, including patent infringement cases. He is further active on trade mark disputes. **Strengths:** *"Thomas Pattloch at Taylor Wessing left me a great impression. He has a high professional standard and can communicate in three languages, including Chinese, English and German, and has a broad network in the EU region."*

Uexküll & Stolberg

What the team is known for Uexküll & Stolberg comprises an established team of patent attorneys offering services in chemistry, biotechnology and engineering. The law firm advises clients on patent and utility model applications, as well as

representing clients in patent prosecution, nullity and validity proceedings before the domestic and European authorities. It has additional experience filing design patents and possesses know-how in cancellation processes.

Work highlights Uexküll & Stolberg represented ExxonMobil in patent opposition appeal proceedings against Dow Chemical before the EPO.

Notable practitioners

Albrecht von Menges routinely represents clients in EPO opposition proceedings and patent filings. He also assists with portfolio management and is particularly popular with clients from the biotechnology and pharmaceutical spaces.

Vossius & Partner Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte mbB

What the team is known for Vossius & Partner is a well-reputed IP firm that houses extensive patent prosecution and litigation expertise. It regularly represents notable clients from the life sciences, food and beverage, and technology industries and has a number of clients from East Asia. The law firm assists with patent applications and patent portfolio management. Vossius represents companies in opposition proceedings and nullity actions as well as patent infringement proceedings, additionally acting on FRAND and standard-essential patent issues. Furthermore, the law firm possesses expertise in the soft IP sphere, entering the rankings following an increase in activity. It particularly focuses on contentious proceedings, covering trade marks, copyright, unfair competition and design issues.

Strengths

"Vossius & Partner have a particularly practical and business-minded approach to everything. The firm is a great partner because they understand what we are trying to accomplish and help us in doing so."

"The quality of the firm's lawyers is consistently very good."

"It is an excellent, diverse and collaborative team with complementary skills."

"The lawyers excel at prioritising the client's concerns and commercial interests."

"I value the creativity, expertise and strategic insight the team brings to the table."

Work highlights Vossius & Partner advised Boston Scientific Corporation on its IP portfolio and represented the client in patent oppositions as well as in global infringement litigation regarding medical devices.

Notable practitioners

Hans-Rainer Jaenichen (see p.1488) offers an excellent wealth of experience in IP matters, with a focus on patent prosecution. He maintains a strong reputation among clients from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. **Elard Freiherr Schenck zu Schweinsberg** (see p.1487) frequently handles patent prosecution matters. His client list includes companies from a wide range of sectors, including healthcare, automotive and energy. **Strengths:** *"Elard is excellent and demonstrates very good arguments and representation."* **Thure Schubert** (see p.1490) enters the rankings following increased activity in patent litigation matters. He regularly assists clients from the life sciences sector, with further expertise in the consumer goods field. **Strengths:** *"He*

is calm and assured in his manner." *"He is extremely smart and always on top of the details. He is an expert in European Patent Office procedures and German IP litigation."*

Weickmann & Weickmann

What the team is known for Weickmann & Weickmann boasts a long-established patent team with a strong focus on engineering, chemistry and life sciences. Its client base encompasses a range of pharmaceutical companies. The law firm assists clients with contentious proceedings, including appeals, injunctions, oppositions and nullity actions. It also handles patent applications, strategic advice and patent portfolio management and transactions, further advising clients on employee invention cases.

Strengths

"The team are very professional and business-oriented. They also give a lot of consideration to entrepreneurial activity."

"The law firm provides very good and strategic suggestions."

"The lawyers demonstrate full understanding of the technology."

Work highlights Weickmann & Weickmann assisted Meggle Group with patent infringement proceedings against Friesland Campina regarding food additives.

Notable practitioners

Markus Herzog and Wolfgang Weiss are key contacts for clients.

Wildanger Kehrwald Graf v. Schwerin & Partner

What the team is known for Wildanger is an esteemed IP boutique with an excellent reputation for patent litigation. The law firm represents both plaintiffs and defendants in domestic and international patent infringement and nullification proceedings, and is well known for its expertise in SEP litigation. The team has additional expertise in utility model and employee invention law, also assisting clients with the protection of trade secrets. The firm's client roster comprises large and medium-sized enterprises from the technology, pharmaceutical and engineering industries. It is particularly popular with clients from the USA and Asia.

Notable practitioners

Wolf Graf von Schwerin is a well-reputed practitioner with longstanding experience in the area of patent litigation. He has experience representing companies from the technology and life sciences spaces. **Peter-Michael Weisse** predominantly handles patent infringement cases and standard-essential patent claims. Commentators note his activity advising on FRAND matters. **Eva Geschke's** broad practice covers patent infringement and nullity proceedings for domestic and international clients. She is particularly noted for her work advising on the plaintiff side.

Zimmermann & Partner

What the team is known for Zimmermann & Partner regularly represents clients in contentious intellectual property cases, including patent oppositions and parallel infringement proceedings. The law firm also advises clients on patent

validity cases and further provides strategic patent portfolio advice and assistance in cancellation applications. The team's client list includes companies from the technology, telecommunications and manufacturing industries, including a number of clients from Asia and the USA.

Strengths

"The lawyers are highly skilled professionals in their field and provide excellent technical support for litigation."

"The partners are highly competent and specialise in different areas of technology. You always get the right person to advise on the relevant matters."

"They proactively reach out if they observe unclearities and suggest possible solutions."

Work highlights Zimmermann & Partner represented General Electric in patent opposition proceedings before the EPO and assisted with parallel patent litigation.

Notable practitioners

Joel Nägerl has an excellent reputation in litigation support mandates. He frequently cooperates with attorneys at law to assist clients with patent litigation matters and possesses extensive experience in nullity actions. His work focuses on clients from the technology sector. **Strengths:** *"Joel is a great patent attorney with particularly sophisticated skills in mobile telecommunications, network technology, encryption, quantum computing and other fields of physics."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Michael Best is well known for his expertise in prosecution, at both German and EPO levels. He is active in nullity and opposition proceedings, and his practice focuses on clients from the chemistry and pharmaceutical sectors.

Andreas Bock of Bock Legal has experience in a broad array of trade mark infringement disputes, including those relating to design, colour mark and image rights issues. He further assists with unfair competition and counterfeiting matters, including border seizures.

Jana Bogatz of D Young & Co enters the rankings following strong feedback. She frequently advises well-known clients on trade mark portfolio management and enforcement, and is further active in litigation.

Strengths:

"Jana Bogatz is very savvy and aware. She gives targeted, practical and useful advice in a succinct and reliable way."

"It is always a pleasure to work with Jana on a personal and professional level. She is very diligent and I can really trust her."

"She is very smart, knowledgeable, a creative thinker, practical and business-oriented."

Dirk Bruhn rises in the rankings following strong market support. He assists clients with unfair competition law matters and has additional experience in trade mark infringement issues.

Hosea Haag of AMPERSAND is a well-known name in the patent litigation space and is particularly active in cases involving non-practising

entities. His practice focuses on telecommunications and electronics as well as engineering and medical devices.

Strengths:

"Hosea Haag is a very technically-driven lawyer."

Anton Horn of Heuking acts on patent disputes, including infringement, enforcement and nullity proceedings.

Strengths:

"Anton Horn is a creative outside-the-box thinker, who also considers non-obvious approaches and scenarios. He is very responsive and dedicated to provide full service."

"He is very commercially oriented."

"His biggest strength is that he is always very well prepared and knows everything about the issues at hand."

"With his calm approach, overall insight and ability to see the matters in context, Anton is able to come up with effective solutions."

Wolfgang Kellenter of Hengeler Mueller regularly represents clients in patent infringement and SEP disputes. He is active in various sectors, including technology and telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and automotive.

Christof Keussen of Glawe Delfs Moll advises clients on patent prosecution matters and has a focus on the chemistry and biotechnology fields.

Fritz Lahrtz of Simmons & Simmons is particularly adept at handling patent prosecution mandates in the life science and chemistry fields. He frequently assists clients with German and European patent applications and also represents them in opposition cases, including at EPO level.

Strengths:

"He has a deep knowledge of chemistry and pharmacology and is a talented advocate in opposition proceedings."

Jens Matthes (see p.1489) of Allen & Overy is often instructed to advise on design law topics, trade marks and advertising issues, with further experience in unfair competition.

Strengths:

"He provides excellent advice and gets amazing results, and I would highly recommend him to anyone who needs sophisticated trade mark litigation work in Germany."

"Jens Matthes has a superb understanding of the practicalities of his work and his clients' business needs and real-life circumstances. Jens is outstandingly responsive, efficient, smart and a great communicator."

Peter Meyer of Simmons & Simmons advises international clients on patent enforcements, infringement actions and nullity proceedings. His practice covers various sectors, including life sciences and technology.

Constantin Rehaag of Dentons frequently represents clients in trade mark litigation and further assists with unfair competition matters and trade mark prosecution. He is also noted for his expertise in product piracy matters.

Strengths:

"Constantin Rehaag acts in a high-performing and entrepreneurial manner, always seeking to align his actions with the best interest of the company and to

switch between multiple perspectives."

"I am impressed by the quality of his services, which are always delivered with professionalism, accuracy and efficiency."

"He is very responsive and attentive to our needs and requests. He communicates clearly and promptly with me and other stakeholders involved."

"He is very economically oriented and understands our interests."

Julia Schönbohm of Linklaters represents clients from the pharmaceutical and technology industries in international patent disputes.

Thomas Schulte-Beckhausen regularly represents clients in both trade mark and unfair competition litigation matters. He also advises clients on copyright law issues.

Martin Viefhues is adept at providing clients with strategic advice and defence related to product designations and designs. He also focuses his work on product labelling and trade mark issues as well as infringement litigation.

Andreas Vogel (see p.1491) of Patentanwälte Bals & Vogel enters the rankings receiving excellent client feedback for leading a strong patent prosecution practice. He is focused on protecting technical intellectual property rights, assisting with German and European patent applications and opposition proceedings, including at the EPO. He also supports clients with UPC topics.

Strengths:

"I have come to know and appreciate Andreas Vogel on various occasions as an extremely competent, trustworthy and solution-oriented patent lawyer."

"Andreas provides very good, prompt and professional support and advice."

"He is knowledgeable, prompt and attentive."

"Andreas is a seasoned lawyer with extensive knowledge. He is great at his work!"

Foreign Experts

Nora Keßler of Klinkert Rechtsanwälte PartGmbH is based in Frankfurt and frequently advises Italian clients on a range of contentious IP matters in Germany.

Strengths:

"Nora is kind of a linguist; she speaks German, English and Italian as well."

Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

Mattia Dalla Costa of CBA advises German clients on trade mark and design infringement cases, as well as anti-counterfeiting disputes. Dalla Costa is admitted to the Bar in Germany and Italy and splits his time between the firm's Munich and Padua offices.

Strengths:

"Mattia is very commercial and has expertise in Germany."

Lima-based **Juan Carlos Durand Grahammer** of Durand Abogados regularly advises German companies on the protection of their trade marks in Peru, as well as other South American jurisdictions.

Alicante-based **Verena von Bomhard** of BomhardIP is a German-qualified lawyer best known for her work on the prosecution of EU trade marks.

Leaders' Profiles in Germany

AHRENS, Börries

Allen & Overy LLP, Hamburg
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Featured in Competition/European Law (Germany)

Practice Areas: Börries advises on all aspects of European and German antitrust law. He regularly represents clients in merger control proceedings and cartel investigations before the German Federal Cartel Office, the European Commission, and the courts. He has extensive experience of advising companies in the retail, automotive, food, chemicals, waste management and financial services sectors.

BAUDISCH, Matthias G

Allen & Overy LLP, London
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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Matthias is a high yield partner in our London office. He regularly advises leading underwriters, issuers and financial sponsors in Rule 144A/ Regulation S high yield bond offerings and has extensive experience in bridge financings and merger & acquisitions transactions.

BAUER, Jan

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Jan Bauer is head of Skadden's private equity practice in Germany. He focuses on advising private equity and corporate clients on complex cross-border M&A transactions, including private and public deals as well as joint ventures. He also advises on corporate governance matters, corporate restructurings and capital markets-related issues. Dr. Bauer is recognized as a leading lawyer for his private equity and corporate M&A work in top legal publications.

Professional Memberships: Member, International Bar Association (IBA); Member, American Bar Association (ABA) and Member, German-American Lawyers Association (DAJV)

BEHRENS, Alexander

Allen & Overy LLP, Frankfurt am Main
alexander.behrens@allenovery.com
Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Alexander heads the German financial regulatory team and advises banks and other financial service providers, including FinTech companies, as well as unregulated companies on all aspects of financial regulatory law. In addition to German and European banking regulatory law, he focuses on payment services law and capital markets regulation as well as issues related to the Banking Union. Furthermore, Alexander has broad experience in the areas of M&A of regulated entities, NPL transactions, civil banking law and in internal investigations in the finance sector.

BOHR, Bernd

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: New York, English and German-qualified Bernd Bohr advises his clients on a broad range of capital markets and lending transactions, including investment grade and leveraged finance / sub-investment grade transactions as well as restructurings. In recent years, his practice has had a particular focus on European high yield bond and leveraged lending transactions, but he also regularly advises on transactions (including benchmark-size transactions) involving investment grade or cross-over issuers / borrowers, including bilateral and syndicated loans as well as SEC-registered bond offerings, Rule 144A offerings and Reg. S offerings. A significant part of his practice involves cross-border transactions and he has advised clients from a broad range of industries in Abu Dhabi, Austria, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, the UK and the US. Prior to joining Mayer Brown in 2011, Bernd worked in the New York, London and Hong Kong offices of other large international law firms and spent a year on client secondment in the corporate legal department of a large multinational in Switzerland.

BRAUN, Ellen

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Featured in Competition/European Law (Germany)

Practice Areas: Ellen Braun, LL.M. (UC Berkeley), is a German Rechtsanwältin and head of our German antitrust practice. She specialises in EU and German competition law. She has an active practice representing clients in competition proceedings before the EU Commission, the German Federal Cartel Office and the courts. Her broad practice covers the full breadth of antitrust law including advising on long-term competition and antitrust strategies; complex merger control cases including worldwide multiple filings; structuring of cooperation, joint venture and distribution agreements; compliance advice, audits and design of compliance programs; EU and German cartel investigations including leniency applications; as well as actioning and defending private enforcement cases in court. Her clients come from all sectors including automotive, (petro-)chemicals, consumer goods, digital and high-tech, industrial services and production, pharma/life sciences, transport.

BUSSIAN, Wolf

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: As our Managing Partner Germany, Wolf heads Allen & Overy's German practice. He focuses on litigation and investigations in the finance sector. He represents banks, asset managers, insurers, funds, accounting firms and other companies as well as governments and public institutions in disputes both in and out of court. He deals with disputes about complex finance products and tax driven transactions (for example cum/ex and cum/cum trades) on a regular basis. Wolf also frequently advises on capital market disputes and capital market-related professional indemnity claims as well as disputes in the field of payment services. He has special expertise with disputes resulting from bank crises (restructuring, resolution and insolvency) and equity substitution. He regularly deals with international civil procedural law issues (e.g. service, taking evidence and enforcement abroad), in particular in relation to the UK and the United States.

CARBONARE, Marco

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Marco is a partner in the Firm's Corporate/M&A group, the Global Co-Head of the Firm's Equities Practice and the German Co-Head of Corporate/M&A. He concentrates on advising corporates and sponsors on complex corporate and corporate finance transactions and also has a long track record of advising underwriters in connection with high profile offerings across Europe. He is German, US and English law qualified and has extensive international and cross-border transactional experience acting for corporates and private equity investors, with a particular focus on Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Nordics and the United States. Marco is also the founder and co-head of the Firm's Swiss Desk and has extensive experience advising Swiss corporates in connection with international mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions.

Career: 2011 to date Partner, Linklaters, Frankfurt 2006–2011 Counsel, Linklaters, London 1998–2006 Associate, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, London/Frankfurt 1996–1998 Judicial Clerk, Court of Appeals, Vienna and Innsbruck

CARLI, Winfried

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Carli's practice focuses on domestic and cross-border finance and restructuring matters, with

a particular focus on leveraged finance. He represents national and international private equity firms, financial institutions, debt funds and companies on all types of debt transactions.

Personal: LLM 2000 New York University (Fulbright Scholar) 1st German State Law Examination 1997 University of Munich

DEHIO, Andreas

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Andreas has specialist experience in banking supervisory, investment funds and securities trading law. He advises financial services firms on their major M&A transactions and assists them with investigations and enforcement by regulators, as well as on bank resolution and other crisis management situations.

Career: 2010 to date: Linklaters, Partner since 2017; 2012 to date: Lecturer at EBS Universität für Wirtschaft und Recht, Wiesbaden; 2005–2007: Visiting research fellow, Suffolk University Law School, Boston

DIKMANN, Hans

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Hans Diekmann joined Allen & Overy LLP in May 2013. He primarily advises on corporate and capital markets law as well as on M&A transactions including public takeovers. German DAX and MDAX companies, financial institutions and large listed companies count among his regular client base. In addition to his M&A work Hans Diekmann advises his clients inter alia on annual shareholders' meetings, capital market law (including investigations by Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht), initial public offerings, corporate reorganisations as well as on general corporate law advice and on financing issues. He also regularly advises executives and board members on matters relating to corporate compliance. JUVE ranks him as one of Germany's 15 leading senior corporate Partners.

DISTLER, Wolfram

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/d/distler-wolfram> for further information.

ECKHARTT, Claus

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Claus Eckhartt's practice focuses on the prosecution and enforcement of trademarks, designs and copyright, as well as on unfair

competition and related domain name issues. He also specializes in the field of anti-counterfeiting, parallel imports, and the licensing and merchandising of brands. As head of the firm's trademark department, Claus Eckhardt has, for almost two decades, been managing the IP portfolios of SMEs as well as multinational corporations and advising them on this matter in a diverse range of industries, including pharmaceutical, consumer health care, household goods, IT, hotel services, banking, food & beverage, fashion and clothing, as well as enforcing and defending IP rights before the European Union Intellectual Property Office, national German courts, the German Patent and Trademark Office, and the General Court in Luxembourg.

Career: 2009–2014 Co-managing partner of the firm 2001–today Partner at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG in Munich, Germany 1996–2001 Attorney-at-Law at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG, Munich, Germany 1994–1996 Attorney-at-Law at the patent and law firm Grünecker, Kinkeldey, Stockmair & Schwanhäusser, Munich, Germany 1993–1994 Attorney-at-Law at the patent and law firm Kuhnen, Wacker & Partner, Freising, Germany 1993 Second State Law Examination (bar admission exam) Licensed to practice as an attorney-at-law 1992 Training period at the law firm De Smedt Dassesse Akin Gump & Feld International, Brussels, Belgium

Professional Memberships: Claus Eckhardt is an active member of MARQUES, INTA (currently on the Trademark Reporter Committee), PTMG and GRUR. He is also on the advisory board of Intellectual Property Magazine. He frequently speaks at conferences and seminars and regularly produces publications on topics within his areas of practice.

FABRITIUS, Andreas

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Andreas is one of Freshfields' senior corporate lawyers, practicing out of its Düsseldorf and Frankfurt offices. He specialises in public and private M&A as well as general corporate law, in particular corporate governance and directors' liability. His clients include German and international companies, banks, financial investors and government agencies. Andreas has also considerable experience with corporate litigation matters.

Career: Andreas joined Freshfields in 1988, and has been a partner since 1991.

Personal: Andreas is admitted as attorney-at-law in Germany and New York. He studied law and economics in Bonn, Speyer, Ann Arbor (Michigan) and Florence (European University Institute).

FREIHERR SCHENCK ZU SCHWEINSBERG, Elard

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Mr. Schenck assists clients in the following practice areas: Patent and Utility Model Prosecution, Opposition and Revocation, Patent and Utility Model Litigation, Employee Inventions, Unitary Patent and UPC, Due Diligence and Freedom-to-Operate Analysis. Elard has a particular emphasis on the technical fields of engineering, including manufacturing and production technologies as well as automotive, material science, medical technology, diagnostic apparatuses and physics. He is regularly involved in interdisciplinary teams and, in particular, often cooperates with partners from the Biology & Biotechnology Department both for prosecution and opposition cases relating to inventions at the interface between mechanics/physics/engineering/IT and biology/biochemistry.

Career: Elard Freiherr Schenck zu Schweinsberg joined VOSSIUS after his training to become a reserve officer and after having completed his master studies in mechanical engineering at the RWTH Aachen. He has been partner of the firm since 2007.

FRIED, Jörg

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Jörg has more than 25 years of experience advising banks and corporates on all legal aspects in the area of financial derivatives, clearing of financial derivatives, repo and securities lending transactions as well as commodity derivatives and commodity trading (in particular energy trading).

Career: Jörg completed his training as a banker in 1987 and then studied law at the Universities of Geneva and Tübingen, where he also later obtained his doctorate. He has been admitted as a Solicitor for England and Wales since 1999. He joined Linklaters in 2005 and before that spent five years in a German law firm.

GAMPP, Markus

DLA Piper UK LLP, Munich

Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/g/gampp-markus> for further information.

GLOS, Alexander

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Alexander Glos is a partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Frankfurt. He co-leads the firm's financial institutions sector group as well as the global fintech team. He is

a member of the practice group Global Transactions. His practice covers the entire spectrum of banking and capital markets regulation. He advises banks and other financial service providers as well as fintechs and unregulated companies on all aspects of financial supervisory law. In this context Alexander works on M&A and portfolio transactions as well as restructurings and reorganizations in the financial sector. He has particular expertise in Banking Union matters (Single Supervisory Mechanism and Single Resolution Mechanism). Alexander has frequent dealings with various regulators such as the European Central Bank and the German BaFin.

Career: Alexander joined Freshfields in 2003 and has been a partner since 2009. Since 2019 he is Co-Head of Financial Institutions Group and co-leads our Global Fintech Group. In the course of his career he completed a six-month secondment at Deutsche Bank.

Publications: Alexander Glos regularly lectures and publishes articles on banking supervisory law topics and is the editor of a handbook on banking supervisory law.

GRAUKE, Britta

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: Britta Grauke is the Co-Managing Partner of Weil's German offices and heads the German Litigation practice, which she has helped to build since joining Weil, Gotshal & Manges in 2002. Applying her strong litigation background, Britta advises and represents both borrowers and lenders in distressed situations, restructuring transactions and insolvencies, given the liability driven German restructuring system. In addition, she has vast experience in banking and insolvency related litigation, in which she has obtained several landmark rulings at the German Federal Supreme Court. Furthermore, she represents major clients in corporate law and capital markets disputes as well as arbitration resulting from mergers & acquisitions. As part of the corporate litigation practice, she has a focus on corporate governance issues, crisis management and recovery of assets.

Personal: Universities of Trier and Bonn (law degree 1997). Admitted to practice in Germany in 1997.

HECKT-HARBECK, Jödis

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Jödis has specialised experience in debt capital markets products with a focus on asset-based structured finance, including, in particular, true sale and synthetic securitisation, warehouse financings (in particular, in the area of FinTech), structured covered bonds, high yield bonds, secured bank financings and

other secured financing of various asset classes (including auto loans and leases, ships and aircraft).

Career: Jödis joined Linklaters in 2012 and was elected Counsel in 2020. Before joining Linklaters she was active as a freelance author for the German magazine Anwaltsblatt Karriere. Jödis studied law at the University of Kiel and graduated from the Institute Catholique de Paris & Paris VIII in Paris.

Professional Memberships: She is a member of the German-French Lawyers Association (Deutsch-Französische Juristenvereinigung).

HENKELMANN, Stefan

Allen & Overy LLP, Frankfurt am Main
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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Stefan is an Attorney with broad expertise advising on German and international capital markets transactions. Stefan specialises in advising on securitisations and other structured finance transactions (covering true sale, secured loan and synthetic structures across a broad range of asset classes) and on restructurings in the capital markets sector (including bond restructurings and restructurings of securitisations and related assets). Another focus of his practice is the advice on bond transactions including Pfandbriefe, covered bonds, structured notes, hybrid and corporate bonds.

HESELBERGER, Johannes

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Johannes Heselberger represents clients in patent infringement proceedings before German courts in the first and second instance and gives advice and support to them in legal appeal proceedings and in complaints against denial of leave to legal appeal proceedings before the German Federal Court of Justice. In addition, Johannes Heselberger plays a leading and coordinating role in patent nullity proceedings before the German Federal Patent Court and in appeal proceedings before the German Federal Court of Justice as well as in opposition proceedings before the European Patent Office and the German Patent and Trademark Office. Owing to his practice as an attorney-at-law and his qualification as a graduate physicist, Johannes Heselberger has comprehensive technical experience in the field of telecommunications, medical devices and the automotive industry. Pharmaceutical and biotech cases, including the extremely rare proceedings for a compulsory license, are also part of his field of practice as an attorney-at-law. His comprehensive professional expertise in SEP and FRAND litigations as well as in enforcement of and defense against license programs make him a precious advisor also in this field. Johannes Heselberger successfully attended to a number of important, often transnational patent infringement

proceedings for German and international large-scale companies as well as for owner-operated medium-sized enterprises. Depending on the size and complexity of a case, he heads compact teams of attorneys-at-law and patent attorneys or also large working groups in cooperation with his partners of the law firm. Being qualified as both, an attorney-at-law (since 1994) and a European Patent Attorney (since 1999), he is particularly able to have a comprehensive understanding not only of the legal but also the technical aspects of a case. This enables Johannes Heselberger in a special way to coordinate infringement proceedings and proceedings on legal validity.

Career: 2023 Registration as a Representative before the UPC 2018 – 2023 Managing Partner of the Firm 2015 – 2018 Vice-Managing Partner of the Firm 1999 – today Partner of the firm 1999 Licensed to practice as a European Patent Attorney 1994 – 1999 Associate at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG, Munich, Germany, and Paris, France 1994 Second State Law Examination (bar admission exam) Licensed to practice as an attorney-at-law 1991 – 1994 Trainee at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG, Munich, Germany

Personal: Johannes Heselberger regularly speaks on topics in the fields of patent infringement and patent valuation. He teaches patent law at the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC) and is a member of its Board of Trustees. Johannes Heselberger is the initiator and co-organizer of the Munich International Patent Law Conference. He is a member of the group of authors of the JURIS report on case law, responsible for patent law.

HORSTKOTTE, Christian
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Featured in Competition/European Law (Germany)

Practice Areas: Christian Horstkotte counsels clients on all aspects of German and European antitrust law. He represents clients with complex merger control proceedings, cartel investigations, and proceedings before German and European competition authorities and courts, including follow-on litigation. Christian also advises clients in dominance matters, in the implementation of compliance programmes and with respect to Foreign Investment proceedings and filings under the EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation. He has specific expertise in the automotive, chemical, metals, energy, financial services, construction, and logistics industries.

HUFNAGEL, Frank-Erich
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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Based in Düsseldorf and Munich, Frank-Erich leads the patent litigation team at Freshfields in Ger-

many. Over more than 25 years, he has built an extensive track record in patent litigation and enforcement, acting for a wide range of national and international clients before the specialised patent courts in Germany which enables him to give strategic advice and concentrate on key issues during litigation. In addition to pharmaceutical-related and biotech cases, the focus of his work includes patents in the automotive, technology and telecommunication sectors. On the non-contentious side, he specialises in technology transfer and licensing work.

Career: Joined Freshfields in 1996; partner since 2000.

Professional Memberships: GRUR, EPLAW, VPP.

HUTTER, Stephan
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Featured in Capital Markets (Austria), Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Stephan Hutter focuses on international capital markets transactions, cross-border corporate matters and M&A transactions as well as corporate governance and compliance matters. Dr. Hutter has a particularly broad range of experience in initial public offerings, capital increases and high-yield debt financings involving international securities offerings of German, Austrian and Swiss companies, including dual listings and private placements of shares and debt securities in the United States.

Professional Memberships: Member, American, New York State and New York City Bar Associations; Member, International Bar Association (IBA) and Member, Management Board of Städtischer Museumsverein in Frankfurt

JAENICHEN, Hans-Rainer
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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Jaenichen's activities are primarily in the biotech and pharmaceutical area. He assists clients in the following practice areas: Patent and Utility Model Prosecution, Opposition and Revocation, Patent and Utility Model Litigation, Unitary Patent and UPC, Due Diligence and Freedom-to-Operate Analysis.

Career: Dr. Hans-Rainer Jaenichen is a German patent attorney, a registered European patent attorney and a European Trademark and Design attorney. He has been partner in the IP law firm of Vossius & Partner in Munich, Germany since 1990. He studied biology and holds a Ph.D. in molecular immunology.

Professional Memberships: Dr. Jaenichen is a Supporting member of the Max Planck Society and a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC).

Publications: He has published articles about human immunoglobulin genes as well as articles in various journals concerning the patenting of biopharmaceutical and plant inventions. He has also been an editor for the journal "The Biotechnology Law Report". The most recent sixth edition of his book "From Clones to Claims" was published in 2016 together with VOSSIUS partner Dr. Jürgen Meier and an international team of authors.

KASOLOWSKY, Boris
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Featured in Arbitration (International) (Europe-wide), Dispute Resolution (Germany)

See under Arbitration & Public International Law for profile.

KOCH, Matthias
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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Matthias is co-leading the Freshfields Digitisation Initiative, a project comprising a know-how platform and a team of legal experts that provide cutting edge solutions on all legal aspects of the digitisation of industries. Matthias' work covers litigation, transactional and advisory matters for clients active in the technology and consumer goods sectors. He deals with all aspects of intellectual property and information technology on a global level. Matthias' work in court, in transactions and advisory, means that he has developed a holistic and international view on all aspects of intellectual property rights.

Career: Matthias has been a partner since 2002.

KRAUSE, Hartmut
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Hartmut has more than 20 years' experience in public and private M&A, corporate and capital markets law and a strong track record in various industries. Admitted to practise as German Rechtsanwalt, Civil Law Notary and New York Attorney-at-law, he advises on public tender offers, corporate acquisitions and disposals, auction sales, LBOs/MBOs, public-to-private transactions, post-takeover integration, joint ventures, corporate reorganisations, boardroom and other strategic matters. The bulk of his work is cross-border in nature and involves the co-ordination of multi-jurisdictional teams.

KRAUSE, Nils
DLA Piper UK LLP, Hamburg
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/k/krause-nils> for further information.

KREMER, Johannes
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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Johannes Kremer is head of Skadden's German banking practice and focuses on domestic and cross-border bank finance matters, including bank regulatory work, multilayered bank/bond leveraged acquisition finance, real estate finance, project finance, commodity finance, securitizations and general corporate lending, including corporate refinancings and restructurings.

KRÜGER, Astrid
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Astrid has more than 25 years of experience in national and cross-border M&A transactions. She focuses on private equity transactions and counts both international and German investors and sellers as among her clients. Astrid also frequently advises on distressed restructurings as well as in the implementation of tax structurings and corporate reorganizations.

LAUER, Barbara
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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Barbara has specialised experience in debt capital markets products with a focus on asset-based structured finance, including, in particular, structured covered bonds, project bonds, true sale and synthetic securitisation and other secured financing of various asset classes as well as derivatives. Barbara is further specialised in portfolio and NPL transactions and their (re-)financing (in particular via structured finance solutions). She is an expert on German consumer credit law and leasing aspects.

Career: Barbara joined Linklaters in 2006 and became Managing Associate in 2008. She was elected Partner in 2016.

MAASS, Roland
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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en-gb/people/m/maass-roland> for further information.

MASSER, Anna
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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: Anna heads the international arbitration practice in Germany. She focuses on international commercial arbitration and advises on all stages of dispute resolution.

MATTHES, Jens

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Jens specialises in trade mark, design, patent and trade secrets law, unfair competition law, licensing and R&D projects, as well as employee inventions, anti-counterfeiting and the transfer and exploitation of intellectual property rights. He also advises and represents companies in court cases, in particular with regard to interlocutory relief, but also in developing and implementing image campaigns and product advertising, as well as in contract negotiations and corporate transactions.

MÜLLER-STOY, Tilman

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Tilman Müller-Stoy is widely recognized as a leading German patent litigator. Having won the very first inter partes preliminary injunction based on the very first Unitary Patent for his clients 10x Genomics and Harvard, he already is one of the pioneers at the newly established European Unified Patent Court. With over 20 years of experience in IP, he has handled several hundreds of patent disputes (including entitlement proceedings) in courts and patent offices, with a focus on high-profile, multinational matters. He frequently takes on a coordinating role, acting as the European lead counsel, so clients benefit from his solid understanding of the laws and procedures of all relevant jurisdictions. His expertise spans numerous technologies and sectors, for instance telecommunications, IT, consumer electronics, automotive, medical devices, and life sciences. Trained as a commercial mediator, Tilman also assists his clients in IP-related ADR proceedings, including national and international mediation and arbitration. Tilman is particularly sought after in SEP/FRAND matters, having in-depth knowledge of numerous standards and related industry practice including the underlying economics. He assists his clients not only in such litigation but also in avoiding or preparing for it – be it as lead negotiator or as trusted advisor in the background. As one of just a few, he already has comprehensive experience in the areas of 5G, connected cars, and IoT. A significant part of Tilman's daily work relates to technology transfer including licensing, R&D agreements, and corresponding aspects of antitrust law. He has vast experience not only in defending against, but also creating, evaluating, and enforcing major licensing programs, including compulsory licensing proceedings in the pharmaceutical area. His clients are large multinational corporations primarily headquartered in the US, Asia, and Europe as well as highly innovative SMEs that are hidden

champions in their fields. Tilman Müller-Stoy is also a qualified commercial mediator (MuCDR).

Career: 2023 Registration as a Representative before the UPC 2017 – today Honorary Professor for Patent Law at the Technical University of Munich 2010 – today Partner at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG in Munich, Germany 2009 Certified as a specialist IP lawyer by the Munich Bar Council 2006–2007 Commercial mediator (MuCDR) 2006 Visiting attorney at the law firm East IP Legal Services in Beijing, China 2005–2008 Ph.D. (“Dr. iur.”) in Law with summa cum laude, University of Augsburg, Germany (thesis: “Proving and Inspecting the Object of Infringement according to German Patent Law”) 2004–2009 Associate at BARDEHLE PAGENBERG in Munich, Germany

Professional Memberships: For many years, Tilman chaired the Dispute Resolution Committee of LESI (Licensing Executive Society International); since May 2023, he is a member of LESI's board of directors. Moreover, he is a member of the editorial board of the EPLAW (European Patent Lawyers Association) Patent Blog. Tilman is also involved in the US-based Sedona Conference pertaining to global patent litigation issues.

Publications: Tilman publishes articles on issues relating to intellectual property law alongside his work as a member of the editorial board of the EPLAW (European Patent Lawyers Association) Patent Blog.

Personal: Tilman was trained in Germany, the UK, the US, and China and enjoys the international and strategic aspects of his practice the most. He is recognized as a global IP thought leader and frequently speaks at national and international IP conferences. Tilman likes teaching as a professor for patent law at the Technical University of Munich and as an instructor of the bar preparation program of the Munich Court of Appeals. He regularly lectures at universities throughout the US, Japan, China, and Europe and has authored numerous publications in the patent litigation and licensing space.

NEUBAUM, Thomas

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Thomas, a German Rechtsanwalt, specialises in leveraged and acquisition finance as well as corporate finance. Thomas has significant experience in advising on debt financing, including syndicated loans, private debt financing and bond issuance. He advises private equity sponsors and companies as well as banks and alternative lenders. His expertise in leveraged finance extends to both large-cap and mid-market transactions, while in corporate finance his clients benefit from his expertise in investment grade and take over finance as well as cross-over and sub-investment-grade financing. Recent instructions include

leveraged finance transactions for, amongst others Bencis, Bridgepoint, Charterhouse, One Equity Partners, PAI and Riverside as well as 3i, Bregal, Bybrook, CVC, EQT, Tikehau and Bank of Ireland, Barclays, BNP Paribas, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, Helaba, HSBC, SEB and UniCredit. Thomas also regularly advises major German corporates such as Avenga, Bike24, DKV Mobility, Flix SE, Knorr-Bremse, SAP, Sartorius, Schaeffler and SGL Carbon on corporate finance and corporate acquisition finance transactions.

OBERBRACHT, Dirk

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dirk Oberbracht is a leading Private Equity and M&A lawyer who advises financial and strategic investors on a variety of deals. These include leveraged acquisitions, carve-outs, joint ventures, minority investments, public M&A deals, corporate restructurings and management equity programs. In 2016, he opened Gibson Dunn's Frankfurt office.

PAPPALARDO, Federico

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Federico G. Pappalardo, managing partner of Dechert's Munich and Frankfurt offices, focuses on cross-border and domestic M&A transactions and corporate finance. He advises financial investors, private equity companies and family offices on financings, acquisitions and corporate restructurings. Top-tier private equity funds, family offices and major corporations regularly call on Mr. Pappalardo to advise them in a wide range of German and international transactions. His experience extends across industries, including the technology, telecommunications and automotive sectors. Whether a technology investment or a significant leveraged buyout, Mr. Pappalardo evaluates, structures, negotiates and consummates transactions with a constant focus on accomplishing successful exits.

PARAMESWARAN, Benjamin

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

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PLEPELITS, Marc

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Featured in Capital Markets (Austria), Capital Markets (Germany), Capital Markets (USA)

Practice Areas: Marc heads our U.S. corporate finance team in Germany. He regularly advises issuers, underwriters and other market participants in

connection with a wide range of capital markets transactions, including initial public offerings, capital increases and rights issues, high yield bond and investment grade bond offerings and the issuance of convertible and exchangeable bonds. A particular focus of his work is on advising German, Austrian and Swiss companies on cross-border securities offerings. In addition, he advises on U.S. securities laws and corporate governance matters both in connection with corporate transactions and on an ongoing basis.

PRINZ ZU WALDECK UND PYRMONT, Wolrad

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Based in Düsseldorf and Munich, Wolrad is partner in the German patent litigation team at Freshfields. Wolrad has been working over 20 years in the field of intellectual property and particularly patents and has built an extensive track record in patent litigation and enforcement proceedings, acting and advising on a wide range of proceedings before the specialized patent courts in Germany and on cross-border proceedings. A wide range of national and international clients from the technology and telecommunication as well as biotech and pharma sectors trust his strategic advice and representation in court proceedings, both before German courts and before the UPC. Before joining Freshfields, he worked as Scientific Researcher at the Max-Planck-Institute for Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law and served as programme director at the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center (MIPLC) where he was responsible, inter alia, for the LL.M. IP programme. Parallel to his LL.M. studies at the George Washington University in Washington D.C. in 2006/2007, he worked for The Honorable Judge Rader at the CAFC.

Career: Joined Freshfields in 2009; partner since 2015.

Professional Memberships: GRUR, AIPPI, EPLAW, Working Group on Patent Judicature e.V.

Publications: Wolrad gave numerous presentations and authored numerous articles in the field of Intellectual Property. He co-authored the books International Arbitration of Intellectual Property Disputes and Intellectual Property and Competition Law.

REINHARDT, Wilhelm

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Specialises in mergers and acquisitions, including private equity transactions and joint ventures. He has also significant experience in public M&A transactions, representing both buyers and targets in a number of

transactions. He further has profound expertise in German corporate law.

Career: Bar Qualification: Rechtsanwalt (Germany). Education: Second German State Exam, High Court of Hamm, 1998, Dr. jur., University of Trier, 1997, First German State Exam, University of Trier, 1995.

Personal: Fluent in German and English and advanced in Japanese.

RIEHMER, Klaus

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Clients rely on Klaus Riehmer's counsel on national and cross-border M&A transactions, including public takeovers, private M&A, and corporate projects. He also advises clients on corporate law and corporate restructurings. During his practice of more than 30 years, Klaus has been involved in important high-volume M&A projects in a variety of industries, including in financial services, automotive, chemical, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, and information technology.

RINNE, Burkhard

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Burkhard has 20+ years of experience in debt capital markets. He has vast experience in structured finance, in particular, securitisation, asset-based finance transactions, structured covered bonds, high yield bonds and other secured financing structures and in advising on the clearing through central counterparties and the settlement of securities.

Career: Burkhard studied law at the Universities of Mainz and Konstanz and holds an LL.M from the University of Michigan. He joined Linklaters in 2007, before that he spent seven years with a German law firm. Burkhard regularly speaks at events organised by True Sale International, a body created by German banks to promote the use of structured finance in Germany. He is also a member of the German-American Lawyers Association and the Banking Law Association (Bankrechtliche Vereinigung).

ROSCHMANN, Christian

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Brazil),

Corporate/M&A (Germany)

See under Brazil for profile.

SAUER, Knut

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr Knut Sauer, LL.M. (University of Chicago), admitted as attorney at law in the State of New York, heads our German Equity Capital Markets practice. He has extensive experience in a broad range of capital

markets and corporate transactions of listed companies, in particular IPOs, capital increases and rights offerings, block trades and private placements, convertible and exchangeable bonds, bonds with warranties, high yield and investment grade bonds as well as takeover offers and other public M&A transactions. His practice also includes capital markets-related regulatory advice and corporate governance matters.

SCHAEFER, Jan

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: Jan K. Schaefer heads the dispute resolution practice in Germany. As a partner in the International Arbitration and Contracts and Business Tort practices, Jan represents foreign and German clients in domestic and international arbitration matters, both commercial and investor-state. He appears before German courts in first-and second-instance matters, including the taking of evidence for foreign proceedings, interim relief and enforcement matters, and has an active international arbitrator practice. With substantial trial and arbitration experience, Jan represents clients in post-merger and acquisition, joint venture, distribution, sales and license matters, as well as in foreign investment, construction and energy-related disputes. Mr. Schaefer appears as counsel and advocate before German courts at the first-and second-instance levels, as well as before domestic and international tribunals in complex, high-value arbitration proceedings conducted under the auspices of International Chamber of Commerce, DIS (German Institution of Arbitration), Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, and International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes rules in multiple venues. He also has experience in ad hoc proceedings under both German and Swiss arbitration law, including United Nations Commission on International Trade Law rules.

SCHLEE, Alexander

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Featured in Capital Markets (Austria),

Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Alexander has over 10 years of experience representing corporates and financial institutions in connection with equity and bond offerings. He has broad experience advising on Euro bonds, Yankee bonds, high yield bond issues, IPOs, capital increases, rights issues and spin-offs as well as equity-linked instruments.

Career: Alexander studied law at the University of Heidelberg. He joined Linklaters in 2010 and was elected to the partnership in 2018.

SCHMIDT, Gerhard

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Gerhard Schmidt is the Co-Managing Partner of Weil's German offices and one of the leading Corporate and Restructuring lawyers in Germany. He was the lead lawyer in a number of landmark transactions, advising, among others, Alibaba.com on its investment in Visable Group; e-Commerce aggregator Elevate Brands on its acquisition by SellerX; MW Storage Fund on a joint venture regarding the development, construction and operation of Germany's largest battery energy storage facility; Superior Industries International Inc. in the restructuring of its German operations; and Corestate Capital Holding S.A. on the successful implementation of a EUR 500 million bond restructuring.

Personal: Universities of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Lausanne and Strasbourg (law degree 1982; Dr. jur. 1984). Business administration studies at the Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD), Fontainebleau, France (MBA 1984). Admitted to practice in Germany in 1986 and licensed as a tax advisor in 1988.

SCHOLL, Patrick

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Patrick's team stands for client-oriented, legally sound, innovative and market-oriented advice in debt capital markets and supervisory laws. The product focus of the team is on bonds, structured products & derivatives, repackagings and synthetic risk transfers. Debt: The team advises clients on bond issues and issuance programs of all kinds. A main focus of the team relates to bank hybrid and MREL capital, too. The team is constant adviser of liability management transactions. Structured Products & Derivatives, structured finance: Patrick's team stands out when it comes to complex structured products work. They focus on EU-wide transactions. The team advises a significant number of major leaders in EU-wide institutional but also retail-structured products and OTC derivatives markets and all related legal issues and developments. They work for clients on regulation issues of the derivatives markets, the testing of key derivatives principles, and the clearing of financial products through central counterparties. A further particular strength of the team is on synthetic risk transfers by way of total return swaps, credit derivatives or financial guarantees. Regulatory offerings: The team provides clients with constant transaction-based advice with respect to general prudential regulation and licensing aspects, own funds requirements under the CRR, risk mitigation techniques, and recovery and resolution considerations in the context of bail-in tools. Moreover, the team serves clients in ESG compliance and ESG products, new digital concepts and technologies, electronic securities, benchmark regulation and benchmark transitions,

payment services, and outsourcing. They have a significant exposure in the market on market infrastructure, derivatives, and central clearing projects. Patrick is appointed by banking and market associations to assist in the development of new standards for the derivatives and capital markets. Patrick previously worked for two other renowned international law firms in Frankfurt and New York.

SCHOON, Sebastian

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Sebastian Schoon advises private equity funds, banks, financial institutions and corporates on corporate finance matters, including leveraged buyouts, management buyouts, real estate financings and development financing throughout the whole capital structure. He advises on domestic as well as cross-border structured finance transactions. Mr. Schoon also has vast experience on complex financial restructurings, such as loan-to-own, debt to equity swaps, trust structures and financial reorganizations.

Career: Bar Qualifications: Rechtsanwalt (Germany). Education: Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg – 2002 Law Degree.

SCHROEDER, Hans-Patrick

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: Hans-Patrick Schroeder specialises in Dispute Resolution and represents clients in state court litigations (including international mass litigations), national and international arbitrations, as well as in different ADR mechanisms. He also acts as arbitrator and mediator. Patrick is qualified in Germany and in England & Wales (Solicitor). Sector experience includes automotive, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, retail and consumer products.

Career: Joined Freshfields in 2005, partner since 2014. Global Markets Partner Continental Europe (since 2017).

Professional Memberships:

Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit (DIS).

Publications: Tribunal Secretaries re-examined, in Arb. Int. 28 (2022) 21 (with W Junge) The Future of Off-Shore Discovery under 28 USC §1782, in ZVglRWiss 121 (2022) 457 (with E Pott) Commentary in: Böckstiegel/Kröll/Nacimotto: Arbitration in Germany (3rd ed 2014).

SCHUBERT, Thure

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Schubert is specialized in counselling national

and international companies in the field of Intellectual Property Law. He represents his clients in litigation before all relevant German patent infringement courts as well as in arbitration and other out-of-court disputes. He also teams up with patent attorneys in patent opposition and revocation proceedings before the European Patent Office (EPO), the German Federal Patent Court and the German Supreme Court. In addition, he advises national and international companies and institutions in the fields of licensing and the German Act on Employee's Inventions, in particular relating to the drafting of contracts and remuneration schemes for employed inventors.

Career: Dr. Thure Schubert is admitted as an Attorney-at-Law (Rechtsanwalt) in Germany since 1994. He joined VOSSI-US in 1998 and is a partner of the firm since 2005. Dr. Schubert studied law at the Universities of Passau, Munich and Cardiff and wrote his doctorate thesis ("summa cum laude") at the renowned Max-Planck-Institute for foreign and international patent, copyright and competition law.

Professional Memberships: He is an active member of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), the Licensing Executives Society (LES) and the International Trademark Association (INTA).

Publications: He often gives talks on various topics of IP Practice at national and international conferences. He is the author of many professional publications and contributing to the Münchener Vertragshandbuch zum Lizenzvertrags- und Arbeitnehmererfinderrecht as well as to the Beck'schen Formularsammlung zum Gewerblichen Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht.

SESSLER, Anke

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Anke Sessler is widely recognized as one of Germany's leading disputes lawyers, with extensive experience in international and domestic arbitration and complex litigation proceedings. She represents industrial corporations and financial service providers in disputes relating to inter alia M&A and supply contracts, joint ventures and other commercial agreements, as well as in shareholder litigation and disputes relating to corporate boards. Dr. Sessler joined Skadden as a partner in 2014. From 2008 to 2014, she was chief counsel litigation at Siemens AG in Munich. Prior to her tenure at Siemens, she was a partner at another top international law firm in Frankfurt for over 10 years. Dr. Sessler holds positions in various arbitration institutions. Among others, she is a member of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the ICC Commission on Arbitration and the ICC National Committee (Germany). In addition, she

serves on the Advisory Board of the German Arbitration Institute (DIS), the ICCA Governing Board and the board of the American Arbitration Association (AAA). Dr. Sessler has been accredited as arbitrator by the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and as mediator by the Center for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR). **Professional Memberships:** ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR; ICC National Committee Germany; ICC International Court of Arbitration; AAA Board and ICCA Advisory Board

STECK, Andreas

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Andreas is widely regarded as one of Germany's leading regulatory lawyers. He has specialised experience in banking supervisory law, including bank M&A deals, banking supervisory regulations, structured finance and structured products, and in insurance supervisory law, including product structuring. Andreas also counsels clients on investment funds law.

Career: 2000 to date: Linklaters, since 2022 Regional Managing Partner Europe; 1997-2000: lawyer, KPMG Tax & Legal Financial Services, Frankfurt; 1988-90: banking trainee with Sal. Oppenheim jr. & Cie., Frankfurt and Sal. Oppenheim Securities, London.

STORCK, Christian

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Featured in Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Christian is the head of the Germany finance division and a global co-head of innovation. He specialises in debt capital markets and structured finance with focus on Schuldschein loans and German registered bonds (Namenschuldverschreibungen), OTC derivatives covering all asset classes, repackaging, securitisation, repo and securities lending, as well as hybrid instruments such as exchangeables and convertibles. He also advises on the establishment and update of EMTN programmes and structured note programmes. He also advises on the establishment and update of debt issuance programmes aimed at institutional investors as well as retail structured platforms.

Career: Christian is admitted as both a German lawyer and an English solicitor. He joined Linklaters in 2003 and was elected to the partnership in 2013. Christian is a member of the drafting commission of the Loan Market Association, a legal expert for the German Derivateverband (Deutscher Derivateverband) and is a part of the investment committee of the main incubator (the R&D unit of Commerzbank). In addition, he is a regular speaker at conferences organised by Deutsches Aktieninstitut, the German Investor Relations Association, ISDA, Euromony, Financial Times, the Blockchain Centre of Frankfurt School as well as

the Center for Legal Tech of Bucerius Law School.

TRINKAUS, Marc

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Marc heads the German banking and restructuring group. He is widely recognised as one of the leading banking lawyers in Germany, advising domestic and international banks and corporates on cross-border syndicated lending, leveraged finance and restructurings. Marc has particular understanding of public acquisition financing.

Career: 1998 to date: Linklaters (2001: secondment to Linklaters Banking Practice in London), Partner since 2005.

Professional Memberships: Marc is a member of the German law working group for the Loan Market Association (LMA) in Germany.

UEBELHOER, Walter

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Featured in Banking & Finance (Germany)

Practice Areas: Walter specialises in syndicated loan transactions in the context of acquisitions and has also advised on several restructurings.

VOGEL, Andreas

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: National and international registration and examination procedures Extensive experience in opposition and appeal proceedings Litigation, national annulment and infringement proceedings National and international designs Freedom to Operate analysis Injury analysis Strategic Consulting Intellectual Property Monetary patent valuation on the basis of DIN77100

Career: Mechanical engineering studied with a focus on process engineering, diploma thesis in the field of energy technology at the Ruhr University Bochum Studied "Economics for Engineers" at the Ruhr University Bochum Studied "Law for Patent Attorneys" at Fern University Hagen Trained as a German and European patent attorney as well as a German and European trademark and design lawyer in an internationally active patent law firm in Cologne as well as at the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA) Studied „European Patent Litigator“ at the University Politecnico di Milano (Polimi)

Professional Memberships: German Patent Attorneys' Association, EPI, FICPI, LESI, AIPPI, VPP, GRUR Member of Examination Committee III of the European Patent Office for the European Qualifying Examination (EQE) active member of FICPI, CET7 IP ENFORCEMENT AND ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Germany)

Practice Areas: Arend focuses on high-profile and complex acquisitions and disposals, including public takeovers, carve-outs, take privates and exits for financial sponsors and other international investors. Arend focuses on high-profile and complex acquisitions and disposals, including public takeovers, carve-outs, take privates and exits for financial sponsors and other international investors. Over the last 20 years, Arend has advised on more than 100 completed M&A transactions with an aggregate value in excess of €100bn. These include a large number of high-profile and, in some cases, award-winning transactions for clients across a wide range of industries and in many countries. He works with many of the firm's financial investor clients and his know-how includes in-depth experience in all aspects of private equity transactions. Arend is known for advising clients on international transactions in a commercial, result-oriented and efficient manner.

Career: Arend joined Freshfields in 2001. He is Global Co-Head of our Private Capital group.

WALTZ, Peter

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Featured in Capital Markets (Austria), Capital Markets (Germany)

Practice Areas: Peter Waltz is specialised in advising issuers and underwriters in relation to debt and equity capital markets transactions with a focus on corporate bonds (including convertibles, exchangeables and hybrid bonds), Yankee bonds, insurance and bank regulatory capital, structured finance and liability management exercises.

Career: 1996 to date: Linklaters, Partner since 2002 1995: US law firm, San Francisco.

WEIDENBACH, Georg

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Featured in Competition/European Law (Germany)

Practice Areas: Georg Weidenbach, partner in the Frankfurt office, advises clients on all aspects of EU and German antitrust law. He regularly advises clients on cartel investigations and related cartel damage claims, merger control, compliance programs and audits, antitrust related distribution and abuse of dominance matters.

Career: Bar Qualifications: Rechtsanwalt (Germany). Education: Second German State Exam, Higher Regional Court, Frankfurt (2002), Dr. jur., University of Konstanz, Germany (2001), M. Jur., University of Oxford (Christ Church)

(2000), First German State Exam, University of Konstanz, Germany (1998).

Personal: Georg is widely recognized as a leading antitrust lawyer in Germany by numerous legal publications, and is described as a "brilliant" and "strategic" lawyer who is "incredibly attentive, very perceptive, and detail-oriented." He regularly writes and speaks on antitrust topics, including co-publishing a handbook on antitrust damage claims, and teaches at several universities.

WUTTKE, Tobias

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Germany)

Practice Areas: Dr. Tobias Wuttke is an attorney-at-law who specializes in national and cross-border patent litigation. Influential rankings confirm his reputation as one of Germany's leading patent litigators. Tobias Wuttke's expertise stems from hundreds of patent infringement and validity proceedings. He advises blue chip companies acting on a global level, innovative SMEs, and start-ups in the areas of telecommunications (SEPs in particular), medical technology, automotive, and life sciences.

Tobias Wuttke focuses on the economic perspective of the patent disputes he conducts. His primary goal is to achieve the optimal commercial result for his clients. He considers patent litigation to be inextricably linked to risk management. Tobias Wuttke regularly gives presentations on topical issues regarding patent law at universities, offices, and associations, and – as an author – he actively promotes the distribution and development of patent law. Tobias gives presentations at international and German symposiums on a regular basis. He also is a lecturer of the Executive MBA of the Technical University of Munich and at the Technical University Ilmenau, where he lectures on the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court.

Career: 2023 Registration as a Representative before the UPC 2023 – today Partner with BARDEHLE PAGENBERG 2012 – today Lecturer for International

Patent and Procedural Law at multiple universities of applied sciences 2010 – 2022 Head of the Litigation Department at Meissner Bolte 2006 – 2009 Associate at Allen & Overy 2004 – 2006 Legal clerkship at the Hamburg Higher District Court 2004 – 2006 Studies of Law at the University of London 2002 – 2004 Research assistant with Prof. Dr. Bornkamm (Presiding Judge at the German Federal Court of Justice, retd.) 2002 – 2004 Member of the research training group of the University of Freiburg, Germany, funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft, DFG) 1998 – 2002 Studies of Law at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and the Universidad de Sevilla, Spain

Professional Memberships: EPLAW GRUR VPP LES German-Japanese Business Association (DJW) American Intellectual Property Law Association Sedona Conference

Publications: Tobias regularly publishes on topics of Intellectual Property in numerous journals and expert blogs, e.g., Reports of Germany Patent Attorneys, GRUR-Prax, and the EPLAW Blog. Additionally, he co-authored the Practitioner's book: Know-how protection and the Back Online Manual on Patent Law.

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Germany)

Practice Areas: Marc represents clients in all types of national and cross-border disputes before state and arbitration courts. He regularly acts for national and international companies from the financial services, insurance, IT, retail and professional services sectors. He has extensive experience in complex commercial and corporate as well as insurance disputes. A particular focus of his work is on professional indemnity and directors' liability. Marc also advises on all D&O issues.

Furthermore, he has broad experience in the area of risk prevention and risk management as well as in various fields of alternative dispute resolution.