

WENGERPLATTNER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Advise. Represent.
Resolve.

BASEL | ZURICH | BERNE

Business law is our core strength. We bring passion, experience and expertise to ensuring the success of our clients. We remain firmly focused on our clients' goals, designing solutions that are simple, workable and effective.

A close-up photograph of a layered rock face, likely slate, showing distinct horizontal bedding planes. The rock has a mix of grey, brown, and tan colors, with some darker, more crystalline areas. The texture is rough and weathered, with some small cracks and indentations. The lighting is natural, highlighting the textures and colors of the rock.

Experienced.

Riverbed slate
Via Mala Gorge, Graubünden
728 m a.s.l.



Focused
on solutions.

Glacier crevasse
Morteratsch, Engadin, Graubünden
2,220 m a.s.l.

Committed to the success of our clients for more than 30 years.

For over 30 years, Wenger Plattner has been advising and representing clients in all aspects of business law. Wenger Plattner has offices in Basel, Zurich and Berne as well as a representative office in Geneva. We identify practical, workable solutions and help clients implement these to achieve the best possible commercial outcomes. We rely on teams of experts, many of whom are involved in decision-making as members of public authorities and other bodies, giving them an in-depth understanding of client needs.

As a fully integrated partnership, we place a strong emphasis on teamwork and cooperation. You will have access to dedicated, highly experienced specialists who will help you meet your specific objectives efficiently and effectively, delivering the highest standards of quality.



Competent.

Riverbed granite
Brione, Valle Verzasca, Ticino
736 m a.s.l.

Extensive expertise and experience in all aspects of business law.

Over the years, we have accumulated a considerable body of knowledge and experience across all areas of business law and notarial practice. A wealth of expertise and experience that our clients can rely on – both now and in the future.

We have recognised specialists in all areas of practice, who are also involved in decision-making as members of public authorities and other bodies. We advise and act for clients in a range of contentious matters before courts and authorities.

- Art Law and Entertainment Law
- Banking and Finance
- Competition
- Constitutional and Administrative Law
- Corporate and Commercial
- Employment Law
- Insolvency and Restructuring
- IP and IT
- Liability and Insurance Law
- Life Sciences and Health Law
- Litigation and Arbitration
- Notary Services
- Private Clients
- Real Estate
- Tax

Art Law and Entertainment Law

We have extensive experience, expertise and resources in relation to copyright, arts promotion, the transfer of cultural assets (including art theft and flight assets), theatre matters, art in the digital age and entertainment law (including film, concerts, musicals and shows). Our services are aimed at artists, collectors, museums, art companies, event organisers, sponsors and cultural associations. We provide advice and represent clients in litigation before courts and arbitration tribunals in matters relating to theatre, musicals and the visual arts and literature. We also conduct negotiations on royalty rates with rights of administration agencies.

Our attorneys hold positions in significant cultural institutions.

Banking and Finance

We act on behalf of financial service providers in dealings with Swiss regulatory bodies and self-regulatory organisations and advise them on all regulatory issues. This includes assistance with incorporation, drafting agreements and obtaining authorisations and licences. We also advise clients on compliance and anti-money laundering matters.

Moreover, we assist clients in setting up investment funds, amending fund regulations and preparing issue prospectuses. In addition we advise on compliance with stock exchange legislation and rules and other aspects of financial markets law.

Competition

We advise and represent clients, including SMEs, on all aspects of competition law. This includes reviewing distribution agreements and systems, franchising agreements, general terms and conditions of business, and general terms and conditions for the supply of goods and services. We also advise and act for companies with regard to planned mergers (merger control). Moreover, we provide assistance with respect to official investigations (dawn raids) by training staff at all levels and preparing manuals and rules of conduct. If required, we provide on-call teams. In addition we represent our clients before courts and authorities, for example the Swiss Competition Commission (WEKO).

Constitutional and Administrative Law

We advise and represent companies and individuals before cantonal and federal administrative authorities and administrative courts in the areas of planning and public building regulations as well as environmental, procurement, energy, telecommunications and health law.

Moreover, we assist government agencies and parliamentary bodies with regard to legislation and prepare expert opinions for authorities, companies and individuals on complex issues of constitutional and administrative law.

Corporate and Commercial

We advise and support our national and international clients concerning all aspects of commercial and corporate law. This includes assisting with incorporation, organisation and administration as well as company liquidations and group restructuring. We provide support in the legal implementation of business strategies, e.g. the manufacture and distribution of products and services as well as technology protection and transfer. If required, we can also operate as an external legal service.

Applying our commercial knowledge and insight, we assist our clients with complex transactions, including company acquisitions and sales, mergers, joint ventures and restructuring. We also advise on private equity and venture capital transactions, investments and on all aspects of stock and capital market law. Some of our advisors act as authorised issuer representatives at the SIX Swiss Exchange.

Employment Law

We advise employers and executives on all issues of private and public employment law, including where such issues intersect with social security and work permits. In particular, we assist clients with drafting and amending employment contracts and regulations, terminating employment relationships, preparing severance agreements, international staff deployments and employment disputes. We also provide assistance with mass redundancies and redundancy packages and advise on issues of employment law relating to company acquisitions and reorganisation.

Our team of highly experienced experts, including a Certified Specialist SBA Employment Law, will provide efficient and goal-oriented advice. Our specialists are actively involved in decision-making as board members of operating companies and hold, or have held, positions as judges on employment tribunals as well as on cantonal administrative courts. Our experts therefore combine employment law expertise with commercial acumen.

Insolvency and Restructuring

We rapidly devise cost-effective solutions to crisis situations for creditors and debtors. Afterwards, we help our clients to implement these plans with optimum results. We enforce domestic and foreign judgments for national and international creditors against debtors in Switzerland. In composition proceedings and bankruptcies, we act as administrators, liquidators, trustees in bankruptcy and members of creditor committees.

We formulate reorganisation plans for debtors in financial distress and assist in their implementation. We conduct negotiations with important creditors (lenders, employers, or suppliers) and advise on M&A transactions in crisis situations.

IP and IT

We have expertise and experience in all aspects of trademark, design and copyright law. We act on behalf of clients in negotiations across the full spectrum of intellectual property rights and handle contentious intellectual property matters.

We also advise clients on issues connected with technology transfer, licensing, franchising and merchandising.

Liability and Insurance Law

We handle complex liability litigation and provide our clients with support in defending unfounded claims. Our approach is consistent, cost-conscious and targeted.

In the area of financial losses, our specialists have experience with D&O policies and insurance programs, in particular, which cover the risk of business or product liability worldwide. Corporate liability claims, auditor liability and professional liability relating to independent professionals are also included in our areas of practice.

We regularly act on behalf of insurance companies or their policyholders when there are incidents involving personal injury. Our specialists have in-depth knowledge about unclear symptoms and medical malpractice claims. We represent employer companies and their governing bodies in matters concerning workplace accidents of any kind.

Life Sciences and Health Law

Our Life Sciences and Health Law specialist team advises and represents clients with regard to issues of both private and public law including specific legislation applying to the healthcare sector.

Our clients include hospitals, pharmaceutical, biotech and insurance companies, healthcare bodies and organisations as well as individuals.

Litigation and Arbitration

Our specialists have a wealth of expertise in litigation and arbitration across the full spectrum of civil, commercial and administrative law matters. We have particular expertise in insolvency, corporate and real estate law as well as employment, inheritance and art law issues.

We advise and represent Swiss and foreign companies, individuals and government agencies in a range of contentious matters before Swiss courts, administrative authorities and national and international arbitration tribunals. We assist our clients with enforcement matters, mutual assistance procedures and interim relief proceedings.

Several of our specialists also serve as part-time judges for national courts and as arbitrators. This ensures that our lawyers keep abreast of court decisions and practice.

We take a proactive approach to safeguarding the interests of our clients by focusing on specific solutions. At every stage in the process we are committed to finding ways to resolve disputes amicably in a time and cost-effective manner.

Notary Services

Several of our lawyers at our Basel office serve as civil law notaries. In the Canton of Basel-Stadt they provide notarial services for all real estate transactions (purchases, sales, building rights agreements etc.) as well as property financing. Our notaries in Basel perform notarisations for companies throughout Switzerland (incorporations, capital increases, amendments to articles of association, restructuring etc.). They also provide transaction support as depository for documents and act as escrow agent for payment transactions. In addition, they perform notarisations in relation to matrimonial property and inheritance matters.

Our notaries in Basel have many years of experience in notarising business-related transactions under German law: company acquisitions and financing (transfer and pledging of GmbH shares), transactions under the Umwandlungsgesetz (German Transformation Act), electronic filings with the German Commercial Register (e.g. lists of shareholders), wills, matrimonial property agreements and deeds of inheritance.

Private Clients

We advise our clients – primarily business owners and high-net-worth individuals – on succession planning, winding up estates and executing wills. We assist, for example, in drafting and implementing matrimonial property agreements and deeds of inheritance, wills and estate distributions as well as agreements on lifetime gifts. We also advise clients on establishing foundations and serve on foundation boards.

With regard to international matters, we consult and cooperate with specialists and authorities outside Switzerland. We also assist clients in enforcing their rights in civil and administrative proceedings.

In addition, we can prepare advance care directives and living wills tailored to our clients' individual needs. If required, we can act as a court appointed deputy.

Real Estate

We represent and advise property owners, developers, landlords, investors and property managers on all aspects of real estate, construction and tenancy law. Our experts hold positions on the decision-making bodies of companies, courts and authorities enabling them to provide hands-on, practical advice.

Our advice covers all phases of construction projects, from the initial idea right through to the yield on the investment. We review properties, evaluate construction projects and assist clients in the relevant procedures and negotiations. We can also assist in creating the optimal organisational structure for implementing construction projects and selecting the right partners.

We represent clients in all of our fields of activity, before courts, arbitration tribunals and authorities.

Tax

We advise individuals and legal entities on all aspects of tax law, delivering customised solutions. Moreover, we provide guidance at every stage, from the inception of an idea to fruition. We regularly review existing structures with a view to tax optimisation. In making our recommendations, we adopt a commercial, solution-oriented approach, taking account of our clients' size and existing organisation.

A close-up photograph of larch bark, showing its characteristic scaly, overlapping texture. The bark is a mix of brown and tan colors, with deep grooves and ridges. The lighting is soft, highlighting the intricate patterns of the bark's surface.

Long-established.

Larch bark
Val Madris, Bergell, Graubünden
1,959 m a.s.l.

A cohesive partnership with a commercial outlook.



Dr. Dieter Gränicher

Born 1950. Attorney at law and notary. Studied at the University of Basel, with further studies in Neuchâtel and Zurich. Assistant at the Faculty of Law and the Institute of International Law at the University of Basel from 1979 to 1982. Practising since 1983.

Practice areas:

- Corporate and Commercial
- Private Clients
- Notary Services
- Competition
- Litigation and Arbitration



Yves Meili, lic. iur.

Born 1952. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Zurich. Between 1981 and 1997 legal counsel for a leading Swiss consulting company (from 1992 to 1997 as a partner and head of the legal department). Member of the Labour Court Zurich since 1990. Practising since 1978.

Practice areas:

- Employment Law
- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Private Clients
- Litigation and Arbitration
- Corporate and Commercial



Filippo Th. Beck, lic. iur., M.C.J.

Born 1956. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Basel, with further study in Geneva. M.C.J. from New York University and admitted to the bar in Connecticut and New York. Legal counsel at a leading international consulting company in Geneva from 1980 to 1982. Practising since 1988.

Practice areas:

- Private Clients
- Banking and Finance
- Corporate and Commercial



Dr. Fritz Rothenbühler

Born 1958. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Berne, with further study at the University of Fribourg. Practising since 1986.

Practice areas:

- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Competition
- Litigation and Arbitration
- Real Estate
- Corporate and Commercial



Peter Sahli

Born 1956. Holder of the Zurich notary diploma. Studied at the University of Zurich, followed by a specialised course of study leading to the Real Estate Trustee diploma. Many years' experience practising at Zurich notary's offices. Legal counsel from 1988 to 1995 and head of real estate consulting and partner from 1996 to 2001 at a leading consulting company.

Practice areas:

- Private Clients
- Real Estate
- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Tax



Dr. Thomas Wetzel

Born 1956. Attorney at law and Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law. Studied at the Universities of Zurich and Basel and was law clerk at the High Court of the Canton of Schaffhausen before being employed as an attorney. Worked for Intershop Holding AG in Zurich from 1988 to 1997, most recently as Vice Chairman of the Management Board. Resumed practising in 1997.

Practice areas:

- Real Estate



Dr. Marc Nater, LL.M.

Born 1965. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Zurich and LL.M. from the University of Virginia School of Law. Worked for a law firm in Boston and Washington D.C. from 1999 to 2000. Practising since 1995.

Practice areas:

- Corporate and Commercial
- Banking and Finance



**Brigitte Umbach-Spahn,
lic. iur., LL.M.**

Born 1971. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Zurich and LL.M. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Law clerk at the District Court of Hinwil, Zurich and at the High Court of the Canton of Zurich from 1997 to 2000. Practising since 2001.

Practice areas:

- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Banking and Finance
- Litigation and Arbitration



Prof. Dr. Beat Stalder

Born 1961. Attorney at law and Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law. Studied at the University of Berne. Partner at a Berne law firm from 1991 to 2001 and judge at the Administrative Court of the Canton of Berne from 2001 to 2011 (President of the administrative law division from 2007 to 2009). Lecturer in landuse planning and construction law and expropriation at the University of Berne since 2004. Resumed practising in 2011.

Practice areas:

- Real Estate
- Constitutional and Administrative Law



Urs Schüpfer

Born 1967. Swiss Certified Accountant and Swiss Certified Tax Expert. From 1987 to 1995 auditor and 1995 to 2014 tax partner, departmental manager and head of the real estate tax group at a leading international firm of auditors in Basel and Zurich.

Practice areas:

- Tax



Dr. Stephan Kesselbach

Born 1972. Attorney at law.
Studied at the University of Zurich.
Academic assistant for criminal law at the University of Zurich from 1998 to 2000. Law clerk at the District Court of Bülach, Zurich from 2000 to 2004. Practising since 2004.

Practice areas:

- Litigation and Arbitration
- Insolvency and Restructuring



Placidus Plattner, lic. iur.

Born 1976. Attorney at law and Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law.
Studied at the University of Fribourg and was academic assistant for commercial law at the University of Fribourg from 2002 to 2004. Practising since 2007.

Practice areas:

- Real Estate
- Litigation and Arbitration



Dr. Carlo Conti

Born 1954. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Basel. Until 2000 held executive positions in the Legal and Public Relations departments of a globally acting pharmaceutical company. Until 2014, served as member of the Cantonal Government of Basel-Stadt and, most recently, as chairman of the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health. Since 2013, lecturer in health law at the University of Basel. Returned to private practice in 2014.

Practice areas:

- Life Sciences and Health Law
- Constitutional and Administrative Law
- Corporate and Commercial



Daniel Tobler

Born 1970. Holder of the Zurich notary diploma since 2000. Studied at the University of Zurich. Many years' practising as a notary in Zurich. From 2001 to 2005 team leader in the estates department of a bank.

Practice areas:

- Private Clients
- Real Estate
- Insolvency and Restructuring



Dr. Oliver Künzler

Born 1978. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Zurich. From 2004 to 2006 assistant for tax, finance and administrative law at the Institute of Law at the University of Zurich. Practising since 2004.

Practice areas:

- Corporate and Commercial
- Banking and Finance
- Insolvency and Restructuring
- Life Sciences and Health Law
- Tax



Dr. Gaudenz Schwitter

Born 1971. Attorney at law and Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law. Studied at the University of Fribourg. From 2002 to 2003 law clerk at the District Court of Hinwil, Zurich and from 2004 to 2008 associate at a corporate law firm in Zollikon, Zurich. Practising since 2004.

Practice areas:

- Real Estate
- Constitutional and Administrative Law
- Litigation and Arbitration

PARTNERS



Karin Graf, lic. iur., LL.M.

Born 1974. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of St. Gallen (HSG) and LL.M. from Queen Mary College, University of London. In 2000 at the District Court of Bülach, Zurich. From 2001 to 2009 at leading law firms and a major Swiss bank in Zurich. Practising since 2002.

Practice areas:

- Litigation and Arbitration



Katja Schott-Morgenroth, lic. iur.

Born 1977. Attorney at law and notary for the Canton of Basel-Stadt. Studied at the University of St. Gallen. Served as partner for several years at a commercial law firm in Basel with a focus on notary services, corporate and commercial law. Practising since 2004.

Practice areas:

- Corporate and Commercial
- Notary Services
- Private Clients
- Real Estate



Andrea Strahm, lic. iur.

Born 1955. Attorney at law. Studied at the University of Basel. Practised as an attorney at law at a firm of patent attorneys and in the legal department of a pharmaceutical company until 1994. Served thereafter as senior management member of a firm of patent and trademark attorneys until January 2018, playing a key role in developing and managing the firm.

Practice areas:

- IP and IT
- Competition
- Art Law and Entertainment Law



Dr. Roland Bachmann, LL.M.

Born 1973. Practising since 2005 and admitted to the bar since 2008. From 2015-2018, partner in a law firm specialised in litigation. Certified Specialist SBA Employment Law. Lecturer on liability law at the University of Zurich from 2006-2016. Studies at the universities of Zurich, Michigan and Tours.

Practice Areas:

- Litigation and Arbitration
- Liability and Insurance Law
- Employment Law
- Life Sciences and Health Law
- Banking and Finance



Simon Fluri, MLaw

Born 1984. Attorney at Law and Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law. Studied at the University of Fribourg (bilingual studies). Practising since 2012.

Practice Areas:

- Real Estate
- Insolvency and Restructuring



Efficient.

Glacier cave
Morteratsch, Engadin, Graubünden
2,220 m a.s.l.

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