

The
**LEGAL
500**

JOHN PRITCHARD

THE CLIENTS' GUIDE TO THE

**EUROPE
MIDDLE
EAST &
AFRICA**

LEGAL PROFESSION

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interest in Telekom Austria. The firm also acted for Cr dit Agricole and Raiffeisen Bank International in the past year. Peter Winkler is 'extremely dedicated', and it is 'very difficult to find comparable lawyers on this quality level'.

Graf & Pitkowitz's service is 'far above the market standard' with quick response times, 'flexibility' and very high 'problem-solving capacities'. It is currently assisting Brazilian oil company Petrobras with cross-border projects involving Austria. Stephan Schmalzl combines 'deep knowledge' with 'a very practical approach'.

The 'outstanding' team at **Graf Patsch Taucher Rechtsanwälte** maintains a good relationship with Borealis, which it advised on the purchase agreements relating to a private placement by the company. Bernd Taucher is 'able to handle significant transactions' and has 'a high level of professionalism'.

Hausmaninger Kletter Rechtsanwälte GmbH has capabilities across a number of industries, and Christian Hausmaninger is known for representing banks in litigation.

Rautner Huber is a 'highly recommended' and 'highly knowledgeable' boutique firm, and new to the ranking for 2012. It assisted HSBC in preparing to issue contingent convertible bonds (CoCos) in Austria, a first of a kind in the country. Uwe Rautner and Wolfram Huber are 'accurate' and 'proactive'.

TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law's impressive client base includes Credit Suisse, Raiffeisenlandesbank and Santander. The practice provides 'personal treatment and prompt answers', and Susanne Fruhstorfer 'works precisely and judiciously'. The firm recently acted on a €140m multi-jurisdictional revolving loan facility for paper producers Norske Skogindustrier.

The 'easy-to-approach' and 'competent' team at **Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH** advised Tom Tailor on a €225m corporate finance facility, while other active clients include Euram Bank, Hypo Alpe Adria Group, and Megatech Group. The team's 'outstanding motivation' and 'focus on practical problem-solving' is particularly noted. Stefan Eder is recommended.

Stefan Geppert is the main contact for banking work at **Brauneis Klauser Pr ndl Rechtsanwälte GmbH**. He advises on investment fund law and alternative corporate financing.

Eversheds Austria advised Holidaybreak on the £230m refinancing of the group's debt facilities. It also saw an increase in banking litigation. Alexander Stoltzka is head of department.

Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte continues to advise IKB Deutsche Industriebank on matters including substantial loans granted to Austrian companies. Bert Ortner is the lead contact.

Griss & Partner has extensive experience in US-related law, advising US corporations on

financial issues within Austria. Christiane Loidl is recommended.

Hauser Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH recently acted for an Austrian company on the establishment of a joint venture in Iraq. Peter Blaschke is recommended for his banking experience.

Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwälte GmbH has particular expertise in insurance law, advising clients including international insurers and brokers. Christoph Herbst is the main contact.

At **Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH**, head of department J rg Zehetner represented former board members of a major domestic bank in proceedings relating to interest rate swaps.

The 'flexible' and 'fast' **Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm)** provides 'value for money'. It has a good relationship with the Federal State of Upper Austria, which it recently advised on the sale of housing loans in the region.

Schwarz Sch nherr Rechtsanwälte OEG's small and specialised banking offering is led by Winfried Schwarz. The firm continues to work with electricity company Verbund on transactional matters.

In 2012, **Siemer-Siegl-F reder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte** saw an increase in liability management and compliance work. Karina Beyer and Hannes F reder are the main contacts.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP's Vienna office is led by the experienced Rainer Wachter. The team is able to support the firm's global network on major transactions, such as assisting Citigroup in relation to Sberbank's acquisition of Volksbank.

Specht B hm Rechtsanwalt GmbH's growing team advised on the €33m refinancing of two German real estate portfolios through an Austrian bank.

Capital markets

The large and 'reliable' team at **CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati** is led by Edith Hlawati, and delivers 'quick and brilliant answers'. It recently worked with AT&S Austria Technologie in relation to a €100m bond; and advised SPAR  sterreich on a €200m prospectus for offerings to Austrian and Luxemburg retail investors, where it was responsible for the entire drafting and approval process with the regulators.

Noted for its 'expertise and top-level service' and 'extremely advanced' industry knowledge, **Dorda Brugger Jordis** has within its ranks 'top industry experts' Andreas Mayr and Christoph Brogy nyi. Its work in 2012 included assisting major banks on OMV's capital increase, via a placement of over 27 million new shares. The firm also advised Miba Aktiengesellschaft as issuer on its first corporate bond, worth €75m.

CAPITAL MARKETS

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ◊ 1
Dorda Brugger Jordis ◊
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Schoenherr
Wolf Theiss ◊

Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann 2
Petsche Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Binder Gr sswang Rechtsanwälte ◊
Brandl & Talos Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
CMS ◊
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ◊
Eisenberger & Herzog ◊
Weber & Co. ◊

bpv H gel Rechtsanwälte OG 3
Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Barnert Egermann Illigasch Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners ◊
Graf & Pitkowitz ◊
Graf Patsch Taucher Rechtsanwälte ◊
Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH
Hauser Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
Hausmaninger Kletter Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH
monlaw Mondl Leuthner Rechtsanwälte ◊
P ch Krassnigg Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) ◊

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers
 ◊ indicates firm displays contact details at the end of this chapter

Noted for its international credentials, **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** is 'the best law firm for complex legal matters' and is able to 'present pragmatic solutions'. It acted for UniCredit SpA in connection with its capital increase and rights offering of up to 3.8 million new shares, and for EVN AG on the offering and issuance of a €300m bond. Thomas Zottl has 'outstanding' dedication.

The 'very responsive' and 'client-oriented' team at **Schoenherr** acted for UNIQA on its €500m rights offering, as an intermediate step towards a possible re-IPO in 2013. It also advised JPMorgan on the 2012 update of Erste Bank's €30bn EMTN programme. Peter Feyl and Ursula Rath are 'very professional, strong lawyers'.

Wolf Theiss's capital markets group, led by Richard Wolf, acted for metal recycling company Scholz AG on its first bond issuance in Austria, valued at €150m; and also assisted Telekom Austria on the establishment of its €2.5bn EMTN programme, and subsequent €750m bond issuance. It has 'excellent legal and

CORPORATE AND M&A

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte ◯ 1
CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ◯
Dorda Brugger Jordis ◯
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Schoenherr
Wolf Theiss ◯

bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG ◯ 2
CMS ◯
Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners ◯

Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann 3
Petsche Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Brandl & Talos Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◯
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ◯
Eisenberger & Herzog ◯
Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte ◯
Hauser Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◯

Barnert Egermann Illigasch Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Eckert Fries Prokopp Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◯
Graf Patsch Taucher Rechtsanwälte ◯
Griss & Partner
Hausmaninger Kletter Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◯
Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Lansky, Ganzger & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◯
Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ◯
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law ◯

BLS Rechtsanwälte (Attorneys at Law) Boller Langhammer Schubert KG
Brauneis Klauser Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◯
Cabjolsky & Otto Rechtsanwälte OG
Graf & Pitkowicz ◯
Hasch & Partner Anwalts-Gesellschaft mbH
PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky Rechtsanwälte ◯
Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) ◯
Weber & Co. ◯

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knowledge with a focus on commercial objectives.

Schoenherr continues to attract a variety of high-level transactional instructions. Its recent workload includes advising Swedish telecoms group Tele2 on its acquisition of Austrian internet service provider Silver Server. It also advised Japanese Sekisui Chemical Co on the acquisition of a 75% share in the pipe renewal business of the Rabmer Group in Austria, highlighting the firm's cross-border capabilities in the CEE region. Alexander Popp

heads the group, which has 'a very strong transactional focus' and 'a very high level of industry knowledge'.

The lawyers at **Wolf Theiss** 'work hard and are on time, and the results are excellent'. The firm is also valued for its 'strong strategic vision on deals', and is 'well worth' the price. It assisted the Italian state holding company Cassa Depositi e Prestiti on its acquisition of an 89% stake in Trans Austria Gas Pipeline, a deal valued at €710m and involving regulatory and competition issues. It also acted for RWE Beteiligungsgesellschaft on its acquisition of a 12.85% share in energy provider KELAG from Kärntner Energieholding Beteiligungs (KEH). Dieter Spranz is 'a tough negotiator', and Christian Mikosch 'a great strategic thinker'.

The team at **bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG**, under Hanns Hügel, is 'effective', 'professional' and 'works very fast', 'shining' for its delivery of value-added solutions to an 'international standard'. It recently advised RTI Systems of Russia on the sale of Watt Drive to a Brazilian automotive company; and Gerry Weber Aktiengesellschaft on its acquisition of assets from insolvent Austrian retailer Don Gil Textilhandel. Other active clients include Nestlé, Shell Austria, and Verbund.

CMS is noted for its 'excellent expertise in the SEE countries', with its corporate practice co-led by Peter Huber and Johannes Reich-Rohrwig. Its recent work includes advising Nectar doo on the acquisition of a 93.73% stake in Slovenian beverages company Fructal; Johnson & Johnson on the Austrian aspects of the sale of its breast-care business to Devicor; and EVN AG on the acquisition of a wind farm in Lower Austria. Senior associate Alexander Rakosi is 'highly intelligent', and has 'great understanding of business matters'.

Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners is 'a highly professional firm' known for its work on high-end complex restructurings, and M&A and oil and gas transactions. Often in the CEE region. It is working for a large Austrian bank on two large sale-side auctions, of a cash-free payment company and a private equity group. Its client list also includes Telekom, BAWAG and Hypo Alpe-Adria. Paul Luiki is 'an outstanding lawyer with a hands-on approach'.

Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann Petsche Rechtsanwälte GmbH is a regular on 'big projects', and recently advised Daifuku on the acquisition of a substantial stake in KNAPP AG, a market leader in logistic solutions. Gerhard Hermann is 'one of the leading lawyers in this area', providing 'practical advice' and heading 'a very competent team'.

Brandl & Talos Rechtsanwälte GmbH has a strong relationship with bwin party entertainment, and has been handling a range of matters following the client's merger 2011; these included the acquisition of assets from

social gaming developers Velasco Services and Orneon, valued at €18m, and various joint venture agreements. Thomas Talos is the contact.

DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach advised austriamicrosystems on the €320m acquisition of Texas Advanced Optoelectronic Solutions; and, in another cross-border deal, advised Dutch company Telelink Holdings on the acquisition of a 51% shareholding in Austrian IT service provider Datentechnik. Christoph Mager is the practice head.

The 'very transactional' **Eisenberger & Herzog** is 'available day and night', and delivers 'constructive solutions'. In 2012, it assisted Crédit Agricole and UniCredit on the €800m facility provided to voestalpine group. Peter Winkler is 'extremely dedicated' and a strong choice for 'difficult cases'.

In 2012, **Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte** advised an Austrian paper mill on the acquisition of a waste-to-energy incineration plant, and assisted an asset management company on the multi-jurisdictional sale of 75% of its shares. Peter Polak is the lead contact.

Hauser Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH has the 'strength-in-depth required to handle complex cross-border transactions at a very fast pace'. In a busy year, it represented an Austrian party in the establishment of a major joint venture in Erbil, Iraq; and acted for Erste Group Bank AG on a capital increase through contributions of the shares in BCR. Wulf Gordian Hauser is 'a world-class lawyer' and 'able to perform under high pressure'.

The 'brilliant' **Barnert Egermann Illigasch Rechtsanwälte GmbH** has notable experience in transactions in the gas sector, and also has a strong private equity offering. The 'quick-thinking' Michael Barnert recently advised Alpine Equity Management on transactional matters.

Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH advised Warimpex Finanz on the sale of a stake in a joint venture in the CEE region. It also advised on the complex merger between Superespresso (Liechtenstein) and Espressocap (Italy). Other active clients include EVN and Megatech Industries. Stefan Eder is recommended.

Eckert Fries Prokopp Rechtsanwälte GmbH recently added local lawyer Martin Prokopp as a name partner, bolstering the firm's M&A and real estate transactional practice. The firm has a specialism in corporate restructuring.

Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH's small practice has a growing reputation in the corporate field, and continues to win instructions in the renewable energy sector. It acts for a range of national and international clients. Hanno Schatzmann is a key figure.

At **Graf Patsch Taucher Rechtsanwälte**, 'the overall level of service is outstanding, and good value for money'. The small team is able to handle complex, cross-border transactions, and is led

by the 'down-to-earth' and 'cost-efficient' Bernd Taucher. The firm continues to foster a good relationship with Borealis, recently assisting on the restructuring of one of its main production and distribution units, in its fertiliser business.

Griss & Partner's corporate practice is led by Gunter Griss and Christiane Loidl. It has 'very good industry knowledge', and recently handled the sale of an Austrian software company to an industry leader in the US.

Boutique practice **Hausmaninger Kletter Rechtsanwälte GmbH** counts among its clients private equity groups such as Vorndran Mannheims Capital. Christian Hausmaninger and Mark Kletter are recommended.

At **Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwalte GmbH**, Christoph Herbst remains the key contact for corporate work. His practice includes merger control, antitrust and public commercial law matters.

Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH has a team of eight partners working on corporate matters. Gerold Wietrzyk recently advised a domestic client on an issuance of corporate bonds amounting to more than €400m.

Lansky, Ganzger & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH 'operates to a very high standard' and is 'definitely recommended'. It has a large and active team with a particular focus on public infrastructure and telecoms matters. Incoming head of department Ronald Frankl is 'an outstanding and competent lawyer with longstanding experience in corporate law'.

Hannes Füreder is the lead partner in **Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte's** corporate group, and recently advised an Austrian private trust on the financing of the acquisition of a property for the construction of a medical centre of Vienna.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP advised Japanese ceramics company Ibiden on its \$125m acquisition of Frauenthal, based in Austria. Rainer Wachter is the key figure in the practice.

TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law's corporate team is 'solution-oriented' and 'practical', with 'very good response times'. It acted for Lafarge on its joint venture with STRABAG to combine their cement activities in Central Europe. It also assisted Alma Lasers with its acquisition of the assets of Quantel Derma. Raimund Cancola is head of department.

BLS Rechtsanwälte (Attorneys at Law) Boller Langhammer Schubert KG recently advised a German group on establishing an Austrian subsidiary. Thomas Boller has international experience.

Brauneis Klauer Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH's core expertise is in transactions in the industrial sector. Its past work includes supporting a German construction company in

its Austrian project work. Arno Brauneis is the contact.

Cabjolsky & Otto Rechtsanwälte OG continues to advise Bunzl & Biach regarding the wastepaper dealer's shares in a Hungarian LLC. Alexander Cabjolsky is the key figure.

Graf & Pitkowitz has won plaudits for its advisory work on transactions, led by the experienced Ferdinand Graf, and is noted for its 'up-to-date knowledge'.

Hasch & Partner Anwaltsengesellschaft mbH draws its main clients from the insurance and life sciences sectors. The firm has a presence in Croatia and the Czech Republic. Founding partner Alexander Hasch is recommended.

PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky Rechtsanwälte's business-oriented practice is increasingly active in private equity work. Stefan Prochaska and Hannes Havranek are recommended.

Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm's team of 'highly experienced specialists', notably Franz Mittendorfer, are valued for their 'absolute reliability'. The practice is increasingly active in China-related work.

Weber & Co. has experience in public takeovers, management buyouts, and other M&A. Stefan Weber is the contact.

Dispute resolution

Andreas Reiner & Partner is a small firm which exclusively handles arbitration matters out of Vienna, and is noted for its 'quality' work. Andreas Reiner is 'a leading practitioner specialising in the fields of international construction and engineering, and also acts as a mediator. Christian Aschauer covers probate law and enforcement proceedings, and acts in both domestic and international arbitration cases.

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati is a 'very good' firm which 'does not waste time'. It has a strong knowledge base in dispute resolution, and few firms 'can match it in terms of the expertise it offers'. It successfully represented Oesterreichische Nationalbank against Riegerbank AG in relation to compensation claims totalling €23m raised by Riegerbank due to refusal of an extended foreign exchange trade permission; the complex, multiple claims were finally settled in March 2012 after 20 years. Irene Welser leads the nine-partner team.

CMS provides 'the full range of services', and is 'the ideal firm to work with', with a strong reputation for construction disputes. Elsewhere, it represented Austrian Airlines in several cases including a €150m damages claim against an international investor; assisted an Austrian venture company in a financial dispute concerning warranty claims against a seller; and

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Andreas Reiner & Partner CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati CMS Dorda Brugger Jordis Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Schoenherr Wolf Theiss	1
Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann Petsche Rechtsanwälte GmbH Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach	2
Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte Graf Patsch Taucher Rechtsanwälte Hausmaninger Kletter Rechtsanwälte GmbH Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH Lansky, Ganzger & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte Torggler Rechtsanwälte OG	3
BLS Rechtsanwälte (Attorneys at Law) Boller Langhammer Schubert KG Baier Rechtsanwälte Cabjolsky & Otto Rechtsanwälte OG Doralt Seist & Csoklich Eisenberger & Herzog Eversheds Austria Graf & Pitkowitz Griss & Partner Hauser Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH Markus P. Fellner Rechtsanwalt PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky Rechtsanwälte Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) Specht Böhm Rechtsanwalt GmbH TaylorWessing e n w c Attorneys at Law	

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represented Erste Group in a dispute with an insurance broker concerning wrongly issued non-payment insurances. The firm remains active in arbitration, with a number of cases ongoing for international clients. Daniela Karollus-Bruner co-heads the team.

Dorda Brugger Jordis 'enjoys a good reputation in international commercial arbitration', and the 'knowledge and advice' of its lawyers is highly rated. Christian Dorda has 'all the qualities of a good arbitrator', and Florian Kremslehner has excellent 'depth of knowledge in Austrian white-collar crime'. The firm was involved in numerous high-profile ICC cases over the past year. On the litigation side, it is representing Immofinanz in connection with sets of claims brought by former shareholders against the company, worth

Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH continues to advise Hutchison 3G on merger proceedings before the EU. It also worked on the distribution of emission certificates for the latest round of EU emissions trading. Jörg Zehetner and Thomas Rabl lead the team.

Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte is noted for its 'outstanding professionalism' in competition work. Its clients include public service operators and energy companies. Robert Ertl has 'the most profound knowledge' of state aid, procurement and construction law.

Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte is known for its competition disputes work, and specialises in strategic compliance matters. Johannes Willheim is recommended.

Employment

The specialist employment practice at **Burgstaller & Preyer Rechtsanwälte GmbH** combines domestic and international expertise. Helmut Preyer and Gerald Burgstaller advise clients in the IT and telecoms, pharmaceuticals, transport and industrial sectors.

CMS has seen a recent increase in discrimination cases. It defended the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) in a case involving alleged age discrimination; acted for energy company ESTAG in a class action case over compensation for underperforming pension funds; and represented the University of Vienna in test cases concerning the legal status of temporary lecturers. Christoph Wolf and Bernhard Hainz lead the team.

Kunz Schima Wallentin Rechtsanwälte OG has a wide-ranging practice and is a member of the *lus Laboris* alliance for human resources firms. Georg Schima is recommended.

Wolf Theiss 'gives high-quality advice at a competitive price', has 'a profound business understanding', and shows 'inter-cultural awareness' on deals. The practice is handling more banking sector work, including advising on the regulations surrounding bank bonuses. It also assisted on Inter IKEA Centre Group's sale of two large centres in Austria. Other active clients include Raiffeisen Bank International, BAWAG PSK, Eli Lilly, and Deutsche Telekom. Ralf Peschek has 'a good feeling for the commercial value', and Matthias Unterrieder is noted for cross-border advice.

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte's employment team is 'now very recognised in the market', and has 'a forward-thinking and commercial approach', with a focus on the employer side. It counts Societé Générale, Estée Lauder Cosmetics and Macquarie Group among its clients. Angelika Pallwein-Prettner and Horst Lukanec are 'excellent'.

EMPLOYMENT

Burgstaller & Preyer Rechtsanwälte GmbH 1
CMS ◊
Kunz Schima Wallentin Rechtsanwälte OG
Wolf Theiss ◊

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte ◊ 2
Dorda Brugger Jordis ◊
Gerlach Rechtsanwälte

bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG ◊ 3
Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann Petsche
Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Barnert Egermann Illigasch Rechtsanwälte
GmbH

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ◊
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ◊
Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners ◊
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Schoenherr
TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law ◊

Eversheds Austria
Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte ◊
Grundeel Rechtsanwalt
Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH
Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH
PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky
Rechtsanwälte ◊
Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ◊

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Dorda Brugger Jordis represents employers and employees across a range of matters, from individual contracts to collective bargaining agreements. Recent work includes advising Unilever Deutschland Holding on its pension plans and remuneration schemes; and advising Deutsche Post on outsourcing negotiations with UniCredit Bank Austria, which includes navigating the company's special termination and pension protection for employees. Axel Anderl is 'very strong in negotiations, and solution-oriented', with 'a clear and honest approach'.

Gerlach Rechtsanwälte is a new, specialist firm which exclusively handles employment matters. It has a breadth of knowledge across Austrian and European employment law, and related insolvency law. Roland Gerlach and Branco Jungwirth head the practice.

bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG handles employment work within its corporate department, with a focus on the employment aspects of M&A transactions and corporate reorganisations.

Clients are 'very impressed' by **Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann Petsche Rechtsanwälte GmbH's** 'competence and reliability', with practice head Philipp Maier noted for his 'fast and very professional responses'. Its recent caseload includes matters involving

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Alexandra Knell (Dr)
BLS Rechtsanwälte (Attorneys at Law) Boller
Langhammer Schubert KG
Brauneis Klausner Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
Graf & Pitkowitz ◊
Greiter Pegger Kofler & Partners ◊
Griss & Partner
Neudorfer Rechtsanwälte
Preslmayr Attorneys at Law ◊
Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte
GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) ◊
Stock Rafaseder Gruszkiewicz Rechtsanwälte

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remuneration policy, compensation and bonuses. It also acted for a client on its global reorganisation, which involved collective dismissal and works council negotiations.

Barnert Egermann Illigasch Rechtsanwälte GmbH assisted Avcon Jet AG on various Austrian labour law issues, including litigation against a former employee. Clemens Egermann leads on employment work, and mainly advises employers.

In 2012, **CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati's** busy employment team advised Hewlett-Packard on data protection issues and outsourcing projects; Vienna International Airport on various matters; Primark Mode in relation to opening its first stores in Austria; and Crown Equipment on the establishment of an Austrian subsidiary. Julian Feichtinger heads the department.

DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach assisted Pfizer with the termination of employment agreements, corporate restructuring and negotiations with unions and works councils; and also advised Lufthansa on a number of employment matters relating to the restructuring of its business operations in Austria and the CEE region. Franz Marhold heads the practice.

Kurt Wratzfeld heads the practice at **Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners**; a well-known figure within the field, he has particular expertise in collective bargaining matters.

The 'very professional' and 'customer-focused' team at **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** is notable for its EU law expertise, including European works council issues. It advised Hutchison 3G Austria on corporate restructuring matters related to its intended merger with Orange Austria; and Mars on issues relating to the restructuring of its pension schemes across various EU countries, including Austria. Stefan Koeck is 'reliable' and 'always up to date'.

Schoenherr has built a strong reputation for employment law over recent years, and has 'very good' business acumen. It mainly works for large companies and international clients, advising on issues including transfers of undertakings,

employment tribunal litigation and reorganisations. Department head Hans Georg Laimer has 'great expertise in employment law and very good litigation skills'.

Wolfgang Kapek remains the head of **TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law's** employment practice after the firm's recent merger. The team assisted construction group Aon Hewitt with a review of top management contracts and the implementation of remuneration arrangements; and advised Nokia Austria on employment matters relating to its restructuring.

Eversheds Austria's employment team is led by Silva Palzer, and recently provided employment and pensions support on a €1.7bn transaction.

Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte's clients include some major multinationals. Karina Hellbert is recommended.

The small, dedicated team at **Grundeir Rechtsanwalt** advises both employers and employees on labour law issues, including litigation. It has a specialism in professional sports law.

Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH has expertise in stock option schemes, employee incentives and company reorganisations.

Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH advises on individual and collective labour law, and acts for a number of multinationals including a mobile network operator and pharmaceutical companies. Helen Pelzmann is the lead contact.

PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky Rechtsanwälte acts for the Viennese taxi service Taxi 40100 on all aspects of employment law, and is permanent counsel to HR group APS, which it recently advised during a metalworkers' strike.

In 2012, **Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte** worked on labour law issues relating to company restructurings and a privatisation. It also deals with employment litigation. Hannes Füreder and Gerald Gries are recommended.

IT and telecommunications

Brauneis Klauer Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH is experienced in software and hardware related matters, and acts for a roster of mainly blue-chip clients. Felix Prändl and Arno Brauneis are well-known practitioners in the field. The firm also has a notable data protection practice.

The 'top-quality' team at **CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati** has 'excellent knowledge' and gives 'practical advice'. It recently advised Gilead Sciences on IT and data protection matters, including the establishment of a whistleblowing hotline. It continues to act for Hewlett-Packard, recently assisting on the implementation of cloud computing solutions in

IT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Brauneis Klauer Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH 1
CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ◊
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ◊
Dorda Brugger Jordis ◊
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊

Andréewitch & Simon 2
Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte ◊
CMS ◊
Eisenberger & Herzog ◊
Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte ◊
Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH
Höhne, In der Maur & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Preslmayr Attorneys at Law ◊
Schoenherr
TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law ◊
Wolf Theiss ◊

Cabjolsky & Otto Rechtsanwälte OG 3
Eversheds Austria
Legis - Cooperative Association of Attorneys ◊
Mag Marcus Essl, LL.M., M.E.S.
Meinhard Ciresa (DDr)
Norbert Wiesinger (Dr), Law Offices
Sattler & Schanda
Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte
Windisch : Law Offices

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers
 ◊ indicates firm displays contact details at the end of this chapter

Austria; and advised Telekom Austria on regulatory issues relating to its acquisition of Yesss! Telekommunikation. Georg Konrad and Albert Birkner are recommended.

DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach counts the T-Mobile/Deutsche Telekom brand as a longstanding client, acting for the mobile giant on transactions and in litigation. Elsewhere, it finalised a software licensing agreement for Iventa consultancy group relating to an internet-based HR platform; and assisted on code of conduct and whistleblowing matters. Other clients include Atello Telecom First Data Austria, Telekom Austria and Western Union Financial Services. Wolfgang Freund covers data protection issues, and Alexander Cizek has significant software and IT law experience.

'Extremely accurate and always focused', **Dorda Brugger Jordis** is 'definitely the IT firm to go to in Austria'; there is 'no other team that is so big and so clearly focused on IT'. It continues to attract work from a raft of well-known domestic and international clients. In 2012, it worked with Deutsche Post AG in outsourcing negotiations with UniCredit Bank Austria; acted in a number of court cases for T-Mobile Austria; and advised

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Arnold Rechtsanwalte GmbH
Baier Rechtsanwälte ◊
Kunz Schima Wallentin Rechtsanwälte OG
Schramm Öhler Rechtsanwälte ◊
Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ◊

Firms are listed A-Z
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the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) on a project to harmonise the IT infrastructure of medical agencies within EU countries. Axel Anderl is noted as a strong negotiator.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer has 'a great team'. It recently advised Hutchison 3G Austria on the upgrade of its entire mobile communications network to LTE, which involved Chinese suppliers; supported NetCo on the revision of major security arrangements between the client and Nokia Siemens Networks; and advised a number of domestic energy providers on issues arising from a 'backbone' agreement with Tele2 Telecommunication GmbH. Bertram Burtscher is well respected and 'very competent'.

Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH's 'flexibility and problem-solving ability are far above the market standard'. Its specialist IT practice is well respected in the market, and its client base includes international vendors, hi-tech companies and financial institutions. Its recent workload spans outsourcing, data protection and strategic licensing matters. Head of IT Max W Mosing is noted for his deep knowledge and 'legally immaculate solutions'.

Andréewitch & Simon is a small firm of five lawyers, with Markus Andréewitch leading on the IT side. Its recent work includes advising on cloud computing and data protection issues, and it has specialisms in IT mediation and procurement law.

Ivo Rungg heads a 'diligent' team at **Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte**, and has 'very wide and excellent legal knowledge'. The team's recent work includes advising Tele2 Austria in a pending case over alleged unfair commercial practices.

CMS has 'professional business knowledge', and is 'good value for money'. It recently advised Amazon on launching its Kindle product in Austria. Johannes Juranek heads the team.

Eisenberger & Herzog acted for a number of international clients across a variety of industries in 2012, including assisting in relation to whistleblower hotlines, litigation surrounding e-business activities, and data protection compliance. Andreas Zellhofer heads both the IT and IP practices.

Constantin Kletzer is head of **Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte's** IT team, and impresses

with his experience and 'concise opinions'. The firm saw an increased flow of regulatory work, and also advised on e-invoicing systems.

Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH's IT work is covered by Bernhard Steindl and Franz Guggenberger, whose specialisms include licensing agreements and antitrust matters.

Höhne, In der Maur & Partner Rechtsanwältinnen GmbH is known for its media-related work advising broadcasters, publishers, television stations and newspapers. Thomas Höhne and Georg Streit are recommended contacts.

In 2012, **Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwältinnen GmbH** advised on several international trade mark and data protection issues, led by head of department Arno Cichocki.

Preslmayr Attorneys at Law's practice covers e-commerce and data protection issues, with Rainer Knyrim at its helm.

Schoenherr's 'outstanding' team gives 'precise' advice that is 'closely co-ordinated' with clients' needs, and advises high-calibre clients such as France Telekom and Tele2. The firm also has a dedicated team focusing on new technologies. Thomas Wenger is 'an excellent analyst'.

TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law has a strong relationship with A1 Telekom Austria, recently advising it on a variety of matters including data protection, licensing agreements, TV campaigns and unfair competition cases. Martin Prohaska-Marchried is an experienced advocate.

Wolf Theiss is highlighted for its 'in-depth business knowledge' and 'very quick response times', and acts for an impressive array of international companies including Facebook, Google and Swarovski. Georg Kresbach has 'outstanding expertise' in IT matters.

Cabjolsky & Otto Rechtsanwältinnen OG recently advised an online marketing company and a private bank on IT matters. Gerald Otto heads the group.

Eversheds Austria's IT department is led by Georg Röhnsner. It recently assisted clients in acquiring satellite TV licences and negotiating contracts with the satellite providers.

Areas of experience for **Legis – Cooperative Association of Attorneys** include new technology and e-commerce matters. Dietmar Huemer is the contact.

Mag Marcus Essl, LL.M., M.E.S is 'a highly specialised one-man boutique' providing 'exceptionally sound' and 'personal' advice. Its recent work includes product piracy, copyright, internet crime and trade mark matters.

DDr Meinhard Ciresa has experience in all aspects of software law, auditing and other internet-related issues.

Dr Norbert Wiesinger, Law Offices' experienced team has handled IT matters for the past 15 years, and has experience at state and EU court level. Its clients include Verizon and Colt Telecom.

Sattler & Schanda's boutique offering is active in domain name, software and copyright matters. On the internet side, it acts for suppliers of search engines and e-commerce companies. Reinhard Schanda is recommended.

Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte provides advice to film, theatre, and other media outlets on licensing agreements and other contractual matters.

The team at boutique practice **Windisch : Law Offices** includes Bettina Windisch-Altieri, who is able to 'translate extremely complex matters so that non-lawyers also understand'. The firm is notable for its e-commerce expertise.

Insolvency and corporate recovery

Boutique firm **Abel & Abel** continues to act for receivers on large-scale insolvency matters. Norbert Abel in particular is recommended.

Brauneis Klausner Prändl Rechtsanwältinnen GmbH has experience in court enforcement for creditors and in achieving out-of-court settlements. It also represents multinationals facing economic difficulties and employees seeking to assert their rights. Alexander Klausner is recognised for international matters.

As well as being active in domestic restructuring matters, **Graf & Pitkowitz** advised a financial institution on the restructuring of a cross-border financing initially granted to an Austrian natural gas transporter, an international matter indicative of the firm's reach and capabilities. The team is led by Alexander Isola, with support from three other partners.

Schoenherr has 'excellent know-how in insolvency law'. It advised Royal Bank of Scotland and other institutions on the Austrian law aspects of the distressed debt of European Directories Group; and also worked with Austrian and German banks under the lead of Deutsche Bank in connection with the out-of-court restructuring of Leobersdorfer Maschinenfabrik (a manufacturer of compressor systems). Practice head Wolfgang Höller is noted for his communication and negotiation skills.

Schulyok Unger & Partner Rechtsanwältinnen OG is a specialist insolvency practice, with a depth of experience acting as administrator both on the compensation and liquidation side. It has particular expertise in advising SMEs on appellate issues and debt relief matters. Peter Schulyok is recommended.

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte is noted for its 'high level of quality and professionalism'. In 2012 it assisted Österreichische Volksbanken in relation to its financial distress and subsequent part-nationalisation by the Austrian government. The firm was also active on a number of domestic and international restructuring

INSOLVENCY AND CORPORATE RECOVERY

Abel & Abel	1
Brauneis Klausner Prändl Rechtsanwältinnen GmbH	
Graf & Pitkowitz	
Schoenherr	
Schulyok Unger & Partner Rechtsanwältinnen OG	
Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte	2
CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati	
CMS	
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach	
Dorda Brugger Jordis	
Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners	
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	
Held Berdnik Astner & Partner, Rechtsanwälte	
Kosch & Partner	
Preslmayr Attorneys at Law	
Wolf Theiss	

Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwältinnen GmbH	3
Eisenberger & Herzog	
Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH	
Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte	

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Baier Rechtsanwälte
Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte
Haslinger/Nagele & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Kunz Schima Wallentin Rechtsanwälte OG

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matters. Gottfried Gassner and Thomas Schirmer head the team.

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati provides a 'very satisfactory' and 'very well-organised' service, and is known for its representation of creditors. It advised mBlox as the second-largest creditor in an insolvency matter which involved civil and criminal components. It also assisted the US-French Algeco Scotsman Group on the reorganisation of its subsidiary based in Hungary and Slovenia. Its team of three partners includes Benedikt Spiegelfeld.

CMS' 13-fee-earner insolvency team sits within its corporate department, and has 'remarkable technical understanding'. It acts for creditors, debtors, investors and insurance companies. Armin Dallmann is the main contact.

Drawing on resources in its finance and corporate departments, **DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach's** areas of expertise included distressed real estate, debt and equity refinancing, reorganisation strategies, and rescue planning. Recent work includes advising an Austrian bank on its exposure to credit default swaps on Greek

sovereign bonds. Oskar Winkler heads the restructuring group.

Dorda Brugger Jordis is advising Penta Investments in its bidding process to buy up parts of A-TEC Industries during the company's restructuring programme. The team mainly represents banks, advising on the restructuring of loans, out-of-court settlements and enforcement proceedings. Andreas Zahradnik is 'bright and responsive'.

Acting mainly for Austria's major financial institutions, **Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners** impresses with its 'high level of service' and 'outstanding response times'. It acted on the refinancing and restructuring of S&T AG, a publicly listed company providing IT services in the CEE region; and also advised Erste Bank in relation to the insolvency of A-TEC, the third-largest in the country's history. Markus Fellner is highly recommended.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's two-partner team acted for Kommunalkredit Austria on its nationalisation and state aid proceedings with the European Commission, and also assisted a group of banks on the restructuring of a €700m facility for AE&E, involving a raft of banks from both Austria and Germany. Friedrich Jergitsch is recommended.

Held Berndik Astner & Partner, Rechtsanwälte is highly rated by peers, and has six insolvency lawyers working across its offices in Vienna, Graz and Klagenfurt. Bernhard Astner is a well-known figure.

Kosch & Partner is a small firm with a wide-ranging practice. In insolvency matters, it is known for its work for debtors and in compensation proceedings. The five-partner team includes the highly experienced Jörg Beirer.

Preslmayr Attorneys at Law's insolvency work is covered by Florian Gehmacher, Matthias Schmidt and Christian Podoschek. It advises a range of medium-to-large businesses in the banking sector.

Wolf Theiss advised a group of Austrian banks (led by Erste Bank) on the restructuring of the debt of environmental technology company SW Umwelttechnik, valued at €80m. It also assisted Erste on the restructuring of a project finance facility for a sports stadium in Split, which involved the Croatian government and is indicative of the firm's CEE capabilities. The team has grown in recent years and now comprises 15 fee-earners, notably Eva Spiegel and Christian Hoenig.

Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH is a boutique firm handling corporate finance matters, restructurings and related litigation. Stefan Eder has international experience and specialises in capital reorganisation.

Eisenberger & Herzog 'delivers excellent work' on the insolvency side, and in the past year handled high-profile matters ranging in value from €20m to €220m. Marcus Benes is noted for

his experience in 'restructuring situations of non-performing loans'.

Hasch & Partner Anwalts-Gesellschaft mbH acts on creditor claims and in negotiations with banks. Alexander Hasch handles company reorganisations.

Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte handles restructuring work within its corporate department. It is currently acting on the planned restructuring of an equipment distributor.

Intellectual property and media

Advising domestic and international companies, **Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH** has 'problem-solving capacities far above the market standard', and 'the value for money provided is high'. Its extensive practice spans non-contentious and contentious work, including patent and trade mark litigation; design, media and unfair competition litigation; and domain name and copyright matters. Max Mosing has 'excellent knowledge', and Barbara Kuchar 'understands the needs of clients'.

Höhne, In der Maur & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH is known for its copyright law, unfair competition, and trade mark protection work, and also assists in areas such as image rights, name usage, and reputation management. Thomas Höhne is 'a litigation expert, and capable of solving urgent matters within a very strict timeframe'.

Schoenherr is noted for its 'innovation', and 'quality legal advice on the most complicated assignments'. It has a new technologies team working on social media, cloud computing, privacy and licensing matters, and also handles traditional trade mark, design, patent, copyright and unfair competition matters. It successfully represented Red Bull at the Austrian Supreme Court over the enforcement of the company's colour mark against competitors 'Run Cool'. Guido Kucska, 'a recognised legal expert', continues to advise IT clients including Hewlett-Packard and Nokia on copyright levies applicable to media devices such as tablets and PCs.

Wiltschek Rechtsanwälte is a boutique practice which covers the traditional areas of IP law, and also advises on food and EC law matters. Lothar Wiltschek has many years' experience in the field, and David Plasser and Katharina Majchrzak are also recommended.

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte continues to advise the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in a dispute over the protection of its 'Oscar' trade mark; and represented Lionstar Enterprises in a trade mark dispute covering the EU and Switzerland. The

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND MEDIA

Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ¹
Höhne, In der Maur & Partner
Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Schoenherr
Wiltschek Rechtsanwälte

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte ²
CMS ²
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ²
Dorda Brugger Jordis ²
Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte ²
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Sattler & Schanda
Schwarz Schönherr Rechtsanwälte OEG
TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law ²
Wolf Theiss ²

Brauneis Klauer Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH ³
CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ³
Eisenberger & Herzog ³
Graf & Pitkowitz ³
Hasch & Partner Anwalts-Gesellschaft mbH
Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwälte GmbH ³
Michel Walter (Dr)

Eversheds Austria
Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Lansky, Ganzger & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ³
Mag Marcus Essl, LL.M., M.E.S
Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ³
Windisch : Law Offices

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Baier Rechtsanwälte ³
Baker & McKenzie Diwok Hermann Petsche
Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Cabjolsky & Otto Rechtsanwälte OG
Griss & Partner
monlaw Mondl Leuthner Rechtsanwälte ³
PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky
Rechtsanwälte ³

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers
¹ indicates firm displays contact details at the end of this chapter

firm is also active in efforts against product piracy for a range of luxury goods companies. Ivo Rungg and Hellmut Buchroithner are 'both very fast in answering', and have 'very broad and strong legal knowledge'.

In 2012, **CMS** gained a number of clients in the luxury goods sector, notably Louis Vuitton, shoe manufacturer Camper, and L'Oréal. It was also active advising Sky on broadcasting law, signal piracy and other matters, including representation before the ECJ. The practice is 'very practical' and 'affordable', and has 'good

industry knowledge. It is led by the 'excellent' Egon Engin-Deniz.

DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach was active representing academic clients such as the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, and Vienna University of Technology. Its work over the past year included trade mark enforcement, anti-counterfeiting actions, and labelling compliance reviews. Alexander Cizek and Sabine Fehringer are the two partners in the team.

Dorda Brugger Jordis' IP practice is 'one of the strongest in the market', and is valued for its 'realistic advice' and 'general service orientation'. It is advising InQnet in a criminal case against companies in the music and film industries, involving claims that it marketed software which enables copyright infringement. Axel Anderl is 'the one to go to with bigger and tricky cases'.

Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte is appreciated for its 'responsiveness and appropriateness of advice'. It advises fashion house Sportalm on trade mark, design and unfair competition issues, in particular on EU anti-counterfeiting measures. Constantin Kletzer impresses with his 'experience, and in-depth knowledge of Austrian and EU IP law'.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer is known for its transactional IP work and acts for a roster of international players such as Volvo Cars Austria, Nintendo of Europe, and Bristol-Myers Squibb. It represented Hutchison 3G Austria GmbH in proceedings against an Austrian competitor using an allegedly misleading advertising claim. Christof Pöchhacker gives 'prompt answers' and 'good advice'.

Sattler & Schanda's boutique practice continues to advise numerous clients in relation to trade mark matters, having focused on the area for over a decade, and also advises on copyright matters. Reinhard Schanda leads the team.

Schwarz Schönherr Rechtsanwälte OEG's IP practice is led by Georg Schönherr, who is well known for advising international life sciences clients. It handles design and anti-piracy work alongside its core business in trade mark, copyright and patent matters.

TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law assisted Teva Pharmaceuticals on patent issues, A1 Telekom Austria on unfair competition matters, and Fischer Sports GmbH in patent litigation against Kästle GmbH. The team's 'strength in depth is high', and its 'advice is especially useful'. Martin Prohaska-Marchried is head of department.

Wolf Theiss' IP practice prides itself on its CEE capabilities. It represented Crocs Inc in a Romanian case relating to infringement of design rights; and also assisted the client in relation to counterfeit clogs sold in Austria. Among 'a very broad range of experts', Georg Kresbach is 'outstanding'. Google, Novartis and Hugo Boss are also clients.

Brauneis Klauer Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH is noted for its 'diverse professional knowledge' as well as its 'straight-to-the-point communication'. It acts for rights holders on product piracy and patent law matters, in areas including media and film. Martin Reinisch is 'smart and knowledgeable'.

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati 'gets to the relevant points quickly', and provides a well-rounded service. McDonald's instructs the firm on Austrian IP matters. Irene Welsler handles contentious work.

Andreas Zellhofer is the go-to partner at **Eisenberger & Herzog** for IP and IT matters. He acts for Immofinanz on trade mark, domain name and media law matters, and continues to advise Austrian Airlines on advertising.

Graf & Pitkowitz is active in trade mark disputes, and is known for defending international clients in infringement proceedings. Ferdinand Graf is the key figure.

Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH is notable for its expertise in areas such as preliminary injunctions, injunctive relief and house searches. Bernhard Steindl has CEE experience.

Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwälte GmbH has a focus on drafting co-operation agreements, and licensing and marketing contracts. It also advises on property rights, and has a presence in the pharmaceutical sector. Philipp Kinsky is the contact.

Dr Michel Walter is a sole practitioner in the field, and is noted for his expertise in copyright issues.

Eversheds Austria currently manages around 50 patents, trade marks, designs and licences for shoe company Legero, and is regularly involved in registrations and objections. It also acts for Forever 21 across the EU.

Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH is active in media copyright law, and also advises on data protection. Arno Cichocki represents several publishing houses on IP matters.

Lansky, Ganzger & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH is noted for its media law work, acting for some of the largest companies in Austria. Gerald Ganzger leads the team, which is noted for its 'professionalism and customer orientation'.

Boutique practice **Mag Marcus Essl, LL.M., M.E.S** is 'exceptionally sound', and gives 'outstanding advice'. Clients include photographer Manfred Baumann.

Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte is 'very competent in IP litigation', offers 'reasonable hourly rates' and 'finds practical solutions to clients' needs'. Reinhard Brunar advises on the full range of IP issues.

Windisch : Law Offices provides 'a prompt and creative service'. Bettina Windisch-Altieri is advising the London-based Rights Agency (a collecting agency for performing artists) in an Austrian dispute over market dominance.

Private client

Arnold Rechtsanwalte GmbH's preeminent practice is led by brothers Nikolaus Arnold and Florian Arnold. With a depth of experience in tax matters, it is very active for high-net-worth individuals from industrial families in Austria and Germany, and also has a focus on private foundations, with the partners sitting on many advisory boards.

Dorda Brugger Jordis' 'excellent' and 'technically able' private client department has Theresa Jordis at the helm, and includes the 'reliable' Paul Doralt. It assisted Schoeller Signa, a family-owned company conglomerate, in its efforts to acquire Kaufhof, the German department store operator. The team also advises international banks, such as JP Morgan Private Bank and Bank Gutmann, on tax planning.

bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG's reputation in the private client market is based on its standing in the tax field and the reputation of Hanns Hügel. Clients include wealthy individuals domiciled in Austria, and trusts. It is particularly experienced 'in transfers of shareholdings and the structuring of wills'.

CMS is able to leverage its tax expertise to gain new clients on the private client side. The practice ranges from inheritance law matters to the structuring of foundations. Johannes Reich-Rohrwig leads the team.

DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach's private client work is led by Christoph Mager, who assisted the private foundation H.M.Z. Privatstiftung in various disputes with its advisory board. The practice also worked with JN Privatstiftung (set up by real estate developer Jerri Nowikovsky) in relation to a hotel investment project in London.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's private client practice is driven by corporate and tax advice to a number of major family businesses operating out of Austria. Highlights included advising members of the Swarovski family on shareholder rights, and members of the Porsche family on tax planning. Günther Horvath is recommended.

Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH's experience in private client work dates back to the Private Foundation Act of 1993. Christian Gassauer-Fleissner's reputation in the field leads to a steady flow of instructions from board members, shareholders and high-net-worth individuals.

Foundation, trust and inheritance law matters are a major focus for **Jakobljevich, Grave & Vetter**. Christian Grave is recommended.

Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte works primarily with wealthy individuals and shareholders, providing tax and investment advice. Hannes Füreder acts as an

PRIVATE CLIENT

Arnold Rechtsanwälte GmbH Dorda Brugger Jordis ◊	1
bpv Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG ◊ CMS ◊ DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ◊ Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊ Jakobljevich, Gräve & Vetter Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ◊ Wolf Theiss ◊	2

Alexander Hofmann (Dr.), LL.M., TEP ◊ Brauneis Klausner Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊ Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte ◊ Graf & Pitkowitz ◊ HLMK Rechtsanwälte	3
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Kerres Partners Rechtsanwälte
Sattler & Schanda
Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers
◊ indicates firm displays contact details at the end of this chapter

executive board member for several private trusts, and has 'enormous knowledge'.

Wolf Theiss is valued for its broad range of services, 'in-depth knowledge and contact base', and 'highly capable, experienced individuals'. The team continues to advise on high-profile private foundation work for foreign investors, and is increasingly active assisting with prenuptial agreements. Clemens Schindler 'particularly shines'.

Dr. Alexander Hofmann, LL.M., TEP's small practice covers a wide range of matters 'in a highly professional way', including advising on matters involving foreign trusts and international estates.

Brauneis Klausner Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH has experience representing major associations and private clients in litigation, such as inheritance disputes between shareholders. Bernhard Girsch is the contact.

Christoph Leon is the contact for private client work at **Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte**. He is a board member on seven Liechtenstein private foundations, and legal adviser to ten Austrian foundations.

In 2012, **Graf & Pitkowitz's** practice was active across estate planning, asset transfers, international probate proceedings and settlement negotiations. Armenak Utudjian heads a team of four partners.

HLMK Rechtsanwälte is a small outfit with experience in areas such as the transfer of shares in private foundations. Gerhard Hochedlinger is recommended.

Private client work is a core element of **Kerres Partners Rechtsanwälte's** practice.

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Eckert Fries Prokopp Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Griss & Partner
Hasch & Partner Anwalts-Gesellschaft mbH
Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH
PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky
Rechtsanwälte ◊
Robert Briem (Dr), Rechtsanwalt-GmbH
TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law ◊
Torggler Rechtsanwälte OG

Firms are listed A-Z
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Christoph Kerres is one of three partners in the team, and handles the establishment of private foundations and trusts.

Sattler & Schanda is active in asset transfers, will drafting and inheritance matters. Egon Sattler is recommended.

Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte advises on the structuring of private foundations and on asset planning. Katharina Müller covers wills and probate.

Public procurement

Heid Schiefer Rechtsanwälte GmbH is a 'recommended' boutique with particular expertise representing clients in the automotive and rail sectors, with a focus on EU regulations and their effect on domestic law. Stephan Heid regularly works on PPPs, and advises a number of contractors.

'Availability and response times are well above average' at **Schramm Öhler Rechtsanwälte**, a medium-sized firm which works with 'professionalism and competence' on public procurement, and is 'one of the leaders' in the field. Georg Zellhofer advised ÖBB Postbus on review procedures relating to the procurement of bus transport services in Salzburg. The firm also advised the City of Vienna on the establishment of a PPP for the provision of sterilised medicinal products to hospitals. Matthias Öhler is 'keenly perceptive'.

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte acts for infrastructure companies, federal states, banks and private companies; its expertise includes analysing tender proceedings. Raoul Hoffer and Johannes Barbist head the team, which is valued for its experience and breadth.

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati's team is 'extremely reliable'. It acted for Austrian motorways provider ASFINAG on an infrastructure project, and advised the Austrian Chamber of Pharmacists on social security law issues. Other clients include Hewlett-Packard and Hollerung. Michaela Siegwart is 'a very reliable partner'.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Heid Schiefer Rechtsanwälte GmbH Schramm Öhler Rechtsanwälte ◊	1
Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte ◊ CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ◊ CMS ◊ Dorda Brugger Jordis ◊ Eisenberger & Herzog ◊ Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer Graf & Pitkowitz ◊ Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ◊ Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte Wolf Theiss ◊	2

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers
◊ indicates firm displays contact details at the end of this chapter

Delivering 'high value for money', **CMS** continues to advise Brenner Basistunnel on procurement matters relating to its major tunnel project linking Austria and Italy. Practice head Bernt Elsner also assisted the Austrian Mint on tender proceedings.

Dorda Brugger Jordis is working for the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety on the complex bidding procedure involved in the European Medicine Agency's project to harmonise IT infrastructure. It also acts for G4S Austria on all public procurement law matters relating to its security operations, and for the Austrian Foreign Ministry on the renovation of its embassies worldwide. The 'very competent' and 'meticulous' Bernhard Müller leads a team of 'excellent legal minds'.

Eisenberger & Herzog advised ÖBB-Infrastruktur, the state-owned railway infrastructure manager, in review proceedings relating to major projects such as the 27.3km Semmering base tunnel and the new connection between Vienna's central station and Vienna International Airport. Ulrike Sehrschön is 'always available', and 'well known in the public procurement area'.

Two major clients for **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** in 2012 were ASFINAG and BIG, advised on a tender procedure and bid negotiation. Stephan Denk is 'outstanding, and one of the younger stars in public procurement'. The firm also acts in related litigation.

Graf & Pitkowitz is 'unpretentious, flexible and open-minded', with 'great, business-oriented understanding'. It acted on several large tender contracts and bids. Stephan Schmalzl is 'very professional on details' as well as having 'great overall knowledge'.

Katharina Trettnak-Hahnl is **Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH's** lead procurement lawyer, and recently assisted a federal state, a waste management company and several pharmaceutical companies on

tender procedures. The firm also advised an energy supplier on the construction of a €100m-plus power plant.

Acting for a variety of utility, energy and healthcare companies, **Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte** 'conducts large-scale projects with outstanding professionalism and precision, based on long-term experience and profound expertise'. Michael Breitenfeld is 'highly renowned in the market'.

Willheim Müller Rechtsanwälte advises on all aspects of public procurement proceedings, such as tender documentation and appeals. Its young team includes Bernhard Kall, who also covers construction matters.

'Very efficient and incredibly dedicated to getting the job done', **Wolf Theiss'** large-scale work over 2012 included acting for Vienna International Airport on its terminal extension project, valued at €800m. It also advised the Ukrainian economic ministry on the development of its national public procurement legislation, including the potential accession to the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement. Practice head Manfred Essletzichler is 'a vastly experienced specialist in public procurement law'. Senior associate Johannes Schnitzer left the firm to establish his own practice.

Real estate and construction

Karasek Wietrzyk Rechtsanwälte GmbH is the preeminent law firm for construction work in Austria, evidenced by its role as permanent counsel to 15 of the 30 major construction companies in the country. Georg Karasek remains, the go-to lawyer for construction matters and is supported by a strong team of 13 fee-earners, including Paul Schmidinger and Thomas Frad. The practice's recent work includes advising a real estate company on the purchase and development of 200,000 sq m of land (one of the largest developments in Europe); and advising on projects for the construction of a university campus and a major hospital in Vienna.

Wolf Theiss' 'exceptional' real estate practice is an 'indispensable asset' and noted for its 'in-depth knowledge' and 'very constructive' approach. In response to current market conditions, the firm created a subsidiary service dedicated to real estate restructurings, primarily for banks and other financial institutions. Elsewhere, it advised Abercrombie & Fitch on its entry into the Austrian market and its opening of stores in Vienna, Graz and Salzburg. Peter Oberlechner provides 'very target-oriented' advice, and Lothar Wachter is 'first rate'.

Noted for its ability to handle complex matters, **Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte** has 'particularly strong resources in many disciplines',

REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

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Wolf Theiss ◊

Binder Grösswang Rechtsanwälte ◊ 2
CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati ◊
CMS ◊
DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach ◊
Dorda Brugger Jordis ◊
Schoenherr

Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH 3
Brauneis Klausner Prändl Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
Doralt Seist & Csoklich
Eisenberger & Herzog ◊
Nemetschke Huber Koloseus Attorneys at Law ◊

Arnold Rechtsanwalte GmbH
Brand Rechtsanwalte GmbH
Eversheds Austria
Fellner Wratzfeld & Partners ◊
Fiebinger Polak Leon Rechtsanwälte ◊
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Graf & Pitkowit ◊
Graf Patsch Taucher Rechtsanwälte ◊
PHHV Prochaska Heine Havranek Vavrovsky Rechtsanwälte ◊
Saxinger, Chalupsky & Partners Rechtsanwälte GmbH (SCWP Schindhelm) ◊
Siemer-Siegl-Füreder & Partner, Rechtsanwälte ◊
TaylorWessing e|n|w|c Attorneys at Law ◊

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and impresses with its 'analytical, original approach to problem solving'. In 2012 it saw an increase in instructions from the CEE region, and, on the domestic front, advised the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB Immobilien) in negotiations concerning its development of a new railway project in an urban district. Corporate lawyer Tibor Fabian heads the team, which added three new associates in 2012. Starbucks Coffee Austria and Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen are also clients.

CHSH Cerha Hempel Spiegelfeld Hlawati is 'very fast when needed', with 'excellent business acumen'. Its standout clients are Zurich Group, for which it recently acted on the enforcement of claims concerning a construction project in CEE; and Lidl Austria, which it assisted on the development of new shop locations. On the public side, it acted for state-owned ASFINAG in proceedings relating to the reconstruction of motorways. Manfred Ton is 'an excellent contract attorney', and Peter Vcelouch is 'an excellent mediator' capable of 'profound case analysis'.

'A very good firm', **CMS** assisted construction firm Strabag on the financing of a retail park in Slovenia, and on environmental issues relating to a power plant in Austria. It also

OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

BLS Rechtsanwälte (Attorneys at Law) Boller Langhammer Schubert KG
bvp Hügel Rechtsanwälte OG ◊
Baier Rechtsanwälte ◊
Eckert Fries Prokopp Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Gassauer-Fleissner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
Hasch & Partner Anwaltsgesellschaft mbH
Hausmaninger Kletter Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Herbst Kinsky Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
Höhne, In der Maur & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH
Lansky, Ganzger & Partner Rechtsanwälte GmbH ◊
monlaw Mondl Leuthner Rechtsanwälte ◊
Neudorfer Rechtsanwälte
Schramm Öhler Rechtsanwälte ◊

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assisted Louis Vuitton on leasing matters for its flagship store in Vienna and on one aspect of the development of the Semmering Basistunnel, Austria's largest railway tunnel. The firm recently promoted Johannes Hysek and Thomas Hamerl to partner.

In 2012, Oskar Winkler took over from Birgit Harasser as head of real estate at **DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach**. The 'commendably thorough' team acted for the US Department of State on a residential project in Vienna, and for Europa Capital Partners on the sale of an office complex worth €80m.

The 'fast' and 'flexible' team at **Dorda Brugger Jordis** has 'an economic and solution-oriented approach', and 'a good international network'. It advised established client Wolford AG on an additional plot purchase in Slovenia. On the construction side, it is active on the contentious side, and recently represented an investment company in a dispute over major building defects. Stefan Artner is noted for his 'professional knowledge and emotional intelligence'.

The 'very collegial' **Schoenherr** works to the 'highest standards' and provides 'excellent, to-the-point advice'. HYPO NOE Gruppe Bank instructed the firm on its acquisition of First Facility, which operates over 250 real estate projects in Austria and across the CEE region. Other active clients in 2012 were Primark Stores, Clarks Shoes, and Österreichische Bundesbahn. Michael Lagler is 'a knowledgeable and calm adviser' with 'a strong team behind him'.

Benn-Ibler Rechtsanwälte GmbH continued to assist an Austrian hotel group on the financial aspects of a property acquisition in central London. Practice head Stefan Eder also advised Erste Group Bank on the management of two loans for its real estate portfolio.