

COMPANY DETAILS

Company: Wilhelm Avocats
 Name: Dr. Christophe Wilhelm
 Email: cwilhelm@wilhelm-avocats.ch
 Web Address: www.wilhelm-avocats.ch
 Address: Av. de Rumine 13, PO Box 7781, CH-1002 Lausanne, Switzerland

25 Years of Swiss Business Law

Wilhelm Avocats is a boutique law firm which specialises in Swiss business law – specifically advising businesses on contract, commercial, labour, financial and IP law.

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ounder of Wilhelm Avocats, Christophe Wilhelm has accumulated over 20 years of commercial law practice. Doctor in Law (Ph.D.) from the University of Lausanne Law School, LL.M. (class of '95) from the University of Michigan Law School, Christophe has been a lecturer at the University of Neuchâtel since 2011. He was awarded the "International Law Office Client Choice Award 2011" prize in the category of company law for Switzerland. His experience in commercial law is recognised and recommended by the Chambers and Legal 500 website. Recently, he was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in Switzerland 2017 in the field of Corporate Law.

Christophe is a regular adviser to listed companies for the implementation of the Minder initiative with reference to abusive compensations. He was appointed as independent attorney for the shareholders for two major listed Swiss companies. He has extensive experience in the subject of commercial litigation, both before courts of arbitration and ordinary civil courts of law in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. Also, Christophe has acquired considerable experience in international arbitration proceedings (ICC rules of arbitration and Swiss Rules of International Arbitration) and practises in French, German and English. With recognized experience in business law in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, Christophe has worked as an experienced practicing attorney for 25 years. Here, he explains more about the firm and his role within the company.

"We are a boutique law firm which specialises in Swiss business law and is composed of experienced lawyers capable of advising our clients on the complete range of legal services needed to support their business operations such as the execution of contracts, the setting-up and legal management of their businesses, employment/labour law and human resources management, intellectual property management, civil and business disputes litigations before the ordinary and arbitration courts.

"We are advising small and middle-size enterprises active in Switzerland and abroad, whilst also advising foreign companies willing to make business in Switzerland. We enjoy working with entrepreneurs and from a legal view point, we are keen to make them succeed."

Wilhelm Avocats always maintains neutrality, confidentiality and fairness in their cases. Due to this approach, clients are ensured the best satisfaction whilst ensuring great value for money, as Christophe explains.

"Our firm is bound by the professional secrecy applicable to members of the Swiss bar association. This professional secrecy is the strictest applicable under Swiss laws. It allows members of the Bar to oppose disclosure, even before a criminal prosecutor or a civil court of laws. We adopt a pragmatic way of solving issues and always consider the economic cost of our work. At Wilhelm Avocats, we prefer a pragmatic solution to a detailed but useless legal opinion."

The industry has seen various changes which Wilhelm Avocats has recognised and adapted to. "The number of lawyers has increased dramatically in Switzerland. This has led to some colleagues multiplying their operations instead of focusing on the most effective way to solve their client's case. Our important client-base allows us to adopt a more straightforward approach as we are convinced that a satisfied client is a more valuable asset than a never-ending trial."

To enable the firm to stay innovative, Christophe and the rest of the staff ensure they acquire more knowledge in their field. This approach helps Wilhelm Avocats stand out from their competitors.

"We attend seminars held in our specialised fields. I am teaching a master class on business law at the University of Neuchâtel, which makes me close to the most recent trends and jurisprudence in this legal field. As a company, we are convinced to be more pragmatic, economically oriented and open to foreign jurisdiction and to cross-border issues than the vast majority of our colleagues around in the Western part of Switzerland."

In the long term, Wilhelm Avocats plans to work with more clients from the UK, with Christophe ending his interview by saying, "We think we are close to their interests and concerns and are keen to help them develop their business ventures in and from Switzerland."



Wilhelm
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