

Christophe Emonet

Partner
Attorney at law
Head Litigation & Arbitration

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Christophe Emonet heads the Litigation Group and the White-collar crime practice. He specializes in (inter)national banking/commercial disputes & investigations, regulatory & white-collar crime matters (corporate/financial fraud & corruption). He has broad experience in asset recovery and cross-border bankruptcies. He also advises clients in complex succession/estate matters. He represents financial institutions, corporations, states, state companies and HNWI's that request his assistance for strategic matters and complex negotiations.

Christophe Emonet has more than 20 years of experience in complex banking/commercial disputes, regulatory matters, investigations and insolvency.

Highlight cases led by Christophe Emonet include representing more than 40 banks in the world-wide restructuring and orderly liquidation of a multinational Swiss headquartered commodities trading company as well as assisting a foreign banker in the Parmalat investigations (Switzerland and Italy) and an HNWI in the Swiss and SFO investigations related to British Aerospace, both resulting in prosecuting authorities renouncing to bring charges. More recently, Christophe Emonet represented a public Swiss listed bank in the largest ever criminal investigation (ten years of preliminary investigations followed by a five-month daily trial) and commercial dispute, against former directors and auditors in relation to a 3 billion Swiss franc loss. He also represented Swiss banks in the DOJ Tax Programme for Swiss Banks and assisted a bank in the context of the sale of its offshore and fiduciary activities from over 40 countries, in providing a second expert review on regulatory, compliance and cross-selling issues. Current assignments include leading the defence of the former CEO of a foreign pension fund in large scale Swiss and foreign investigations and commercial disputes, representing several foreign states and state

companies in major mutual assistance and national criminal proceedings, as well as commercial disputes and worldwide recovery actions.

Christophe Emonet's expertise is recognized for over two decades by the leading legal directories, including Chambers, The Legal 500, Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal), Best Lawyers and IFLR1000. He is ranked as a leading practitioner for commercial and banking disputes and white-collar crime cases. He is also listed as an asset recovery and insolvency expert.

The Legal 500 describes him as a "superb, sensible and thoughtful practitioner who makes sure that his client's interests are pursued and protected." (The Legal 500, 2022). Clients and peers distinguish him as "an absolute superstar in the areas of commercial litigation and white-collar crime" (The Legal 500, 2023), and "extremely knowledgeable, responsive, and a great advocate and team leader" (Chambers & Partners, 2023).

Additional praise highlights his hands-on approach and dedication to his clients: "Christophe Emonet is a highly experienced and knowledgeable lawyer. He is a hands-on partner, who is invested in his clients' cases." (The Legal 500, 2022), "He is very fast and a great negotiator. He is tough with adverse parties and he is a brilliant strategist. (Chambers & Partners, 2022), "by far the most outstanding professional we've had the pleasure of working with. His decisiveness and insight has garnered faith and reverence from all parties, including the opposing counsel" (The Legal 500, 2021).

Directories have emphasised his strengths, describing him as "A very good brain and is very commercial and pragmatic." (Chambers & Partners, 2020), "A very good brain and he is very commercial and pragmatic" (Chambers & Partners, 2020), a "top practitioner, who deeply cares about his clients" (The Legal 500, 2019), and praising his "deep knowledge of the law, razor sharp advice, and the fact that he helps you to put your best interest forward" (Chambers & Partners, 2019).

Earlier quotes emphasize him as being "highly strategic, very bright and relentless in defence of his clients" (Chambers & Partners 2018; The Legal 500, 2016/2015), "a great negotiator" (The Legal 500, 2018), who is "striking in the court room as well as in negotiations" (Chambers & Partners, 2016; The Legal 500, 2014) and a "fierce advocate" (Chambers & Partners, 2015).

Christophe Emonet graduated from the University of Geneva in 1996 (MLaw), was admitted to the Bar in 1998 and became a partner in 2004. Prior to joining Pestalozzi in 1999, Christophe Emonet worked with barristers and solicitors in London. As part of his cursus, he also served for one year as foreign associate in two major law firms in Madrid and Buenos Aires.

Career

2004	Partner at Pestalozzi
1999	Associate at Pestalozzi Foreign Associate at Gomez Acebo & Pombo (Madrid) and Beccar Varela (Buenos Aires)
1998	Admitted to the Swiss Bar (Geneva)
1996	Foreign trainee at Solicitors and Barristers in London
1995	Graduated from University of Geneva (MLaw)

Languages

- French
- English
- Spanish

Practice Areas

- Banking & Finance
- Investigation
- Compliance
- Financial Services
- Litigation & Arbitration
- Private Clients
- Restructuring & Insolvency
- White-Collar Crime

Membership

- Swiss Bar Association (SAV)
- Geneva Bar Association (ODA)
- Geneva Association of Business Law (AIBL)
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Swiss Institute for Directors and Officers (ISDA)