Oliver Widmer

Partner
Attorney at law
Head Financial Services

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Oliver Widmer is a partner and head of Pestalozzi's Financial Services Group and a member of the Private Clients Group. He primarily advises domestic and international banks, financial institutions, wealth management service providers and high net worth individuals on banking, finance and capital markets matters.

Oliver Widmer graduated from the University of Zurich (lic. iur.) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (M.Sc., Law and Accounting). He was admitted to the bar in Switzerland in 2000 and as a solicitor (not practising) of England and Wales in 2003, is an authorised issuer's representative at the SIX Swiss Exchange and is recognised as trust and estate practitioner (TEP) by STEP. Oliver Widmer joined Pestalozzi in 2001. In 2003/2004, he was seconded to head the Swiss law and compliance department of one major US investment bank.

He is widely recognised as a leading Banking and Finance practitioner and is ranked by The Legal 500 as a Leading Individual, with further recognition in Capital Markets, FinTech and Private Clients. He is also ranked by Chambers & Partners Global and Europe in Banking and Finance, Capital Markets, Investment Funds and FinTech, by Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) in Banking and Capital Markets, and by Best Lawyers, which named him Lawyer of the Year 2024 in both Banking and Finance and Finance Law. In addition, the team led by Oliver Widmer was awarded "Law Firm of the Year – Banking & Finance" at the LegalcommunityCH Awards 2025 and 2026.

Market Perception

Oliver Widmer is excellent and very user-friendly. He is very smart, responsive, commercial and has excellent product knowledge. (The Legal 500, 2026)

Oliver Widmer is unflappable under pressure and consistently delivers excellent advice. His advice is always pragmatic and the business loves him. (Chambers Global, 2026)

What sets Oliver apart from his peers is his ability to combine top-tier legal knowledge with a highly commercial, solution-oriented approach. (Chambers Global, 2026)

Oliver Widmer is widely respected for his deep expertise in investment funds. (Chambers Global, 2026)

Oliver Widmer is a skilled and nimble lawyer and a good listener. Our collaboration with him was very pleasant. (Chambers Global, 2026)

Oliver Widmer is super smart, responsive and has great product and market knowledge (Chambers Global, 2026)

Oliver Widmer is very responsive, professional and easy to work with. He is also quick to support us, understands our needs quickly and delivers excellent work. (Chambers Global, 2026)

Oliver Widmer has a very good knowledge of the matter and he is customer- and result-oriented. (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

Oliver Widmer is one of the leading Swiss lawyers. We love to work with him, very skilled and pragmatic. (The Legal 500 Client Feedback, 2022)

Oliver Widmer is always up-to-date and his advice is very helpful. He is available 24/7 and one of the top lawyers in his area. (The Legal 500 Client Feedback, 2022)

Oliver is key to us. We get decisions from him in no time. (Chambers FinTech, 2025)

Oliver Widmer provides exceptionally constructive legal advice. He has an in-depth knowledge of law and the market. (The Legal 500 Client Feedback, 2021)

Oliver Widmer is an extremely committed lawyer, with a strong experience and knowledge of the banking business. (The Legal 500 Client Feedback, 2021)

Career

2009	Partner at Pestalozzi
2008	Trust and estate practitioner (TEP)
2003	Solicitor of England and Wales (not practicing) Head Legal and Compliance Merrill Lynch Capital Markets
2002	M.Sc. Law and Accounting, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
2001	Associate at Pestalozzi
2000	Zurich bar exam
1998	lic. iur., University of Zurich

Languages

- German
- English
- French

Practice Areas

- Banking & Finance
- Swiss Financial Market Regulation
- ESG
- Blockchain & Crypto Assets
- Capital Markets
- Compliance
- Financial Services
- Private Clients

Membership

- Swiss Bar Association (SAV)
- Zurich Bar Association (ZAV)
- ICC Commission on Arbitration
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- STEP
- Swiss-British Chamber of Commerce (BSCC)
- Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce (SICC)
- Many more