Christophe Emonet

Partner
Attorney at law
Head Litigation & Arbitration and White-Collar Crime

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Christophe Emonet heads the Litigation and the White-Collar Crime groups. As a leading Swiss litigation and white-collar crime lawyer, he specialises in national and international banking, commercial and corporate liability disputes, as well as investigations and regulatory and white-collar crime matters, including corporate and financial fraud and corruption. Furthermore, Christophe has extensive experience in asset recovery and cross-border bankruptcies and advises clients in complex estate matters.

His clients include major financial institutions, multinational corporations, states and state-owned companies, as well as high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) who request his support and strategic guidance for complex matters and negotiations.

With more than 20 years of experience, Christophe has handled some of the most complex banking and commercial disputes, regulatory matters, investigations and insolvency proceedings.

Past and current work highlights

Represented a foreign banker in the Swiss and Italian investigations related to the Parmalat, resulting in the prosecuting authorities deciding not to pursue charges.

Advised and represented a high-net-worth individual in the investigations of the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland and the UK Serious Fraud Office (SFO) related to British Aerospace, culminating in prosecuting authorities deciding not to pursue charges.

Representing 40+ banks in the global restructuring and orderly liquidation of a major commodities trading company headquartered in Switzerland.

Defended a public Swiss-listed bank through the largest-ever criminal investigation (with a five-month trial and multi-year pre-investigation phase) and commercial dispute against former directors and auditors in relation to a loss of 3 billion Swiss francs.

Represented Swiss banks in the U.S. Department of Justice Swiss Bank Program and advised a bank on the sale of its offshore and fiduciary activities across 40+ jurisdictions, conducting a strategic review of regulatory, compliance and cross-selling issues

Leading the defence in large-scale Swiss and foreign investigations, commercial disputes and worldwide recovery actions for the former CEO of a major foreign pension fund and now his estate.

Representing a giant oil company, a victim of one of the largest ever corruption scandals, in all its recovery civil actions and in numerous ongoing criminal proceedings in Switzerland.

Assisting a foreign public investment fund in the context of a multi-billion-franc scam, including related banking disputes and recovery actions.

Assisting one of the major shareholders of a family-held multinational on estate planning issues.

Conducting a multitude of internal investigations for foreign and Swiss corporations.

Market Perception

Christophe Emonet does not give up and keeps fighting. He makes the client's problems his problems (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

Christophe Emonet is a superstar, second to none in his broad field of expertise. And yet he remains very approachable and modest, a pleasure to work with. (The Legal 500, 2026)

Christophe Emonet is incredibly tenacious and very bright. He is really very focused on finding solutions and is very creative in that sense. He is the person you really want in your corner. (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

Christophe Emonet is in a class by himself. I have worked with many Swiss counsel and Christophe is a standout. (The Legal 500, 2026)

Christophe Emonet is sharp, honest and strategic. He gives clear, realistic advice and does not overpromise. We trust him, especially on sensitive international matters. (Chambers & Partners, 2026)

Over time, Christophe Emonet became our trusted advisor. He has unmatched experience for complex commercial disputes and a gift to shape and lead the best team. He has an immense knowledge of various areas of law, which allows him to identify issues and find solutions like no other lawyer. If you need full dedication, creativity and unparalleled sense of strategy, he is your lawyer. (The Legal 500, 2026)

Christophe Emonet is a very sophisticated lawyer who is adept in both civil and criminal litigation. His international experience is impressive even by the usual Swiss standards and he is a go-to lawyer for bet-the-company litigation. (The Legal 500, 2026)

Christophe Emonet leads the team and is a real powerhouse - an inventive and tenacious lawyer who fights hard for his clients and doesn't give up. (The Legal 500, 2026)

Christophe Emonet is able to think about international problems on a strategic level. He thinks about what will work for the client, with proper, strategic judgement. (Chambers & Partners, 2025)

Christophe Emonet is probably one of Switzerland's top 3 lawyers in his chosen fields. He has an immense legal culture, an innate sense of strategy and unrivalled negotiating skills. We systematically retain him for complex, non-standard cases, in which he excels, whether they are of a litigious, investigative or transactional nature. (The Legal 500, 2025)

He has an immense legal culture, an innate sense of strategy and unrivalled negotiating skills. (The Legal 500, 2025)

Christophe Emonet is a standout leader in this area and has exceptional experience in coordinating international defence strategy across civil and common law jurisdictions. (The Legal 500, 2024)

Christophe Emonet is a superstar who thinks through all the issues and leaves no stone unturned in finding an answer. (The Legal 500, 2024)

Christophe is a real star: extremely knowledgeable, responsive, and a great advocate and team leader. (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

He has an excellent sense of how to anticipate and navigate difficult issues. (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

Christophe Emonet is superb. His experience and judgment are second to none. (The Legal 500, 2021)

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

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)