Franz J. Kessler

Partner
Attorney at law, Dr. iur., LL.M.
Head Energy Law

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Franz J. Kessler, partner at Pestalozzi, is a Corporate/M&A lawyer in Switzerland and heads Pestalozzi's Energy Law practice. He advises clients on corporate governance issues, private and public M&A transactions and complex energy law matters, with a particular focus on agreements, concessions and energy regulation, including hydropower concessions. He regularly advises domestic and international clients on utilities transactions and governance, energy-related public law procedures and real estate energy projects. Franz J. Kessler is an authorized issuer's representative at the SIX Swiss Exchange and is listed in Chambers Europe, Switzerland Energy section.

Franz J. Kessler advises clients primarily in the energy sector and public private partnerships, with a particular focus on public utilities and infrastructure projects, such as energy production and transmission, healthcare institutions, datacenters, etc. He also has broad experience in the governance of major private as well as government-affiliated associations and foundations.

With more than 20 years of experience, Franz J. Kessler provides legal advice for entrepreneurs, boards of directors, companies, and joint ventures in both the private and in the public sector. As a corporate and commercial lawyer in Switzerland, he advises clients across a wide range of industry and service sectors, working closely with all other practice groups of Pestalozzi to deliver integrated legal solutions.

Past and current highlights

20 years of service as secretary to the board of a major hydropower company in Switzerland.

Representation of hydropower companies in procedures with ElCom regarding regulatory issues, including cross-border and international treaty issues.

Advice to Swiss hydropower companies in developing Switzerland's most important projects to increase hydropower production.

Advice regarding the mid-term installation of a gas power plant in Switzerland as winter reserve capacity.

Advice for the establishment of datacenters and other energy-oriented infrastructure in Switzerland.

Advice regarding the secondary listing in Switzerland of a foreign company

Merger and restructuring of healthcare institutions.

Franz J. Kessler studied at the University of Zurich, graduating summa cum laude as licentiatus iuris in 1997. He received his Doctor of Laws degree in 2000. He also studied at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA (USA), graduating with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in 2003.

Dr. Franz J. Kessler regularly publishes in his fields of expertise and lectures for the Zurich University LL.M. program in International Business Law, as well as for other professional organizations.

Market Perception

Franz Kessler is strategically excellent. He has a good network and offers good client service. (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

He is an extremely competent personality on whom you can rely at all times. (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

Franz Kessler's client service and general level of service is very strong." (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

Career

2020	Partner at Pestalozzi
2004	Partner at von der Crone Attorneys at Law
2003	Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA (USA): LL.M.
2000	Associate at von der Crone Attorneys at Law University of Zurich: Dr. iur.
1999	Bar Admission: Switzerland
1997	Junior Associate at business law firm in Zurich University of Zurich: lic. iur.

Languages

- German
- English
- French

Practice Areas

- Corporate / M&A
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Private Equity & Venture Capital
- Compliance
- ESG
- Capital Markets
- Blockchain & Crypto Assets
- Life Sciences
- Private Clients

Membership

- Swiss Bar Association (SAV)
- Zurich Bar Association (ZAV)
- Commission on Legal Fees of the Zurich Bar Association (Chairman)
- Zurich Law Association