

About us

Best-in-class legal services, made in Switzerland

Since 1911, Pestalozzi has focused as a commercial law firm on demanding mandates for national and international clients. Our lawyers in our offices in Zurich and Geneva are characterised by their strength and empathy and are known for their independent approach in advising and representing their clients.

Our expertise

As our client, you benefit from the know-how of over 150 partners, attorneys and support staff. With practice groups and expertise in all areas of business law, we are able to form customized teams to meet any challenge.

Our contacts with our international top-tier network of law firms and lawyers and our membership in Lex Mundi (www.lexmundi.com) give you access to top-quality legal services in jurisdictions worldwide.

LexMundi
Member

Our clients

We work primarily with large domestic and foreign corporations but also assist medium-sized companies in the following sectors and industries, among others:

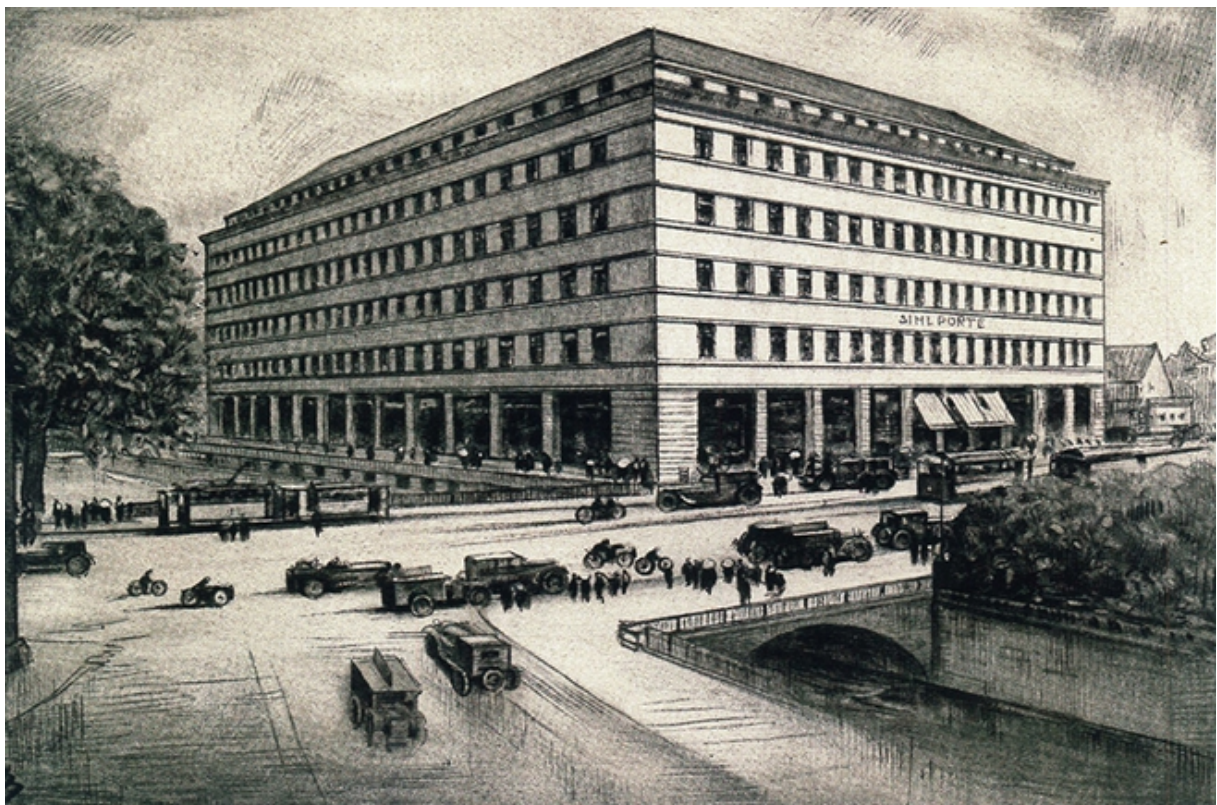
- Automotive
- Aviation
- Banking
- Biotechnology
- Chemicals
- Commodities
- Electronics
- Financial services
- Fintech
- Food and beverage
- Government & public sector
- Industrial manufacturing
- Information technology and software
- Insurance
- Life sciences
- Luxury goods
- Mechanical engineering
- Media
- Medical devices
- Pharmaceuticals
- Power & utilities
- Private equity
- Real estate
- Shipping and logistics
- Telecommunications
- Textiles
- Trading and retail
- Travel and entertainment

Our history

Founded in 1911 by Dr. Josef Henggeler, our firm is the longest established of all of Switzerland's major law firms. It subsequently grew and flourished under the management of Dr. Anton Pestalozzi and Dr. Paul Gmür, providing top-flight legal advice and services to a wide range of national and international clients.

In 1992, we extended our geographical reach and opened offices in Geneva.

Since 2008 the firm has operated under the name Pestalozzi Attorneys at Law Ltd.



Expertise and Industries

Blockchain & Crypto Assets

Innovating with Legal Certainty We advise technology-driven clients on the full spectrum of legal and regulatory issues arising from distributed ledger technology (DLT), tokenization, and digital asset ecosystems. Our counsel is rooted in a deep understanding of the evolving Swiss and global regulatory landscape and tailored to support innovation with legal certainty.

Capital Markets

The Pestalozzi Capital Markets practice group provides domestic and international clients with a full suite of Swiss capital markets legal advisory services.

Competition & Trade

The Competition & Trade practice group provides Swiss and international clients in all industries with a full range of legal advice related to Swiss and European competition law as well as trade regulation-related issues (WTO, customs, registrations).

Compliance

In an increasingly regulated business environment, compliance – and, in particular, compliance management – is assuming greater importance for companies at both national and international level. Clients who work with us can count on professional legal support on all corporate, financial service and tax compliance matters, risk management issues and investigations, especially when these involve white-collar irregularities.

Corporate / M&A

The Corporate / M&A practice group provides domestic and foreign clients with a full range of Swiss corporate and commercial legal advisory services (contract law, corporate law, corporate services, M&A as well as capital market law).

Employment & Pensions

The Pestalozzi Employment practice group assists Swiss employers and senior executives in every aspect of Swiss employment, labor, immigration and pension law.

Energy

The Energy Law practice group provides a full range of Swiss contractual, corporate, financing and regulatory advisory services to Swiss and international clients in the energy sector. Our experts are experienced in representing clients in administrative procedures with the regulatory authorities as well as in national and international litigation or arbitration proceedings.

Environment, Social, Governance (ESG)

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters have become a strategic priority for companies, while at the same time regulation has become increasingly complex. We help clients successfully navigating the multidimensional and complex ESG landscape.

Financial Services

We offer a full range of transactional, regulatory and investigative services to the financial industry in Switzerland and abroad.

Insurance

The Insurance practice group provides a full range of regulatory, transactional, commercial and dispute resolution services to Swiss and international clients in the insurance sector.

IP & TMT

Our IP & TMT practice group provides results-oriented, effective and feasible solutions for all aspects of intellectual property (IP), unfair competition and data protection law, as well as IT, telecommunications and media and technology (TMT) law.

Life Sciences

The Life Sciences practice group provides industry-specific legal and tax advice to companies operating in the field of life sciences technologies. Our practice areas range from biotechnology and medical technology to the pharmaceutical industry, covering diagnostics, personalised medicine, dietary supplements, cosmetics, food processing, biochemistry and medical devices and equipment, as well as other regulated products and services. In addition, the experts of our Life Sciences Practice Group support organisations and institutions in research and development projects, processing and use of digital data, technology transfers, commercialisation of intellectual property rights as well as the establishment of distribution structures.

Litigation & Arbitration

The Litigation & Arbitration practice group has a long-standing reputation for offering superior advisory services to domestic and international clients across a broad range of commercial, corporate, and financial issues. We represent states and state-owned entities, businesses from large international corporations to small and medium-size enterprises, together with private clients, in complex civil, criminal, and regulatory disputes at national and international level before state courts, authorities, and arbitral tribunals.

Private Clients

Our Private Clients practice group addresses the needs of Swiss and non-Swiss individuals and families, foundations and trusts, private banks, family offices and other wealth management service providers. We offer sophisticated, tailor-made as well as administrative solutions designed to cover the legal, regulatory and tax aspects of global planning, coordination and structuring of private wealth and business assets.

Private Equity & Venture Capital

Our Private Equity and Venture Capital practice group advises clients on the full spectrum of private equity and venture capital transactions – from initial investment through to exit.

Real Estate & Environment

We offer clients a comprehensive portfolio of services for all kinds of building projects, from industrial plant to offices, hotels and restaurants through to residential housing. Apart from construction, our interdisciplinary expertise covers a vast range of real estate-related services from portfolio transactions and due diligence reviews to commercial and residential rent, acquisition, financing, sale, sale and lease-back agreements, together with many related areas listed below. Further, we regularly advise public authorities and bidders on public procurement matters.

Tax

The Pestalozzi Tax practice group advises clients on a complete range of Swiss tax matters and international tax issues.

Ludivine Boisard

Partner, Geneva
Attorney at law

Ludivine Boisard is a partner and member of the Financial Services, the Real Estate & Environment and the Corporate/M&A Groups in Geneva. Her practice covers all types of domestic and cross-border banking transactions, with an emphasis on financing transactions. She also advises clients on financial services regulations, including regulatory and contractual issues relating to the establishment and the business of banks, securities dealers, asset managers and exchanges.



Michèle Burnier

Partner, Geneva
Attorney at law

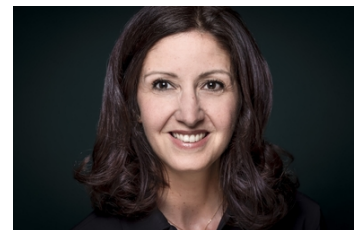
Michèle Burnier is a partner of Pestalozzi's IP&TMT group in Geneva. Her fields of expertise include intellectual property, including geographical indications, TRIPS Agreement, unfair competition, data protection, advertising and e-commerce law, IT and telecommunication as well as administrative and contract law. She regularly represents clients before Swiss civil, or criminal courts in relation to her IP&TMT practice.



Lara Dorigo

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M. in Trade Regulation
Head IP & TMT

Lara Dorigo is partner and heads the Intellectual Property group at Pestalozzi. She has profound experience in every field of intellectual property law with a particular affinity for technology-related issues. Her practice focuses on IP enforcement and defence, technology transfer agreements and branding strategies.



Sarah Drukarch

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at Law

Sarah Drukarch is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's IP & TMT, Life Sciences, as well as Corporate/M&A practice groups in Zurich. She specializes in intellectual property, with a particular focus on life sciences, and also frequently advises clients on matters of unfair competition, data protection, food and healthcare as well as IT and media law. Sarah's expertise has been recognized by her continued inclusion as Rising Star for Switzerland by IP Stars since 2020.



Christophe Emonet

Partner, Geneva
Attorney at law
Head Litigation & Arbitration



Christophe Emonet heads the Geneva Litigation & Arbitration 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 represents financial institutions, corporations, states, state companies and HNWIs that request his assistance for strategic matters and complex negotiations.

Petra Hanselmann

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M.



Petra Hanselmann is a partner and member of the Corporate / M&A group in Zurich. She advises clients in mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions and corporate reorganisations, including pre-transaction restructurings and post-acquisition integrations. Petra Hanselmann has broad experience in cross-border M&A, carve-outs and joint venture transactions in particular. She also routinely advises on general corporate and corporate governance matters.

Nicolas C. Herren

Partner, Geneva
Attorney at law, LL.M.



Nicolas C. Herren is a partner and a member of the Litigation & Arbitration group in Geneva. He specializes in national and cross-border banking/commercial disputes, in particular stemming out of contractual and regulatory issues. His activity covers also enforcement proceedings such as complex cross-border bankruptcies or recognition of foreign judgments. In addition, he has a broad experience in white collar crime and international mutual assistance in criminal and administrative matters.

Andrea Huber

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M.

Andrea Huber is a Partner at Pestalozzi and a member of the firm's Financial Services Group. She specializes in banking and financial regulation, including asset management and investment funds, fintech, insurance, internal and regulatory investigations, enforcement proceedings, and white-collar crime. Andrea frequently represents clients before the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA), the SIX Swiss Exchange, and the CDB Supervisory Board (VSB Aufsichtskommission).



Alexandra C. Johnson

Partner, Geneva
Attorney at law, LL.M.

Alexandra Johnson is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's Litigation & Arbitration team in Geneva. She focuses on representing clients in international arbitrations and complex commercial disputes. She also frequently advises clients on Swiss contract law and represents parties in challenge proceedings against arbitral awards and in enforcement proceedings before Swiss courts. Besides her work as party counsel, Alexandra Johnson regularly sits as arbitrator under various arbitration rules.



Remo Keller

Partner, Zurich
Swiss Certified Tax Expert

Remo Keller is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's Tax Practice Group. He is a highly skilled tax expert with extensive experience in Swiss and international taxation. He has acquired comprehensive knowledge in tax consulting through his involvement in various acquisitions, mergers, spin-offs, reorganizations, relocations, and tax relief projects for corporations but at the same time by providing comprehensive individual tax advice to HNWI and private clients.



Franz J. Kessler

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



Franz J. Kessler is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's Corporate / M&A Group as well as head of Pestalozzi's Energy Law practice. He advises clients in corporate governance issues, private and public M&A transactions, energy law (including hydropower concessions and regulatory issues), public procedural law and real estate law. He is an authorized issuer's representative at the SIX Swiss Exchange. Franz J. Kessler is listed in Chambers Europe, Switzerland Energy section.

Michael Kramer

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M.



Michael Kramer is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's Litigation and Arbitration group in Zurich. He specializes in commercial litigation and arbitration as well as in cases of international judicial assistance in cross-border disputes and white collar crimes. Michael Kramer also serves as an arbitrator in institutional arbitrations under various rules (such as ICC Rules and Swiss Rules) and ad hoc arbitrations. He is listed as a leading individual in Legal 500 for litigation.

Christoph Lang

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law
Chair of Pestalozzi, Head Corporate / M&A



Christoph Lang is chair of Pestalozzi and heads Pestalozzi's Corporate / M&A Group in Zurich. His preferred practice areas are corporate law with a particular focus on corporate governance, M&A, Swiss and European antitrust law and insurance law. He represents major Swiss and multinational corporations in domestic and cross-border M&A transactions and joint ventures, and frequently advises clients on policy and governance issues.

Christian Leuenberger

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, Dr. iur.

Christian is a partner of Pestalozzi's Corporate/M&A Group in Zurich and heads the Listed Companies Focus Group. He specializes in domestic and international M&A transactions, with a focus on public takeovers, as well as in Equity Capital Markets. He advises Swiss and foreign companies, investors and executives on stock exchange and capital market regulation, as well as on general corporate law and issues of corporate governance. Christian is also a leading expert on insider trading regulation.



Andreas Lienhard

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at Law, Dr. iur., CAS in Arbitration

Andreas Lienhard is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's Litigation & Arbitration Group as well as of the Employment & Pensions Group in Zurich. He specializes in national and international commercial law litigations, debt enforcement and insolvency proceedings and arbitration.



Michael Lips

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at Law, Dr. iur., LL.M., Certified Specialist SBA
Construction & Real Estate Law
Head Real Estate & Environment

Michael Lips, Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law, is partner and head of Pestalozzi's Real Estate and Environment practice. He has long-standing experience in real estate, environmental and public procurement law. For years, he worked exclusively in this field, handling numerous transactions, contracts, public procurement and regulatory matters. He frequently publishes in his fields of expertise and he is recognized by Chambers, Legal 500, Best Lawyers and others.



Fabian Martens

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M., LL.M., MA

Fabian Martens is partner and a member of the Competition & Trade group at Pestalozzi. He has profound experience in Swiss and European competition law/antitrust with a strong background in the economic underpinnings. In addition, he has extensive expertise in public procurement law and represents bidders and contracting authorities at both the federal and the cantonal level. In 2021, Fabian was awarded the Lexology Client Choice Award in Competition Law for Switzerland.



Florian Mohs

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, Dr. iur., LL.M.
Head Arbitration

Florian Mohs is a partner of Pestalozzi's Litigation & Arbitration Group and head of the Arbitration Group in Zurich. He acts as counsel in international commercial arbitrations and in court proceedings in Switzerland. Florian handles a wide range of commercial and corporate disputes, having broad experience in advising trading companies in commodities disputes, industrial companies in engineering and construction disputes, and pharmaceutical companies in licensing matters.



Martin L. Mueller

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, Dr. iur., LL.M., Fachanwalt SAV Arbeitsrecht
Head Employment, Executive Compensation & Pensions

Martin L. Mueller heads the Employment, Executive Compensation & Pension Group of Pestalozzi. His practice focuses on transactional employment and pensions issues, as well as hiring, incentivizing and exiting senior executives.



Pascal Richard

Partner, Zurich

Attorney at law, LL.M., Solicitor of England & Wales (n.p.)

Pascal Richard is a partner and member of the Corporate / M&A group in Zurich. He has broad experience in corporate transactions including acquisitions, mergers, divestitures, joint ventures and reorganisations in various industries with a particular focus on the financial services, fintech and technology sectors.



Severin Roelli

Partner, Zurich

Attorney at law, LL.M.

Severin Roelli is a partner and member of Pestalozzi's Corporate/M&A Group in Zurich. He has advised both foreign and domestic clients on private and public M&A transactions, acquisition finance, capital market, securities and stock exchange law, corporate reorganizations, joint venture and general corporate law. He is an authorized issuer's representative at the SIX Swiss Exchange.



Thomas Rohner

Partner, Zurich

Attorney at law, Dr. iur., LL.M.

Thomas Rohner is a partner and represents clients in litigation before Swiss courts and in international arbitration proceedings. His practice focuses on all aspects of commercial and M&A disputes, judicial assistance, and asset tracing, often in a cross-border context and involving various industries (including banking, commodity trading, life sciences, pharmaceuticals, construction, and energy). He also acts as an arbitrator. Further, he specializes in estate and insolvency disputes.



Christian Roos

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, lic. iur.
Co-head Life Sciences

Christian Roos co-heads Pestalozzi's Life Sciences Group and is member of the Employment & Pensions Group. His fields of expertise include international trade law, contracts and life sciences, with a focus on pharmaceuticals and medical devices. He supports clients in M&A transactions and in corporate restructurings and has indepth experience in employment matters namely mass dismissals, social plan negotiations, contract negotiations, restrictive covenants etc.



Sébastien Roy

Partner, Geneva
Attorney at law

Sébastien Roy advises financial institutions, corporations and individuals on their transactions, contracts and operations. His practice focuses in particular on financing transactions, mergers and acquisitions and private equity. As part of his practice, Sébastien Roy is also regularly involved in debt and corporate restructurings.



Lukas Rusch

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M.

Lukas Rusch specializes in commercial disputes and investigations. He represents clients in arbitration proceedings and in state court litigation. His practice further covers setting aside proceedings against arbitral awards, enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards, and contentious aspects of insolvency proceedings. He also acts as an arbitrator.



Franz Schubiger

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, LL.M.
Co-Head Life Sciences



Franz Schubiger co-heads Pestalozzi's Life Sciences Group and is a member of the Corporate / M&A Group in Zurich. His practice focuses on corporate law, M&A, corporate finance, private equity and venture capital, complex restructurings as well as general contract and commercial law. He regularly advises in the fields of life sciences, including pharma, consumer healthcare and medtech, as well as in the consumer goods and retailing industries and on ICT, e-commerce and online business.

Beat Schwarz

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law



Beat Schwarz focuses on corporate and commercial law as well as on corporate and finance transactions, in particular M&A, private equity, venture capital, joint ventures, restructurings and debt capital markets. As part of his domestic and cross-border transaction advisory practice involving listed and non-listed companies, he is regularly involved in insurance and other financial services corporate, contract and regulatory work.

Jonas Sigrist

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law, Swiss Certified Tax Expert
Head of Tax Practice Group



Jonas Sigrist is a partner and head of Pestalozzi's Tax Practice Group. His area of practice involves a wide range of international and domestic tax matters. He has a particular focus on tax planning and structuring of international M&A transactions and corporate restructurings.

Oliver Widmer

Partner, Zurich
Attorney at law
Head Financial Services

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.



Christophe Berclaz

Counsel, Geneva
Attorney at law, MSc

Christophe Berclaz is a counsel and member of Pestalozzi's Litigation & Arbitration group in Geneva. He has built a strong practice in complex, cross-border litigation with a particular focus on multi-jurisdictional disputes. His expertise lies in white-collar crime, including asset tracing, recovery, and international mutual assistance in criminal matters.



Jean-Baptiste Lhôte

Counsel, Geneva
Attorney at law, LL.M.

Jean-Baptiste Lhôte is a counsel and member of Pestalozzi's Corporate/M&A and Financial Services Groups in Geneva.



Dario Marzorati

Counsel, Zurich
Attorney at Law, LL.M.

Dario Marzorati is a counsel and member of Pestalozzi's Litigation & Arbitration Group in Zurich. His practice focuses on commercial disputes and enforcement related matters. In addition, he regularly advises and represents parties in white collar criminal matters and other criminal proceedings of all kinds.



Markus Winkler

Counsel, Zurich
Attorney at law, Dr. iur., Dr. sc. math. ETH

Markus Winkler is Counsel working in our Zurich office. His practice focuses on the TMT and financial services including insurance sectors.



Paola Wullschleger

Counsel, Zurich
Attorney at law

Paola Wullschleger, Certified Specialist SBA Construction and Real Estate Law, is Counsel in Pestalozzi's Real Estate & Environment and Litigation & Arbitration Groups in Zurich. She advises companies, private clients as well as public authorities in real estate issues, including lease, building rights, easements, sales of real property as well as building and other work contracts and public procurement issues. Moreover, she has long-standing experience in real estate and commercial litigation and arbitration as well as public law proceedings.

