

Dr. Wilhelm Hartung

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Dr. Wilhelm Hartung is a partner in the firm's Corporate practice group. His practice focuses on complex international and cross-border M&A and commercial transactions as well as internal corporate and regulatory investigations.

His transactional experience covers structuring, drafting and negotiating mergers and acquisitions, strategic joint ventures and alliances, and high-end commercial contracts, with an emphasis on clients in regulated industries, including in transportation/aviation, telecommunication, oil, and gas and energy. Aviation projects have included advising passenger and cargo airlines, airline catering, and airline maintenance providers. His advisory work on telecoms transactions has primarily been in the mobile sector, including the negotiation and drafting of national and international roaming and infrastructure sharing agreements.

His corporate investigations experience includes reviews of large strategic projects, alleged accounting fraud, whistleblower allegations, corporate governance and internal controls, and compliance issues, whether against the background of ongoing or expected regulatory proceedings, or in preparation for litigation and arbitration.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Wilhelm is dual qualified in Germany and England and Wales and practices out of the Berlin, Frankfurt and London offices. He joined K&L Gates in March 2008 from a major international U.S. law firm where he had been based in London and Germany. Prior to reading law at Bonn University, he trained as a banker at Dresdner Bank AG and in 1996 worked as a junior lawyer in the legal department of Dresdner Bank, New York.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIPS

- Aviation Club of the U.K.
- British-German Association
- Friends of the Museum of Photography, Berlin, Member of the Board

- The American Academy in Berlin, Patron

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Wilhelm regularly publishes and speaks on issues concerning his practice, more recently:

- “Organisational Risk and Crisis Management; How prepared are you?”, ACC Europe, Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 15, 2018.
- “Sapin II - Organisational Risk and Crisis Management,” K&L Gates Webinar, June 15, 2017.
- “Organisational Risk and Crisis Management; How prepared are you?”, ACC Europe, Madrid, Spain, April 5, 2017.
- “Organisational Risk and Crisis Management; How prepared are you?”, ACC Europe, Lugano, Switzerland, March 22, 2017.
- “An International Approach to Legal Privilege Issues – Snapshot of Germany,” webinar, American Bar Association, January 13, 2015.
- “Doing Business in Germany,” presenter, webinar K&L Gates, October 9, 2014.
- “Corporate Internal Investigations – The ethics of compliance in situations of crisis,” presentation given together with Professor Dr. Björn Fasterling, EDHEC Business School France, at the EBEN (European Business Ethics Network) Annual Conference, Berlin, June 12–14, 2014.
- “An International Approach to Legal Privilege Issues,” presenter, teleseminar of the ABA, cosponsored by the Section of Antitrust Law and the ABA Center for Professional Development, August 2012.
- “More Enforcers at your Door - Preparing for and Responding to Increased Government Investigations and Actions,” moderator/presenter, London/Frankfurt, November 2009.
- “Corporate Internal Investigations and Proportionality - Nine Recommendations for Conducting a Fair Investigation,” presented with Dr. Björn Fasterling, Prof. of Law, EDHEC Business School, France, at The 22nd EBEN (European Business Ethics Network) Annual Conference, Athens/Greece, September 2009.
- “Fifth Annual Conference on Critical Legal and Regulatory Issues for Investment Managers and Funds,” presentation on M&A issues in the industry, London, January 2009.

EDUCATION

- Qualified Lawyer Transfer Test, College of Law, London, 2002
- Dr. jur., University of Bonn, 2000
- Second Legal State Exam, Cologne, 1996
- First Legal State Exam, University of Bonn, 1993

LANGUAGES

- English
- German

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 27 August 2018, Cross-Border Investigations: When Are Documents Developed in the Course of an Internal Investigation Protected By Legal Privilege?
- 4 March 2016, Expanded Protections for Documents Developed in the Course of Internal Investigations and Located at the Client's Business Premises

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Chapter on Compliance in: Lappe/Gattringer: Carve-out transactions – legal, tax and accounting aspects of the drop-down and divestiture of business units (Carve-out-Transaktionen – Recht, Steuern und Bilanzen bei Ausgliederung und Verkauf von Unternehmensteilen), C.H. Beck, Munich, second edition, 2021
- Market Intelligence M&A 2020 Global Interview Panel, Lexology, January 2021
- "Corporate Investigation, Independent Investigation" in: Handbook Compliance-Management, Wieland/Steinmeyer/Grüninger (editors), 3rd edition, Berlin 2020
- "Cross-border investigations: When are documents developed in the course of an internal investigation protected by legal privilege?" *Thomson Reuters*, 15 October 2018
- "Coordination of flight schedules, Introduction/International Legal Background (together with Gesine Schulte-Nossek) and Slot Trading (together with Michael Holter), in *Cologne Compendium on Air Law in Europe, edited by Professor Dr. Stephan Hobe, Nicolai von Ruckteschell and David Heffernan, Cologne* 2013
- "The English Limited (Die Englische Limited*)," co-author together with Volker G. Heinz, 3rd edition*, 2011
- Introduction, Trading with Slots in chapter "Airport coordination" (*co-author with Michael Holter), Kölner Kompendium des Luftrechts/Cologne Compendium of Air Law, Hobe/v. Ruckteschell (editors), volume 2, Cologne* 2009
- "Internal investigations: overshooting or a standard tool of a modern compliance management system?", Der Betrieb, Status: Recht; SR as of March 6th 2009, volume 3, pages 83–84.
- "Independent Internal Investigations: a tool of good corporate governance in Europe too?," von Hehn/Hartung, article in *PLC Cross-border Quarterly*, Oct.–Dec. 2005

NEWS & EVENTS

- 17 March 2025, K&L Gates Receives Excellence Award for Representation of Wabtec in Acquisition of Bloom Engineering
- 2 August 2023, K&L Gates Advises Gorka Holding on Sale of Majority of Shares in DiaSys Diagnostics Systems GmbH
- 22 June 2023, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Throughout Europe Recognized in 2024 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 7 June 2023, K&L Gates Advises Vitesco Technologies on Sale of All Shares in Vitesco Technologies Italy Srl
- 22 February 2021, K&L Gates Advises CML Microsystems PLC on sale of Hyperstone
- 5 July 2018, K&L Gates Advises Mölnlycke on Acquisition of German Medical Technology Company SastoMed

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption
- Anti-Money Laundering (AML)
- Corporate Governance
- European Regulatory
- Internal Investigations

INDUSTRIES

- Automotive
- Aviation
- Manufacturing
- Transportation and Logistics