

Dr. Franz Schaefer, LL.M.

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Dr. Franz Schaefer is a partner in the firm's Corporate practice and admitted as a German Rechtsanwalt and to the New York bar. He advises German and international corporate clients on:

- Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) with a special focus on the healthcare, construction, and new technologies sectors
- AGM-related and capital market law-related issues for listed companies
- Corporate restructurings (also cross-border), in particular in connection with IPOs or the formation of joint ventures (including carve-outs, mergers, demergers and transformations)
- Establishment of joint ventures with a particular focus on appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Setting up management participation programs
- Succession in corporate organizations (also related to family-owned businesses.

Franz also provides regular advice to various private equity, restructuring and distressed funds, both with regard to their M&A activities and on their portfolio management. *JUVE Handbuch 2025/2026* recommends Franz Schaefer for Transactions–M&A, Private Equity and Venture Capital; *The Best Lawyers in Germany* (2027 Edition) recognizes him for Corporate Law, and Mergers and Acquisitions Law.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Franz Schaefer and his team joined K&L Gates (together with Munich corporate partner Dr. Martina Ortner and team) in December 2016 after having practiced at two other leading international law firms in their Munich offices. He has been a partner since 2014.

Franz studied at the Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich and at the New York University School of Law (NYU). He holds a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) from the New York University School of Law and was subsequently admitted as an attorney at law in New York. From 1997 until 1998, he worked for a local law firm in Hong Kong.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Possible Solutions of Limiting Liability in M&A Transactions, M&A Summit Dusseldorf, June 19 and 20, 2017 (German presentation)
- Guest lectures at various universities in Germany on corporate-related matters

EDUCATION

- Second Legal State Exam, Higher Regional Court of Munich, 2002
- LL.M., New York University School of Law, 2002
- Dr. iur., Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, 1998
- First Legal State Exam, University of Munich, 1995

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York

LANGUAGES

- English
- German
- Spanish

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 28 April 2020, COVID-19: Measures Under the Economic Stabilization Fund Act and the Law on the BayernFonds to Mitigate the Economic Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 4 October 2018, From Toothless Tiger to Apex Predator? An Overview of the Effects of the German Investment Control in Accordance with the Foreign Trade and Payments Ordinance (Außenwirtschaftsverordnung)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Franz's publications include numerous articles in professional journals, with a focus on on corporate and capital markets law, as well as factual publications on mergers & acquisitions.

- § 181 BGB in legal practice with special consideration of corporate law requirements, DStR 43, 2020, S. 2379

- Imputed knowledge and conduct in M&A transactions, DStR 31, 2017, p. 1710 f., together with Dr. Martina Ortner (German article)
- Contingent Liability of Co-Shareholders in Case of Redemption of Shares, DStR 2016, 2116 (German article)
- Economic Re-Establishment in Case of a Listed Shelf Company and the Pre-Conditions for Registration with the Commercial Register, DStR 2016, 1166, together with notary Dirk Steiner and Sandra Link (German article)
- Disciplinary Action for Non-compliant Conduct of a Limited Liability Company Shareholder by means of a Call Option, DStR 2014, 2513, together with Christoph Küster (German article)
- The Termination and Establishment of Fiscal Unities in the Course of Corporate Acquisitions, DStR 2013, 2399, together with Dr. Martina Ortner and Martin Mager (German article)
- Upstream Loans by Dependent Stock Corporations (comment on court decision), DB 2010, 1371 (German article)
- New Causes of Liability for Interventions Resulting in Financial Ruin (comment on court decision), WM 2007, 2265 (German article)
- Corporate Liability for Wrongful Contributions in Kind, Der Betrieb 2006, 1040 (German article)
- Corporate Liability for Defective Shares in the Course of Capital Increases, NZG 2006, 204 (German article)
- The Admissibility of Supplementary Packages and the Practical Consequences for the Interpretation of the German Securities and Takeover Act, NZG 2004, 158 (German article)
- Book review of 5th edition of Pagenberg/Geissler, Lizenzverträge/License Agreements, published in GRUR Int. 2003, 801
- Listed Corporations' Board Room Defense Strategies Against Hostile Takeover Situations – A Comparison of German and U.S. Law, NZG 2003, 150 (German article)
- Hong Kong's New Copyright Law, GRUR Int. 1999, 103 (German article)
- Patent Licensing under English Law Compared to German Law, 1998, VVF-Schriftenreihe, Bd. 608 (German article)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 28 August 2025, K&L Gates Advises South Korea's GS Engineering & Construction on US$1.2 Billion Sale of Water Treatment Subsidiary to UAE's TAQA
- 22 June 2023, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Throughout Europe Recognized in 2024 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate Governance
- Healthcare Transactions
- Private Equity Transactions
- Public Companies

INDUSTRIES

- General Manufacturing
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Technology

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Sale of GS Inima Group (leading provider of water treatment technology) by Korean construction and engeneering conglomerat GS E&C to ABU DHABI NATIONAL ENERGY COMPANY (transaction value: US$1.2 billion/closing preparations ongoing)
- Acquisition of Telekom Headquarters by Art-Invest Group as part of a complex corporate real estate transaction
- Advising a family shareholder in an MDAX-listed company in the course of restructuring the family's (controlling) share
- Koenig & Bauer AG (SDAX-listed): Ongoing legal advice regarding the Annual General Meeting
- Koenig & Bauer AG (SDAX-listed): M&A transaction, setting up a 50/50 joint venture with the Italian Durst Group
- Koenig & Bauer AG (SDAX-listed): M&A transaction, phased acquisition of the Italian CELMACCH Group
- Koenig & Bauer AG (SDAX-listed): Carve-out of business and setup of separate product units (most significant group-internal restructuring in the company history)
- Advised a developer of pioneering technologies and services in the support and subsequent handling of a joint venture in the automotive lighting sector
- Xempus AG (software developer for consulting, closing and administration in the area of company pension plans): Ongoing support in the area of corporate law and compliance

- ATOS-Gruppe (provider in the field of cutting-edge orthopedic medicine) on ongoing corporate law issues including intra-group restructurings
- ATOS-Gruppe on acquisition of Rosenthal-Klinik including affiliated orthopedic practice
- ATOS-Gruppe on the acquisition of the Berlin-based meviva practice group
- ATOS-Gruppe in setting up the ATOS Rheinland medical care center and acquiring the associated clinics