Schellenberg Wittmer



Charles Goumaz

Partner

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Recognitions

- Legal 500: Key Lawyer in Dispute Resolution: Litigation 2022; Key Lawyer in Regulatory, Compliance & Investigations since 2023

Languages

French, English, German

Selected Publications

- Défaut de vigilance en matière d'opérations financières et droit de communication (art. 305ter CP)
- Swiss Supreme Court confirms prohibition for Swiss banks to disclose the names of lawyers associated with the banks' U.S. clients to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Department of Justice (DoJ)
- Switzerland: Automatic Exchange Of Information: A Chance Or A Risk?

Charles Goumaz is a partner in Schellenberg Wittmer's Dispute Resolution Group in Geneva, practicing business crime, crisis and reputation management, as well as commercial litigation. He provides legal and strategic representation to high-profile individuals, corporate clients and financial institutions in sensitive, multi-jurisdictional matters, and has extensive experience in the commodity trading, shipping, transport and inspection, banking and finance, luxury and consumer goods, art and real estate sectors.

His practice covers the full range of business crime, including in particular fraud, misappropriation, criminal mismanagement, corruption, money laundering, bankruptcy offenses, forgery, extortion and cybercrime. He conducts internal investigations, acts in international mutual legal assistance and enforcement proceedings, and advises corporations and financial institutions on compliance and the prevention of financial crime.

Charles regularly acts for individuals and companies whose reputation, assets or operations are under attack. He conducts defamation proceedings, advises on cyberattack response, online reputation management and media strategy, and coordinates crisis response with parallel litigation.

In commercial litigation, Charles handles complex shareholder, post-M&A, contract, investment and trust disputes. He regularly obtains, or resists, interim measures such as the freezing of assets, including in support of foreign proceedings.

Charles is a Certified Specialist SBA (Swiss Bar Association) in Criminal Law.

Expertise

- Dispute Resolution
- White-Collar Crime and Compliance
- IT Security and Cybercrime
- Internal Corporate Investigations

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Experience

- Defending banks in money laundering and corruption investigations, with parallel regulatory enforcement proceedings.
- Defending commodity trading companies and their senior executives in criminal proceedings for bribery, money laundering and war crime allegations relating to the pillage of natural resources, including securing out-of-court settlements.
- Defending companies and individuals in criminal proceedings for fraud, mismanagement, forgery and bankruptcy offenses.
- Assisting a listed company in an internal investigation into adverse public allegations.
- Representing victims of extortion, cybercrime and cryptocurrency fraud, pursuing the identification and prosecution of the perpetrators and the tracing of digital assets.
- Acting for UHNW individuals and public figures in sensitive matters, from criminal accusations to defamation proceedings and online reputation management.
- Assisting individuals and companies in the enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards, including through the freezing of assets located in Switzerland.
- Defending shareholders in high-stakes shareholder disputes.

Career

2024	Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer
2018	Senior Associate at Schellenberg Wittmer
2015	Associate at Schellenberg Wittmer
2013	Trainee Lawyer at Schellenberg Wittmer

Education

2022	Certified Specialist SBA Criminal Law
2015	Bar Admission in Switzerland
2013	Certificate of Advanced Studies in Legal Professions, University of Geneva
2012	Master of Law, University of Fribourg and Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid
2011	Bachelor of Law, University of Fribourg

Additional Professional Activities

- Member of the Geneva Bar Association (OdA), of the Geneva Business Law Association (AGDA), of the Swiss Bar Association (SBA), of the International Bar Association (IBA) and of the Certified Specialist in Criminal Law Association (ARPEN).
- Author for the iusNet Criminal Law and Procedure module of Schulthess (https://droit-penal-procedure-penale.iusnet.ch/)