

NKF presents its newly appointed partners: interview with Juerg Bloch

Juerg Bloch joined the NKF partnership on 1 January 2020. In this interview we get to know Juerg better and learn more about his career path and his views on the future of the legal profession.



Juerg, as a member of the NKF Dispute Resolution team you will be responsible for strengthening the practice area White Collar Crime & Investigations. What is it that interests you about this practice area?

Our cases reflect the pulse of the economy. The White Collar and Investigations team is often consulted in the toughest situations. In addition to evaluating the relevant facts and carrying out in-depth legal analysis, our work regularly includes crisis management comprehensively supporting our clients in defining their strategic direction. This requires not only legal knowledge, but also a holistic and, in particular, economic appreciation of

the most appropriate options for action, which is a fascinating process.

You work on many different cases. Which ones have you found particularly exciting?

For me, the extensive and complex internal investigations and procedures in an international context, e.g. concerning FIFA, IMDB, Petrobras or Panama Papers, were very exciting. Other examples include advising a medical company in the context of a case of fraud by a hacker, and advising various banks in the context of requests for legal assistance from foreign authorities, in particular the United States. Recently, we also advised a company with respect to mobbing

“Our cases reflect the pulse of the economy“

allegations at management level, which was also an interesting mandate. We also see an increasing demand from our clients for advice in connection with international sanctions and export control as well as in the areas of corruption and current compliance issues. Finally, I also like to advise private individuals in civil law disputes, supervisory law matters and criminal defense matters. I approach each of these mandates with great passion.

What challenges do you see in the legal profession of the future?

Digitisation will have a great impact on the legal profession and on many of our clients. An early awareness of potential developments and a proactive response to changing trends and requirements are vital. At the same time, any enhancements that we adopt through digitisation must never come at the cost of quality or data security. In internal investigations and economic criminal cases, the use of technology to manage large amounts of data is already unavoidable. Given my specialisation, I follow such developments with the greatest interest. Of course, a certain affinity for technology is very helpful for this. In addition, NKF has established a LegalTech working group in order to follow market developments and to evaluate relevant products and tools to be used by NKF. Our aim is to serve our clients in the most efficient way and to the highest standard.

You have been working for NKF since 2013. Why did you choose NKF?

NKF succeeds in bringing together talented lawyers and specialists with very diverse backgrounds. Many of our lawyers have an international degree or come from abroad, for example from China, the United States, Russia, Ireland, Italy and Germany. This makes NKF one of the most international Swiss law firms. NKF also promotes international exchange, for example by giving employees the opportunity to carry out a secondment at a law firm abroad. I myself took advantage of this opportunity and worked as a secondee in the white collar and investigation team of a renowned New York law firm, which was a great experience. Besides this, NKF is a very progressive and modern employer. NKF offers a flexible working model, especially for female partners and employees, and runs a talent management programme for young talents to enhance and deepen specialist knowledge and skills. The use of state-of-the-art technology also allows the highest possible flexibility. Our lawyers work out of our beautiful offices at Bahnhofstrasse 53, in the heart of Zurich, as well as outside the office. Finally - and this is particularly important to

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Which advice would you give to young lawyers on their way (to the top)?

Follow your passion and give 100%! Similar to sports, the way to the top at a large commercial law firm is a combination of passion, talent and rigorous training. I recommend that young lawyers read Alan M. Dershowitz's "letters to a young lawyer". A wonderful book that still inspires me today!

How important is it as a young lawyer to have a mentor?

From my personal experience I know that a mentor is one of the most important elements of a successful career. It is vital to build a relationship based on trust and appreciation between mentor and mentee over the years. At NKF, a senior associate mentor and a partner mentor are assigned to each trainee and lawyer upon joining the firm. The NKF system also allows every lawyer to find a suitable mentor within the firm over the years.

“There’s nothing that can disturb me. We owe it to our clients to act deliberately in challenging times.”

important values you want to give your children as they grow up?

Values seem to change over time. Nevertheless, my wife and I try to instill universal values in our children. These include respect, integrity, reliability and empathy. In the end, for me it is summed up in the Jewish bon mot “to be a Mensch”.



And last but not least, what really gets you mad?

There's a sign in my office saying: "heroic stoicism - in troubled times not losing it is being heroic". There's nothing that quickly upsets me. We owe it to our clients to be calm in challenging times. As part of the NKF doctrine, I also try to set an example to my team and the young lawyers.

About Juerg Bloch

Career

- 2020 Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2018 Senior Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2017 Visiting Lawyer with Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
- 2016 Senior Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2013 Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2008 Associate with a Swiss law firm
- 2006 Clerk with the District Court of Uster
- 2004 Junior Associate with a Swiss law firm

Education

- 2018 Certified Fraud Examiner, CFE
- 2014 University of Fribourg, Dr. iur., magna cum laude
- 2011 Bar Admission in New York State
- 2011 New York University School of Law, LL.M. and Academic Career Research Fellow
- 2008 Bar Admission in Switzerland
- 2004 University of Fribourg, lic.iur., with additional degree in European law

You're a father of two. What are the most