



Dr. iur. Thomas Graf

Partner, Certified Tax Expert, TEP

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Languages

German, English, French

Expertise

Mr. Graf specializes in national and international tax law. He is advising large and complex domestic and cross-border business structures, M&A, corporate reorganisation and financing transactions. He has a special emphasis on the financial services industry and is very experienced in international fund structures in particular in the private equity and venture capital field.

He has devoted a substantial amount of time to advising individual sportsmen and international sports organisations with respect to taxation aspects of their activities and structuring of international sports events and sports activities.

He regularly advises High Net Worth Individuals on all tax aspects of their private and business activities.

Mr. Graf is distinguished as a leading tax lawyer by Chambers, Legal 500, Who's Who Legal and World Tax. He heads the Tax Group at Niederer Kraft Frey.

Career

Since 2000	Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey
1998	Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
1998	Shearman & Sterling, New York
1991	Revisuisse Price Waterhouse, Zurich
1989	Tax Commissioner with special duties, Thalwil / Zurich
1988	Assistant for Private, Trade and Banking Law, University of Zurich

Education

1997	Registered Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP)
1994	Certified Tax Expert (dipl. Steuerexperte), with distinction
1991	University of Zurich, PhD (magna cum laude)

Publications

- Thomas Graf, Daniela Schmucki, Petra Caminada, §§ 39-41 zu Teil C Schweiz, in: Handbuch der Vermögensverwaltung, in Deutschland, Österreich, der Schweiz und Liechtenstein, Frank A. Schäfer, Rolf Sethe, Volker Lang (Hrsg.), 2. Auflage, Düsseldorf/Zürich/Bonn, 2016
- Thomas Graf, Hansjürg Christoffel, Commentary on article 17 of the OECD Model Tax Treaty (taxation of artists and sportsmen), in: Zweifel/Beusch/Matteotti (editors), Commentary on Swiss Tax Law, International Tax Law, Basel 2015
- Thomas Graf, Daniela Schmucki, Switzerland, the door to Europe - tax aspects of inbound investments, in: A Guide to International Financial Centres 2011/2012
- Thomas Graf, Karsten Timmer, Venture Philanthropy light, in: Die Stiftung, Ausgabe 3/11, S. 26-27
- Thomas Graf, Daniela Schmucki, Markus E. Kronauer, Tax concerns for foreign investors, in: IFLR/March 2004, S. 74-76
- Thomas Graf, Daniela Schmucki, Revisionsbedürftige Gruppenbesteuerung - Strapazierte solidarische Haftung bei der Mehrwertsteuer, in: NZZ vom 28. März 2002 (Nr. 73)
- Thomas Graf, Daniela Schmucki, The Hold Truth, in: In brief, March 2002
- Peter C. Honegger, Peter R. Isler, Thomas Graf, Securitisation in Switzerland, in: Global Securitisation Yearbook 2000/2001, A Euromoney Publication, S. 57-62
- Thomas Graf, Inbound Investments, Switzerland, in: International Tax Review, Capital Markets (4th Edition), 2001, S. 73-79
- Thomas Graf, Making the most of new thin capitalisation rules, in: The Treasurer - July/August 1998
- Thomas Graf, Urs Landolf, Der Trust im Schweizerischen Steuerrecht, in: Archiv für schweizerisches Abgaberecht, 63. Band, Heft 1/2, Juli/August 1994
- Thomas Graf, Steuerbefreiung von Sportvereinigungen, in: Zürcher Studien zum öffentlichen Recht (Band 108), 1992

Market Perception

“Thomas Graf has an excellent grasp of commercial, technical and personal issues.” (Legal 500 2020)

“Thomas Graf is ‘innovative and co-operative’ in his approach according to interviewees, who emphasise that he is a ‘very strong tax lawyer.’” (Chambers Global 2019)

Thomas Graf has “strong technical knowledge, combined with practical common sense.” (Legal 500 2019)

“Thomas Graf is a ‘star practitioner’ who wins high praise from sources for his excellent work handling complex M&A and financing transactions.” (Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2019)

“Thomas Graf is an esteemed corporate tax adviser with impressive expertise advising heavyweight financial industry clients. Peers say, ‘Technically and intellectually, he is streets ahead.’” (Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2018)

NIEDERER KRAFT FREY

Thomas Graf impresses clients with his “pragmatic approach,” as well as his “detailed advice and identification of alternatives.” (Chambers Global 2018)

“... Clients say: ‘He is an expert with broad and deep experience in the tax field. For us, he is a guarantee of reliability.’” (Chambers Global 2017)

“Thomas Graf focuses his first-rate tax practice on the financial services industry, delivering counsel to clients on both a domestic and international level.” (Who’s Who Legal Switzerland 2017)

“Interviewees are impressed that department head Thomas Graf ‘puts the client at the centre of his thinking and behaviour’.” (Chambers Global 2016)

“He is always on top of any developments and maintains good relations with the tax authorities.” (Chambers Global 2015)

“‘He has a calm and convincing manner and achieves our desired outcomes’, enthuse clients.” (Chambers Global 2015)

“At Niederer Kraft & Frey, Thomas Graf is a ‘first-rate’ practitioner who advises on tax issues arising out of large and complex Swiss and international business structures, corporate reorganisations and financing transactions.” (Who’s Who Legal 2015)

“Thomas Graf has been recommended as Leading Individual by Legal 500 for Tax.” (Legal 500 2014)

“Sources praise his ‘broad knowledge’ and his strength in private client taxation.” (Chambers Global 2014)

“Niederer Kraft & Frey’s Thomas Graf specialises in tax law relating to the financial services industry and remains the ‘first port of call’ for many clients.” (Who’s Who Legal Corporate Tax Marketplace Analysis 2014)

“Niederer Kraft & Frey AG’s ‘practice head Thomas Graf’ is ‘recommended’ in the Tax Directors Handbook 2014 as well as Niederer Kraft & Frey itself in the jurisdiction Switzerland - Leading tax law firms.” (Tax Directors Handbook 2014)

