

**Dr. iur. Valerie Meyer Bahar**

Partner, Attorney-at-law, LL.M.

valerie.meyer@nkf.ch

D +41 58 800 84 88

Languages

German, English, French

## Expertise

Valerie Meyer Bahar is a member of the Dispute Resolution team and specializes in commercial litigation and arbitration as well as employment.

Her practice as a litigator and arbitrator focuses on corporate, commercial and shareholder disputes as well as employment litigation. She regularly represents Swiss and international clients in legal proceedings at the Zurich Commercial Court (Handelsgericht), the Swiss Federal Court (Bundesgericht), as well as the Courts of First and Second Instance and the Labour Courts of the Canton of Zurich and other Cantons.

Further to representing clients in litigious matters, Valerie Meyer Bahar advises in the area of employment law, in particular in the areas of corporate employment law and compensation matters.

Valerie Meyer Bahar is the firm's Hiring Partner and a member of NKF's executive committee.

Dispute Resolution

Employment

## Career

- 2016** Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey (as of 2021 Head of HR and member of the NKF executive committee)
- 2010** Senior Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2005** Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2001** Clerk with the District Court of Horgen

## Education

- 2007 Harvard Law School, LL.M.
- 2005 University of Lucerne, PhD (summa cum laude; Prof. Walther Hug-Preis 2006)
- 2004 Harvard Law School, Visiting Researcher
- 2004 Admitted to the Bar (Rechtsanwältin)
- 2001 Universities of Zurich and Lausanne, lic. iur. (summa cum laude)

## Experience

- Co-counsel on Swiss law in a litigation in Bermuda, amount in dispute exceeding CHF 120 million; advisor in subsequent settlement negotiations and currently heavily involved in the implementation and oversight of the settlement
- Counsel to a Swiss industrial company faced with numerous lawsuits brought by the minority shareholder pertaining to, e.g. requests for information, challenges against resolutions of the general meeting, as well as various corporate matters
- Ongoing employment law advice for numerous companies, in particular banks and insurance companies, regarding, e.g., drafting of CEO, management and board contracts; compensation matters; termination of employment; regulations pertaining to working time (overtime); non-compete obligations; etc.
- Counsel in ad hoc arbitration proceedings regarding re-insurance claim
- Employment litigation regarding validity of termination and substantial bonus claim
- Employment law advice regarding the structuring, drafting and implementation of international employment agreements across group companies (management level)
- Employment law advice regarding the termination of several key employees (members of the management team) of a bank
- Counsel in litigation proceedings regarding the transfer of an airplane
- Employment law advice regarding deferral and claw-back of compensation under Swiss law
- Advisor with regard to legislative consulting process (Vernehmlassung) regarding the law and ordinance on working time
- Employment law advice in a major international M&A transaction, in particular regarding the transfer of employment relationships under Swiss law
- Employment law advice in an M&A transaction involving the transfer of employment relationships as well as the relocation of employees within Switzerland
- Representation of minority shareholders opposing an unfriendly take-over attempt in court
- Counsel in employment law litigation brought in the form of urgent provisional measures
- Counsel to a Swiss bank faced with lawsuits in Switzerland and abroad brought by alleged heirs of a client of the bank
- Counsel with regard to the liquidation of Lehman Brothers Finance SA, in particular with regard to the bankruptcy/liquidation proceedings
- Counsel to a Hong Kong company active in the international trade of commodities in arbitration proceedings according to the Swiss Rules

- Counsel to a Swiss subsidiary of a UK financial services provider with regard to employment law, including litigation and mass dismissal proceedings
- Counsel to a Swiss technology company with regard to employment law, including litigation
- Counsel to a Swiss subsidiary of a US bank with regard to employment law, including litigation and mass dismissal proceedings
- Counsel to a Swiss bank with regard to the seizure of assets of clients by the office of the Federal Prosecutor as part of a criminal investigation

## Market Perception

"Valerie Meyer Bahar and Livia Keller are responsive, transparent with legal fees and truly understand the commercial sensitivities when working with us to find a solution to a dispute/challenge we may be facing. They are both a pleasure to work with" and "very strong in employment disputes". (Legal 500 2024 – Employment)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar is very solution-oriented and provides pragmatic legal advice". "Valerie is a strong expert professional with deep knowledge of employment law matters". "Valerie is very good at looking at the bigger picture and the logistics. She gives high-level advice. Her level of sophistication is very strong, as are her commercial awareness and vision. Her client service and general level of her service are also very strong." (Chambers 2024 – Employment)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar has excellent expertise for employment cases. She is pleasant and helpful to work with. She is responsive and has very good legal skills. She has a very strong level of sophistication and very strong commercial awareness and vision. Her client service and general level of service are very strong." (Chambers 2023 – Litigation)

"Valerie supported us in a challenging situation with outstanding legal advice and dedication. She has a very keen grasp of employment law and provides pragmatic guidance as well as excellent legal advice, which we highly appreciated. Valerie is very responsive and impressed us with her dedicated support and quick turnover of all our requests, also at short notice." (Chambers 2023 – Employment)

"We experienced Dr. Valerie Meyer Bahar as an exceptionally skilful employment lawyer and litigator who provided highest quality advice which she is able to deliver very comprehensibly. We can recommend Dr. Valerie Meyer Bahar in every respect as an outstanding professional." (Legal 500 2023 – Employment)

"She has a good sense of analysis and is very responsive" (Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2023 - Commercial Litigation)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar stood out to us because she has an entrepreneurial spirit. Her comprehension of the issues was also fast, and she is a solution-oriented, hands-on lawyer." (Chambers Europe 2022 – Litigation)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar is an experienced employment lawyer, as well as a skillful litigator. She is particularly good at navigating high-profile employment disputes – 'she vigorously defends our interests in court, but also knows how to broker a settlement, if this the preferred outcome. We trust her with our high-profile cases.'" (Legal 500 2022 – Employment)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar often advises on employment-related litigation cases in connection to wrongful dismissals as well as the termination of senior employees. Her client roster features companies in the banking and technology industries. 'She is particularly good at navigating high-profile employment disputes,' remarks one client, adding: 'She vigorously defends our interests in court.'" (Chambers Europe 2022 – Employment)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar provides advice on contentious employment matters, cross-border hiring and termination procedures, and social security and pension matters. She is described by one client as "a highly skilful and mindful litigator," and another notes that her advice is "considered, thorough and reliable." (Chambers Europe 2021 – Employment)

## NIEDERER KRAFT FREY

"Valerie Meyer Bahar is a very experienced lawyer who provides hands-on advice with a deep understanding of entrepreneurial challenges. Fast, responsive and easy to communicate with." (Legal 500 2020 – Dispute Resolution: Litigation)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar displays a great sense of customer orientation in addition they have a good understanding of how to find the balance of pragmatic approach and compliance with legal regulation." (Legal 500 2020 – Employment)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar is 'extremely responsive and provides actionable advice'." (Legal 500 2018 – Dispute Resolution)

"Valerie Meyer Bahar 'excels in difficult circumstances'." (Legal 500 2017 – Dispute Resolution)

Valerie Meyer Bahar is recommended in Legal 500 Dispute Resolution: Litigation (2018-2022) and Employment (2018, 2022).

Valerie is also recognised in WWL Litigation Future Leaders 2019-2022 .

