



## Manuel Werder

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### Languages

German, English, French, Spanish

## Expertise

Manuel Werder's practice focuses on corporate law and domestic and cross-border M&A (including corporate restructurings) and private equity and venture capital transactions as well as other international business transactions, with a focus on large and complex acquisitions, mergers, divestitures, and restructurings. His M&A experience includes various industries, including financial and other services, industrial, IT and life sciences.

Manuel Werder regularly advises Swiss and foreign clients in different industries in M&A, corporate law, corporate governance, commercial, contractual, securities and stock exchange law issues.

His fields of expertise also include investment and shareholders' agreements, joint ventures, commercial contracts, M&A related employment law issues as well as advice in controversial situations amongst shareholders. He further has significant practical experience as member of the board of directors of various companies, including one listed company.

Manuel Werder is listed as expert for M&A by Chambers, Legal 500, IFLR1000 and Best Lawyers. He was named by Business Today as one of the top 10 most influential Corporate/M&A Lawyers in Switzerland. Manuel is Head of Finance, Risk & Compliance and a member of NKF's executive committee.

Corporate / M&A

Commercial

Private Equity

## Career

- 2015** Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey (since 2024 Head of Finance, Risk & Compliance and member of NKF's executive committee)
- 2010** Senior Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2008** Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey
- 2007** Secondment to Allende & Brea, Buenos Aires, one of the largest and most prestigious full-service law firms in Argentina
- 2004** Associate, Niederer Kraft Frey

- 2002 Associate with Fox Horan & Camerini LLP, New York, a law firm with highly specialized experience in international business
- 1999 Traineeship with a Zurich law firm

## Education

- 2003 Admitted to the Bar of New York
- 2002 New York University School of Law, LL.M. in Comparative Jurisprudence
- 2001 Admitted to the Bar of Zurich (Rechtsanwalt)
- 1998 University of Fribourg, Licentiatius iuris (Law degree) (magna cum laude)
- 1997 Université Libre de Bruxelles School of Law, Brussels, Belgium, Swiss-Belgian Exchange Program, Studies of European and International law

## Experience

The following is a selection of recent cases in which Mr. Werder acted as counsel for:

- Romer's Holding AG, the parent company of Romer's Hausbäckerei and a group company of the IDAK Food Group, on the acquisition of Kern & Sammet AG (2025)
- Invision and the other shareholders of Parkresort Rheinfelden on the sale of the wellness part of Parkresort Rheinfelden to RS Properties (2025)
- The shareholders of BAC pool systems on the sale of 100 percent of BAC's share capital to Fluidra (2025)
- The founders and shareholders of SORBA EDV AG on the sale of all shares in SORBA EDV AG to BuildTec Software (2024)
- The shareholders of Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services AG, the Swiss market leader for prepaid cards, on the sale of 100 percent of Swiss Bankers' share capital to the Hypothekarbank Lenzburg (2024)
- The management team led by Niklaus Hilti on the acquisition of Credit Suisse Insurance Linked Strategies Ltd ("CSILS") from UBS (2024)
- Invision, Nord Holding and LGT on the sale of a majority stake in IDAK Food Group to TowerBrook Capital Partners, a London and New York-based investment company (2024)
- The founders and managers of BSI Software AG on the sale of a stake in BSI Software AG to Bregal Unternehmerkapital (2024)
- CPH Chemie + Papier Holding AG (CPH) on the separation of its paper manufacturing business and related real estate in Perlen from its chemistry and packaging activities by way of spin-off and admission of the newly formed Perlen Industrieholding AG for trading on the off-exchange platforms OTC-X and LPZ-X (2024)
- Vantage Education AG, one of the largest private providers of education and training in the Swiss market, on the acquisitions of the NBW, BodyFeet and Bio-Medica (2023)
- IDAK Food Group, a premium frozen food provider with highest quality standards, on the acquisition of a majority stake in Romer's Hausbäckerei AG (2023)
- Vantage Education AG, one of the largest private providers of education and training in the Swiss market, on the acquisitions of the NBW, BodyFeet and Bio-Medica (2023)

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- The sellers on the sale of Minka SGS AG, Winterthur, a cocoa bean sourcing company with local subsidiaries in five cocoa producing countries, to Paul Reinhart AG (2023)
- Invision, a leading investment group, on the launch and successful closing of Invision Logistics LP, a CHF 145 million continuation fund for the further development of Schneider Group (2023)
- The shareholders of Swiss Bankers Prepaid Services AG, the Swiss market leader for prepaid cards, on the sale of 100 percent of Swiss Bankers' share capital to the DDM Group (2022)
- The shareholders of responsAbility Investments AG, a leader in impact investing focusing on private debt and private equity across emerging markets, on the sale of a majority stake of responsAbility Investments AG to the M&G PLC (2022)
- Germany's largest independent financial sales company, on the acquisition of a stake in the independent insurance broker Global Sana AG (2021)
- Vantage Education AG, one of the largest private providers of education and training in the Swiss market, on the acquisition of the Swiss Marketing Academy (2021)
- former Swiss football player David Degen on the acquisition of a majority of the shares in FC Basel Holding AG from Bernhard Burgener (2021)
- Invision Private Equity AG, a leading equity investment company, in the acquisition of a majority stake in SkySale Schweiz GmbH (2021)
- Schweiter Technologies AG, a global group specializing in the field of composite materials and composite solutions in lightweight construction, on the extension of its PET foam production in Poland and the acquisition of a 40% stake in JMB Wind Engineering (2021)
- Weichai Power Co., Ltd. in the acquisition through its subsidiary, Weichai Power (Luxembourg) Holding S.à r.l., of 49% of the shares in Fischer Fuel Cell Compressor AG, Switzerland, and the establishment of a joint venture in China in which Weichai and Fischer Fuel Cell Compressor AG will hold shares (2021)
- BSI Business Systems Integration AG on the sale of its majority stake to Swiss investment firm Capvis (2020)
- Thyssenkrupp in the sale of the Competence Center e-Mobility in the form of an asset deal to the Wonder Auto Group (2020)
- Paragon Partners on the acquisition of IPRIS AG by Pavis GmbH (2020)
- Invision AG on the sale of Vantage Education AG to a group of Swiss investors (2020)
- Invision AG on the add-on acquisition by its portfolio company IDAK HOLDING AG of a majority stake in Margherita S.R.L., a leading manufacturer of Italian premium refrigerated and frozen food (2020)
- the selling shareholders in the sale of 90% of the shares in Grasshopper Fussball AG to Champion Union HK Holdings Ltd. (2020)
- Invision in the acquisition of a participation in an eye clinic (2019)
- CITTTIC Industries AG in the acquisition of AKSA Würenlos AG, one of the proven specialists for power generation, transport cooling systems and the complete service of Commins engines (2019)
- Invision Private Equity on the amplification of the shareholding circle of the Schneider Group, one of the leading internationally focused Swiss transportation companies (2019)
- Paragon Partners and the management of Kadi AG on the sale of their shares in Kadi AG to Invision AG (2018/2019)
- Schweiter Technologies in the acquisition of the European acrylic sheet business of Lucite International (Lucite Acrylic Sheet), one of Europe's leading manufacturers of acrylic sheet and composites, and the UK distribution company Perspex Distribution Ltd. (2018)
- CPH Chemie + Papier Holding AG (SIX: CPHN) in the issuance of a CHF 100m corporate bond (2018)

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- Investcorp, a global provider and manager of alternative investment products, on the acquisition of a strategic minority investment in Banque Paris Bertrand Sturdza, an independent, Swiss-regulated private bank based in Geneva and Luxembourg (2018)
- Paragon Partners on the acquisition of Asic Robotics AG and its subsidiaries, together with the existing shareholders STS Management and Renaissance Anlagestiftung (2018)
- Atos / Worldline in the CHF 2,750m acquisition of SIX Payment Services and strategic partnership with SIX (2018)
- CPH Chemie + Papier Holding AG on the acquisition of assets, in particular the recovered paper sorting facility as well as customer and recovered paper supplier contracts, of Papierfabrik Utzenstorf AG (2018)
- Paragon Partners on the acquisition of Conducta AG, the industrial service division of Arbonia Group (2017)
- Vantage Education Group in the acquisition of a majority stake in IST AG (2017)
- Invision Private Equity AG in the acquisition of a majority stake in Parkresort Rheinfelden Holding AG (2016)
- Citychamp Watch and Jewellery Group in the acquisition of a 70% majority stake in Valartis Bank (Liechtenstein) AG (2016)
- Citychamp Dartong Group in the acquisition of HL Le Mirador International SA (2016)
- Swiss Capital Group in connection with its successful launch of the Swiss Capital Investment Foundation (2016)
- Zeochem AG, a leading manufacturer of molecular sieves for industrial applications and of chromatography gels for the pharmaceuticals industry, in the acquisition of a majority stake in ALSIO Technology Co. Ltd (ALSIO) from the Jiangsu Feixiang Group, domiciled in Lianyungang, China, and in the conclusion of a Joint Venture Agreement with some of the existing shareholders (2015/2016)
- Lekkerland (Schweiz) AG, a leading wholesale trading company for convenience consumption goods, in the acquisition of assets pertaining to the wholesale trading business of Contadis AG (Oettinger Davidoff Group) (2015/2016)
- CITTTIC Group, a group of companies specialized in the acquisition and development of European industrial companies, in the acquisition of Schaltag AG (Switzerland) and Schaltag s.r.o. (Czech Republic) from the Rieter Group (2015)
- Knorr-Bremse AG, the world's leading manufacturer of braking systems for rail and commercial vehicles, in the acquisition of Selectron Systems AG, Lyss (2014/2015)
- Citychamp Watch and Jewellery Group Ltd (formerly known as China Haidian Holdings Ltd.), Hong Kong, a group of companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, in the issuance of a Bond (2014)
- CPH Chemie + Papier Holding AG (SIX: CPHN) in the issuance of a CHF 120m corporate bond (the first-ever bond issued by the CPH Group) (2014)
- OC Oerlikon Corporation AG (SIX: OERL) in the CHF 1 billion acquisition of Sulzer Metco (2013/2014)
- Herbert Schneider in the sale of W. Schneider+Co AG in the context of his succession plan to the Investnet Group (2014)
- Zürcher Kantonalbank, Helvetia, Swiss Re and the Marazzi family in the sale of Tertianum AG, Zurich, the leading company in the assisted living segment in Switzerland, to a company controlled by Swiss Prime Site AG (2013)
- Citychamp Watch and Jewellery Group Ltd (formerly known as China Haidian Holdings Ltd.), Hong Kong, in the acquisition of the Corum-Group, a Swiss manufacturer of luxury watches (2013)
- OC Oerlikon Corporation AG (SIX: OERL) in the sale of the Natural Fibers and Textile Components Business Units from its Textile Segment to the Chinese Jinsheng Group (2012/2013)

- Paragon Partners, Munich, in the acquisition of KADI AG, an important player in the Swiss Food Service and one of the leading brands in the convenience market, from ECM Equity Capital Management, Frankfurt, as well as in the re-participation of the management (2013)
- Invision Group, a leading Swiss private equity firm, in the acquisition of a majority stake in HSO Bildungsorganisation Schweiz AG, one of the major providers of practice-oriented business education in the Swiss education market (2013)
- Invision Group in the acquisition of a majority stake in Kraft & Bauer Brandschutzsysteme group, a leading German and Swiss based manufacturer of fire protection systems (2013)
- OC Oerlikon Corporation AG (SIX: OERL) in the sale of its Solar Business to Tokyo Stock Exchange listed company Tokyo Electron Limited (2012)
- Qatar Holding / Qatar Investment Authority in the establishment of an asset management joint venture – Aventure Capital Management - with Credit Suisse Group (2012)
- the selling shareholders of Pago Group, a group of companies active in the business of manufacturing self-adhesive labels and the accompanying labelling technology, in the sale to Tokyo Stock Exchange listed company Fuji Seal Group (2012)
- the management of Invision Group in the management buy-out (2012)
- Havas Media, the media network business unit of Havas (a global advertising and communications services group, listed at Euronext Paris: HAV.PA), in the entering into a partnership and the pertaining acquisition of a participation in Mediaxis, a group of Swiss companies primarily active as agency in the field of media planning (2012)
- France Telecom SA (NYSE: FTE), one of the world's leading telecommunications operators, in connection with the sales auction and sale of 100% of Orange Communications SA, France Telecom's Swiss mobile subsidiary, to Apax Partners (2011 / 2012)
- bank zweiplus ag in connection with the establishment of a joint venture company with Ringier AG operating under the established 'cash' brand (2011 / 2012)
- Cytos Biotechnology AG (SIX: CYTN) in the restructuring of its CHF 70,000,000 convertible bond (2012)
- bank zweiplus ag in connection with the purchase from AXA Bank Europe SA, Brussels, of the client portfolio of AXA Bank Europe's banking branch in Winterthur by way of asset deal (2011 / 2012)

## Market Perception

"Manuel Werder is very grounded and knowledgeable. He has international strength, fosters great personal relationships and leads his team very well." (Chambers Global 2025)

"Manuel Werder was ideal, we would use him again for sure. He impressed us in all ways." (Chambers Global 2025)

"I think very highly of Manuel Werder. He is very detailed in all the small but important matters. His technical expertise but also his commercial awareness are excellent." (Chambers Global 2025)

"He is experienced, business minded and solution oriented. He is also responsive. His client service and general level of service, his level of sophistication and his commercial awareness and vision are all very strong." (Chambers 2024)

"I can highly recommend Manuel Werder. He is a very pragmatic lawyer." (Chambers Global 2024)

"Manuel Werder and Dr Lukas Beeler: Both lawyers always provide excellent advice helping the client to understand complex matters and to feel comfortable." (Legal500 2024)

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"Manuel Werder is one of the best M&A lawyers in Zurich. He is pragmatic and able to simplify complex matters. His commercial awareness is one of his strong points. He is also extremely responsive and could serve us perfectly in a fast-paced deal. We are extremely satisfied by his M&A work." (Chambers Global 2023)

"Manuel Werder is extremely experienced and knows the various negotiation tactics well and is an excellent sparring partner for M&A advisors. The team that works with Manuel is on top of things and turns documents over within short time frames and extremely professionally. Lastly, we have a lot of fun working together on our joint projects." (Legal500 2022)

"Manuel Werder stands out for his hands-on approach and ability to meet timelines with the expected level of quality". (Chambers Global 2022)

"Manuel Werder is a very good lawyer. He is always available, is able to provide pragmatic, solution oriented and creative advice, always based on a very solid foundation of legal knowledge. He has excellent social and negotiation skills. We appreciated his high personal involvement and commitment and his proactive approach." (Legal500 2021)

"Manuel Werder often acts for private equity companies on acquisitions and investments in a range of industries, including healthcare and logistics. Clients highlight his "timely and qualified advice, "further praising his negotiation skills." (Chambers Global 2021)

"Manuel Werder represents private equity funds in acquisitions and divestments. Clients appreciate his ability to make negotiations run well, highlighting his ability to "find a good solution and offer high-quality advice," as well as being "always available and in the details." Werder also assists technology and financial services clients with acquisitions and joint ventures." (Chambers Global 2020)

"Sources report: 'He is a down-to-earth professional with an astounding overview and yet a strong sense for details. His interpersonal skills help us in tough negotiation situations and yield good outcomes.'" (Chambers Global 2019)

