Jacques Bonvin

Partner, Attorney-at-law

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Languages

French, English, German

Expertise

Jacques Bonvin's practice focuses on transactions (M&A, corporate finance, private equity and venture capital) and general corporate/commercial law matters (corporate governance, joint ventures, restructurings, key commercial agreements, etc.). He has an extensive experience in numerous industries and sectors and a deep understanding of all phases of the life cycles of companies, in particular technology and life science companies. He often acts as lead negotiator and external general counsel to groups and companies, and has experience negotiating deals on all continents.

Corporate / M&A | Private Equity | Technology

Career

2023	Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey, Geneva
2000	Partner, Tavernier Tschanz, Geneva
1998	Senior Associate, Tavernier Tschanz, Geneva
1994	Associate, Swiss Law Firm, Geneva and Zurich
1993	Associate, Herbert Smith, London
1992	Associate, Slaughter and May, London
Since 2010	Advisor to Team Principal and Legal Counsel, Artemis Racing
2010-2017	Lecturer, EPFL-HEC Management of Technology (MoT) Executive MBA
Since 2004	General Counsel, Solar Impulse

Education

1992 Admitted to the Swiss Bar

1989 Master of Law, University of Geneva, with honors

Experience

In the past years, Jacques Bonvin has acted as legal counsel, among others, to:

Mergers & Acquisitions

— Invision AG on its acquisition of a majority stake in NonStop Gym

— the shareholders/sellers in the sale of Swiss International Scientific School Dubai (SISD) to Nord Anglia Education

— Nicolas Gonet and Gonet & Cie SA on a strategic business partnership with Arab Bank (Switzerland) SA

— Gonet & Cie SA on the acquisition and merger of Banque Degroof Petercam (Suisse) SA into Gonet & Cie SA*

— the seller in the LBO of the Senstronic Group by Andera Partners*

— the shareholders/sellers in the sale of Pâris Bertrand Holding and Banque Pâris Bertrand to Rothschild & Co*

— Pegasystems in connection with the sale of Knowledge Expert SA to Capgemini*

— Invision AG on its acquisition of a majority stake in the Plumettaz Group*

Private Equity and Venture Capital

— Index Ventures on numerous investments, including its investments in Nexthink (series D) and EthonAI (series A)

— Accel in its investment in viso.ai (Accel's first investment in Switzerland)

— SWISSto12 in its financing rounds

— NewBiologix SA on its USD 50m series A financing

— Stalicla SA on its series A and series B financings

— SpineArt SA on its 2024 convertible financing

— ClearSpace on its series A financing rounds

Capital Markets and Financial Instruments

— Sophia Genetics SA on its secured credit facility with Perceptive Advisors

— Sophia Genetics SA as corporate counsel in its IPO on Nasdaq*

Special Projects

— Solar Impulse Foundation as outside general counsel, including on the set-up of the World Alliance for Efficient Solutions, an association organised under the laws of Switzerland*, and Runway, a matchmaking platform for cleantech investors and companies

— Climate Impulse on the project set-up, the partnership agreements with Syensqo (a spin-off from Solvay), OCP Group, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P), and Breitling

Key Commercial Contracts

— SWISSto12 in the negotiations of its main commercial contracts, including contracts with the European Space Agency, its landmark contracts with Intelsat to build the innovative Intelsat-45 satellite and its landmark contract with Inmarsat to I-8 build satellites

— ClearSpace in the negotiations of its main commercial contracts, including contracts with the European Space Agency and the UK Space Agency, and a partnership deal with Omega

*Transactions handled before joining Niederer Kraft Frey

Speaking Engagements

— Jacques Bonvin, Preparing for an IPO on SIX Swiss Exchange - Selected Legal Insights, Speaker at the SIX IPO Workshop in Montreux, July 2025

— Jacques Bonvin, Mastering VC Financing Rounds, Speaker at the Startup Days 2024 in Berne, May 2025

— Jacques Bonvin, Mastering VC Financing Rounds, Speaker at the Startup Days 2024 in Berne, May 2024

— Jacques Bonvin, Start-Up Board — Back to Basics, Speaker at the Start-Up Board Academy in Lausanne and Geneva, 2024

— Jacques Bonvin, VC-Backed Start-Up Boards-25 Years of War Stories, Speaker at the Swiss Board Institute, Journée du Conseil d'administration 2023, September 2023

— Jacques Bonvin, Start-Up Financing in Challenging Times, Masterclass, Speaker at the Startup Days 2023 in Berne, May 2023

— Jacques Bonvin, Term Sheets for Start-Ups, Upgrade your Term Sheets, Masterclass, Speaker at the Startup Days 2022 in Berne, May 2022

— Jacques Bonvin, Term Sheets for Start-Ups, Understanding and Negotiating Term Sheets, Masterclass, Speaker at the Startup Days 2021 in Berne, June 2021

— Jacques Bonvin, L'Entrée au CA: les 100 Premiers Jours de l'Administrateur/trice — Best Practices, Speaker at the Cercle Suisse des Administratrices, January-February 2021

— Jacques Bonvin, Term Sheets for Beginners, Understanding and Negotiating Term Sheets, Masterclass, Speaker at the Swiss Startup Days 2020 in Berne, October 2020

— Jacques Bonvin, M&A by Chinese Parties in Switzerland — Deal Challenges for Legal Advisors, Speaker at the Swiss-Chinese Law Association, January 2020

— Jacques Bonvin, Board Dynamics, Speaker at the Board Training in Basel, November 2019

— Jacques Bonvin, Term Sheets for Beginners, Speaker at the CTI Invest Start-Up Days 2019 in Berne, June 2019

— Jacques Bonvin, Tax in the Boardroom, Speaker at the Deloitte Tax Director Roundtable, February 2019

Publications

— Manuel Werder, Philippe Weber, Moritz Maurer and Jacques Bonvin, LexGTDT: Swiss M&A – Pricing 2023, in: Swiss M&A 2023, Fourth Edition, Law Business Research, August 2023

Professional Memberships

Geneva and Swiss Bar Associations

International Bar Association

SECA Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association

Market Perception

"Jacques Bonvin is extremely sophisticated in M&A and has a deep understanding of the business." (Chambers Global 2026 – Corporate/M&A)

"Jacques Bonvin can translate Swiss nuances to non-Swiss clients well. He has a lot of experience outside Switzerland which really makes him a standout adviser in this jurisdiction." (Chambers Global 2025 – Corporate/M&A)

"We have always been very happy with what he has been doing and value his advice and capacity for executing strategy. The quality of his advice is always outstanding." (Chambers Global 2025 – Corporate/M&A)

"I have worked with Jacques Bonvin for more than 10 years and he is one of the best corporate lawyers I know." (Legal 500 2024)

"Jacques Bonvin is recognised for his work on M&A transactions and venture capital matters." (Chambers Global 2022-2024)

"Jacques Bonvin is recognised for M&A transactions and venture capital matters. He is 'very smart' and 'a very good technician'." (Chambers 2021 – Corporate/M&A)

"Excellent Highly Recommended" (Leaders League 2019-2024 – Corporate/M&A)