



Karim Piguet

Partner

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Languages

French, English

Expertise

Karim accompanies, since more than 15 years, a large number of startups and counts among his clients some of the most promising startups in the Western area of Switzerland. He has a broad practice and a deep understanding of the legal issues and needs of his clients, whether it is in terms of relations between founders, relations with investors, links with universities, protection of intellectual property or employee compensation (stock option plan, share plan, phantom share plan). He also advises investors (VCs, business angels, etc.) in transactions and matters involving startups. He is a regular speaker and runs workshops for founders and/or investors. He also regularly acts as jury expert and mentor in national and international startups competitions.

He also advises board of directors and senior management in connection with their most sensitive corporate governance matters. These engagements range from prospective counselling on implementing appropriate governance rules, risk management and other compliance matters, to factfinding exercises with respect to violations of laws or regulations or shareholders demands and dealing with governance crisis situations.

His practice in the area of intellectual property focuses on the negotiation, drafting and review of contracts relating to immaterial property (technology transfer agreement, option agreement, license agreement, distribution agreement, franchise agreement, etc.) and M&A transactions involving technology-based companies. He also advises his clients on data privacy matters.

Corporate / M&A

Private Equity

Intellectual Property

Technology

Career

- 2023 Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey, Geneva
- 2022 Partner, law firm, Geneva
- 2011 Founding Partner, law firm, Geneva
- 2006 Associate, law firm, Geneva
- 2004 Trainee, law firm, Geneva

Education

- 2006 Admitted to the Swiss Bar
- 2004 LL.M. in International and European Economic and Business Law, Universities of Lausanne, Geneva, Fribourg and Neuchâtel
- 2002 Lic. Iur., University of Geneva

Professional Memberships

Geneva Bar Association

Swiss Bar Association

Accredited special coach at Innosuisse

Speaking Engagements

- Karim Piguet, How to negotiate a Series A Term Sheet, Alpine Venture Forum, Lausanne, October 2021
- Karim Piguet, Update to circular 37 relating to taxation of employees shares, Innovaud and Scale Up Vaud Program, January 2021
- Karim Piguet, Case study – The main terms of a series A investment from a legal standpoint, Alpine High Tech Venture Forum, Lausanne, October 2017
- Karim Piguet, Plan d'intéressement des collaborateurs – aspects juridiques, Chambre vaudoise du commerce et de l'industrie, conference given with PWC (tax aspects), September 2015
- Karim Piguet, How to set up an incentive plan, Alpine Venture Forum, Lausanne, May 2014
- Karim Piguet, Organisation et fonctionnement du conseil d'administration, Centre Patronal (Vaud), March 2014
- Karim Piguet, Prise de participation ou prêt convertible – quelques réflexions autour d'un cas pratique, Business Angels Switzerland, August 2013
- Karim Piguet, Quelques questions choisies autour du contrat de vente (garantie, vente par internet, etc.), petits-déjeuners des PME et des startups organized by the Service de la Promotion Economique of the canton of Geneva, June 2013
- Karim Piguet, How to negotiate a Series A Investment Term Sheet, Alpine Venture Forum, Lausanne, June 2013
- Karim Piguet, Finaliser une opération d'achat d'entreprise: les do's and don'ts, Club of private investors, January 2013
- Karim Piguet, Jurisprudence récente: responsabilité des organes, Chambre fiduciaire suisse, October 2012
- Karim Piguet, Entrepreneurs' Toolkit – Investment Term Sheets, Swiss Venture Forum 2012
- Karim Piguet, Partager : bien s'entourer, ouvrir son capital, Table ronde, Carrefour des Créateurs / Genilem, November 2011
- Karim Piguet, La due diligence de l'acheteur- aspects juridiques et fiscaux (questions choisies), Club of private investors, May 2011

- Karim Piguet, La valeur ajoutée d'un avocat spécialiste dans une transmission d'entreprise, Credi Suisse, February 2011

