



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.

Tax

Career

- 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, 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 2025
- 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.), 3. Auflage, Düsseldorf/Zürich/Bonn, 2022
- 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 very good relationships with his clients and a good grasp of international complexities and piecing them all together." (Chambers Global 2025)

"Thomas Graf is extremely knowledgeable with tax law. His opinion counts a lot." (Chambers Global 2025)

"He is the best international tax counsel available in the Swiss market." (Chambers 2024)

"Mr Graf is one of the brightest and most competent tax lawyers there is. He always has a solution, even for the most complex problems. His commercial awareness and his practical thinking make him a brilliant lawyer and advisor." (Chambers 2024)

"Catherine Grun and Thomas Graf are very experienced on cross-border matters and a pleasure to work with." (Legal 500 2024)

"He is pragmatic, does not get stressed and resolves the most complicated situations." (Chambers Global 2023)

"Thomas Graf – a wealth of experience on Swiss and international tax matters relevant to private clients and their businesses. Pragmatic and solution-driven." (Legal 500 2023)

"Thomas is a fantastic private tax lawyer" (Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2023)

"Thomas Graf is a fantastic tax lawyer. He is simply extremely clever. He is very nimble in what he can do." (Chambers 2023)

"Thomas Graf is a proven tax expert. He has an excellent network and stands out for his negotiation skills." (Chambers Global 2022)

"Thomas Graf is an exceptional tax lawyer with a very pragmatic and proactive approach. He has excellent communication skills, which makes it extremely pleasant to work with him and helps him regularly achieve excellent results for his clients. Also, Thomas is a true pleasure to work with and simply one of the best tax lawyers in the country." (Legal 500 2022)

Thomas Graf draws praise as a "pure tax lawyer" who is highly sought after for his top-notch work in the sports industry. (Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2021)

"Thomas Graf has a unique experience and an exceptionally pragmatic sense in giving advice regarding complex cross-border transactions and international sports events – in his field of expertise he is truly stellar. He helped us to be always at the forefront of developments and he is a true pleasure to work with." (Legal 500 2021)

"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)

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)

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"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)

