

# Private Client



Succession and Succession  
to Property  
Property and  
Shareholding Structuring  
Foundations  
Tax Law – in particular  
Inheritance Tax  
Family Law  
Real Property  
Art Law

## The Law Firm

### AREAS OF LAW COVERED

Labour law  
Individual and collective labour law  
Laws on banking  
and provision of finance  
Structured financing, debt financing  
Building and property laws  
Project development and management  
construction contract law  
Corporate laws  
M&A  
Capital markets, IPOs, private equity  
venture capital, restructuring  
EU laws/antitrust law  
Merger regulations, antitrust law  
subsidies and grants, regulatory affairs  
tendering, anti-dumping/WTO  
basic EC freedoms  
Intellectual property  
Competition law, laws on patents  
brands, copyrights  
Public commercial law  
Public building regulations  
privatizations, environmental laws  
Tax laws  
Corporate structuring  
Commercial, civil and trade laws  
Transactions with the  
People's Republic of China  
Law of the sea  
Sales and contract law

### FOCAL INDUSTRIES

Plant construction  
Banking and financial services  
Real estate industry and property finance  
Infrastructure and energy industry  
Life sciences  
Food, medicines and pharma  
Media & Entertainment  
Private clients  
National and international s  
uccession planning  
Shipping and transportation  
Sports and leisure  
Technology  
Information technology, e-commerce,  
telecommunications

Taylor Wessing ranks among Germany's leading, internationally operating law firms. With 215 German lawyers we advise medium-sized companies, expanding enterprises and major corporations on all aspects of national and international commercial law. We are known for our special expertise in the corporate, IP and private client.

We are highly experienced in advising technology-rich and knowledge-based companies, whether these be in the classic manufacturing and plant construction sector or in the modern information technology and telecommunications industry, whether they are involved in the wide field of life sciences or in the media, leisure and other service industries.

We currently have 11 offices in Germany, England, France, Belgium, Spain and China. In countries where we do not have our own offices, we serve clients through a wide network of partner law firms with whom we have established good relations over the course of many years; we cooperate very closely but not, by deliberate policy choice, exclusively. This approach guarantees the flexibility we require to assist you in an efficient, competitive manner – wherever you need us.

*The Taylor Wessing union creates  
an Anglo-German technology giant*

*Chambers & Partners  
2002*

## What makes the difference?

### THEORY VERSUS PRACTICE

Is theory enough for you? Not for us. Success is a practical matter. Therefore our normal practice is to use all our experience to focus on what you are aiming to achieve. Together, we determine your precise needs and decide what is feasible and what makes economic sense. For us, as for you, the bottom line is what will help your business succeed.

### SUCCESS DOESN'T HAPPEN BY CHANCE

Would you flip a coin to make a decision? Neither would we. Whatever your line of business, Taylor Wessing – itself an economic enterprise – operates according to the same principles. During a process of systematic cooperation we develop pragmatic, cost-efficient solutions to maximize the success of your business. Needless to say we maintain a keen interest in all the specific aspects of your products, services and market. That way, finding the right path to success is no longer a matter of chance.

### ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE

Do you like to repeat yourself? You will be assigned one experienced partner who will be your personal contact for the entire project. He/she will supervise and manage your legal affairs, keeping the complexity of the subject matter and your individual requirements in mind. All our lawyers work in inter-office, international Practice Departments, which ensures an ongoing exchange of news and knowledge about legal and business matters. Therefore, your personal lawyer is the key to the whole range of our resources.

## Practice Department

## Private Client



Private property is usually composed of many different types of assets and valuables and can be acquired, received or passed on in many ways. Accordingly, the whole issue of protecting property interests produces some highly complex questions and legal points. Depending on the individual situation, it may be necessary not only to consider corporate and tax law aspects, but also to meet the requirements of succession, family or real estate law.

The German Private Client Team at Taylor Wessing advises and supports clients in all legal issues connected with private property planning and structuring. One of our traditional main practice areas is the planning and structuring of succession to property or company succession for family-owned businesses. Here we aim to create the best possible company structure in terms of corporate and tax laws, to settle company succession, to identify and eliminate factors that threaten the company's survival.

One focus of interest is on private planning for the future, including the drafting of prenuptial and divorce agreements and wills. We have in-depth experience in establishing family foundations or charitable organizations and in advising art collectors. We are well aware that property issues are among the most important and sensitive business and private issues for our clients. Our partners therefore take every care to offer insightful, sensitive and professional advice to our international clients.

We and our partners at Taylor Wessing UK maintain close contacts to external counsel and service providers, especially in financial and tax-related matters. Taylor Wessing keeps up to date with the latest changes in case law and with new legislation and makes an active contribution to the debate and development process through its regular publications, presentations and membership in numerous professional associations.



### Succession and Succession to Property

Our work in this field focuses on forward planning for succession and the implementation of these plans. We confer with our clients to identify their individual objectives and requirements which then form the basis for their personal succession arrangements. This process ensures that assets are conveyed to the intended successor.

We advise on issues relating to succession prior to the bequeather's death and on how a will or contract of succession might be worded. We are frequently appointed as executors and advise executors in respect of their duties.

If, due to the absence of a will or contract stipulating succession to assets, there are disputes among the potential heirs, we advise and represent our clients in proceedings to resolve the differences both in and out of court.

In view of the fact that international factors are increasingly involved in succession planning, our attorneys also have the required expertise in international private law.

### Property and Shareholding Structuring

We advise private individuals on the acquisition or sale of companies and of company shares. When we prepare the appropriate contracts - whether these be share or company purchase agreements or other company contracts - we take great care to ensure that the individual interests of our client are considered. We advise and represent shareholders in out-of-court disputes and lawsuits brought by shareholders against other shareholders.

We offer specialized experience in the structuring of personal wealth, in particular with tax law in mind. We also advise on setting up

private asset management companies and family offices.

We suggest ways in which companies might restructure or reorganize. The motivation for reorganization is generally to be found in business administration or tax issues. The reasons might equally be private. Collaborating with the client we draft the required contracts and optimize the tax structure. Struktur.



**Foundations** | Foundations are often used to secure private wealth. The Private Client team at Taylor Wessing provides legal advice on the creation and administration of national and international foundations. Advice includes the most suitable form for the foundation, the best re-

gistered office and its internal organisation.

In cooperation with our UK partners, we advise on legal and tax issues relating to the creation and management of trusts.



**Tax Law – in particular Inheritance Tax** | Another special area the Private Client team focuses on is inheritance tax law and taxes on gifts. We develop succession models which will minimize the inheritance tax bill whilst taking the consequences each model has for taxes on earnings into account.

issues, we also support our clients in all other areas of tax law. This includes advising German nationals – especially on tax-related matters – who leave to live in a different country or return to Germany after a long stay abroad (relocation of domicile).



We advise on international tax and succession planning for private clients, private banks and family offices. Besides succession

**Family Law** | Changes in personal circumstances due to marriage, children, death, divorce or family conflict require a review of the existing family structures involving property rights. We therefore provide comprehensive advice on marriage contracts and support in procedures for the adoption of minors and adults.

ments, statutory pension equalization, child support, custody and visitation rights. We also represent our clients in divorce proceedings.

As this increasingly involves multinational issues our family law experts are also specialized in private international law.



In the event of a separation, we advise our clients on all the financial and personal consequences. These include matters such as the law on matrimonial property, support pay-



**Real Property** | Using the knowledge of our partners as well as the competence of our real estate practice department, we offer comprehensive advice to our clients on all the complex legal issues relating to the ownership of real property - this includes the acquisition, maintenance, exploitation by sale or leasing, increase in value and marketing of real estate property and the structuring of communities of freehold flat owners.

Buying, maintaining, improving and selling real estate involves many complex legal issues. We are there to help from the initial planning stage all the way through to the sale or marketing of the property. The partners in the Real Estate Practice Department are called upon for support in such cases.

We offer assistance in the process of buying real estate and earning money from real estate through selling, leasing or renting and in matters relating to condominium-ownership groups. We are also experienced in advising on the laws relating to real property, real estate transactions, financing, construction planning, building regulations, brokers and real estate developers, private building and building supervision, engineers and architects, as well as the leasing of premises for commercial or residential use.

We represent our clients in the preparation, handling and conclusion of all appropriate real estate contracts. We negotiate on our client's behalf with local authorities, general contractors, engineers, architects, brokers and financial institutions. In cases of disputes relating to real property issues, we also represent our clients in court.



**Art Law** | In the field of art, we advise both artists and the families of deceased artists as well as galleries, foundations and collectors. Our services focus on giving advice to sellers and buyers, with checks on the provenance of works of art especially important. We maintain close relations with famous auction houses.

Disputes increasingly arise from the marketing of copyrights to works of art. We fre-

quently represent clients who have bought works which might possibly be fakes. We pursue lawsuits on behalf of our clients or act in out-of-court proceedings and offer assistance in researching the true origins of the works.



*The private client team  
"... has expertise in cross-border work, bespoke investment structuring,  
intellectual property taxation and the intersection with matrimonial law"*

*Chambers & Partners  
2002-2003*

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