



Private Client in Germany

Taylor Wessing LLP's Private Client practice group in Germany advises private clients on all wealth planning and asset protection matters, whatever their scale or scope, including all matters relating to the law of succession, inheritance tax law and family law.

We work closely with our colleagues in the Taylor Wessing UK Private Client Department.

Our services encompass all the legal needs of the individual with particular emphasis on succession planning for entrepreneurs and family owned businesses. We understand the need for forward planning to protect market position and ensure a seamless transition of ownership whether on sale, retirement or death. We also focus on the needs of the private client in relation to marriage, divorce and testamentary matters. As well as advising individuals, we also advise family foundations, charities and the owners of significant artworks.

By bringing together all the legal expertise required by the private client in one practice group we provide a unique, coordinated service in which private clients can have complete confidence that the advice they receive is tailored to their needs and sourced from a wide range of experts.

As well as timely, up to the minute advice, our experience and expertise enable us to respond with sensitivity and a creative approach to potential or actual conflicts relating to succession and property rights.

Practice Areas

- Art law
- Family law
- Foundations
- Law of succession
- Property and shareholding structuring
- Real property
- Tax law

Art law

In the field of art, we advise not only artists and families of deceased artists, but also galleries, foundations and collectors.

Our services focus on giving advice at the acquisition stage, especially in investigating the origin of works of art.

Disputes increasingly arise from the marketing and merchandising of copyrights in works of art. We frequently represent clients who have bought works where authenticity is in doubt. We not only act for our clients in court proceedings and out-of-court disputes but also support them in investigations into authenticity.

Family law

Changes in domestic relations due to marriage, children, death, divorce or family conflict require a review of the existing family structures involving property rights.

We provide comprehensive advice on marriage contracts and adoption of minors.

In the event of a separation, we advise our clients on all the economic and personal consequences of this including, in particular, the law on matrimonial property, post-marital support, statutory equalisation, child support, custody and visitation rights. We also represent our clients in divorce proceedings.

Our multinational clientele makes the handling of complex international issues relating to family law a major area of our family law practice.

Foundations

We provide legal advice on the creation and administration of foundations of all kinds, including all aspects of civil and tax law, choice of jurisdiction and category.

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

Law of succession

We focus on prospective succession planning and its implementation. Together with our clients, we determine their individual objectives and requirements as a basis of personal succession arrangements ensuring that their assets are conveyed to the intended successor. We advise on issues relating to anticipated succession on a testamentary or contractual basis.

We are frequently appointed as administrators and advise administrators on issues relating to their duties.

In the absence of a will or inheritance contract relating to the succession to assets, a situation which may involve arguments amongst the potential heirs, we advise and represent our clients in out-of-court disputes as well as in court proceedings.

Property and shareholding structuring

We advise private individuals on the acquisition or sale of companies and of company shares. Individual interests are taken into account, be it in share or company purchase agreements or in company contracts. We advise and represent shareholders in out-of-court conflicts and lawsuits which arise between shareholders.

We offer specialized experience in the structuring of personal property, in particular as regards tax law and the creation and management of the family office and private property management companies.

We advise and represent companies in the process of restructuring and reorganisation for tax, operational or private reasons.

Real property

Real property is likely to form a substantial part of an individual's assets. Using the knowledge of our partners as well as the competence of our real property practice group, 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. We offer guidance to our clients in all stages of their projects, from the first planning steps until the eventual sale.

We are also experienced at 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 business and living purposes.

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

Tax law

Another legal focus is inheritance tax law and tax on donations. We develop succession models optimising tax efficiency in relation to inheritance tax and taxes on earnings.

In cooperation with our UK partners, we advise on international tax and succession planning for private clients, private banks and family offices.

Our approach

The ethos at Taylor Wessing has always been to build a close and lasting relationship with clients. We offer a partner led service with close partner involvement and supervision, whilst seeking to ensure that the right expert at the right level provides the advice. Our private client skills are based upon the historical origins of our practice, the breadth and complexity of the problems we solve on a day to day basis, and the experience of our partners and staff.

Our partners have a long tradition of providing a timely and understanding service for clients from all the world and are particularly alert to the difficulties of transacting business in different time zones.

Together with our UK colleagues we maintain close working relationships with expert advisers and service providers in all recognised low tax and developed jurisdictions.

We use state of the art technology and documentation to create imaginative practical solutions to the problems of wealth and succession.

Finally, we have a clear understanding of our clients' need to keep all of their costs (including legal costs) to the lowest feasible levels. One of our key objectives is to provide legal services on a cost effective and competitive basis and we are experienced in working to budgets and keeping our clients informed. We are able to agree various methods for the charging of our work, depending upon circumstances which may include fixed fee arrangements and blended rates.

Lead Partners - Private client



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A legal force for Europe

Based principally in the UK, France and Germany - with an office in Brussels and Dubai, as well as representative offices in Alicante and Shanghai - Taylor Wessing provides the full range of legal services to major corporations, financial and public institutions, growing enterprises and wealthy private clients.

Taylor Wessing has an enviable track record in serving knowledge-based and technology-orientated businesses. A market leader in intellectual property, the firm also has a strong market presence in corporate, finance and real estate.

Our services

- **Corporate** - M&A, IPOs, Private equity, Tax, Commercial law, Inward investment, Funds
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- **Finance & projects** - Banking, Structured finance, Major projects
- **Dispute resolution** - Litigation, Arbitration, Mediation
- **Reconstruction and corporate recovery** - Restructuring, Work-outs, Formal insolvency
- **Real estate** - Investment, Development, Finance, Planning and environment
- **Employment & pensions** - Employee benefits, Human resources, Pensions, Pensions litigation
- **Competition** - EC law and anti-trust
- **Regulatory** - Public law, Financial services
- **Private client** - International asset protection, Tax and succession planning

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