

Horace GAUTIER

Attorney-at-law (“Avocat”)

Practice Focus

Legal advice in particular in relation to: Company Law, Mergers & Acquisitions, Divestiture, Insolvency, Contract, Property, Labour and Employment, Private International Law, Law on Succession.

Dispute resolution: Litigation, Arbitration (as Counsel or as arbitrator), ADR, International Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters and Insolvency, with particular emphasis on international disputes.

Bar Admission:

Attorney-at-law: Admitted, Switzerland (1982)

Education

University of Geneva (Switzerland): Law Degree (1979).
Brevet d’avocat, Geneva, 1982.

Professional Experience

Practice in Geneva and in London.

Partner, Secretan Troyanov since 1990.

Articles at Haissly & Vodoz (now Schellenberg & Wittmer), 1980-82; associate, Secretan Troyanov, 1983-1989; resident partner, Secretan Troyanov, London office, 1990-1993. Managing partner, 1995-2003

Membership in Professional Associations

Geneva Bar Association,
Swiss Bar Association,
Geneva Law Society,
Geneva Association of Business Law,
Swiss Arbitration Association,
Holborn Law Society,
International Bar Association,
American Bar Association (Associate, Section of International Law).
British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce,
British Institute of International and Comparative Law,
III International Insolvency Institute.

Personal Information

Year of birth: 1956

Nationality: Swiss

Languages: French, English and German

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Arbitration practice:

Acting as counsel, arbitrator or Chairman of arbitration panels in ad hoc and institutional (ICC, Swiss Rules) arbitration proceedings, handling disputes governed by Swiss, foreign or international law in matters of finance (international financing by loans, equity or other structures), contract, international sale (e.g. commodities), construction, companies (shareholders relations), agency, trusts and succession and damages.

Litigation practice:

Acting in Swiss (State and federal) courts on behalf of companies and individuals in disputes pertaining to contract, company law, banking and finance, fraud, employment and others, in both substantive and provisional (injunctive) proceedings.

Coordinating international, multi-jurisdictional dispute resolution.

Acting for companies or individuals in Swiss (federal or State) criminal proceedings or proceedings for international assistance in criminal matters in disputes pertaining to international fraud and white collar crime.

Issuing expert opinions on matters of Swiss law before foreign courts.

Company law practice:

Assisting in acquisition or sale of companies or businesses. Handling legal due diligence surveys of companies and businesses.

Drafting and negotiating contracts for acquisition or sale, financing of same, shareholders relations, key management contracts etc.

Advising on corporate structures for businesses, group structures, intercompany relations, directors, management and group liability, asset protection and insolvency.

Insolvency practice:

Advising companies in matters of company and insolvency laws, proper conduct in insolvency or pre-insolvency situations. Advising and assisting in dealings with insolvency courts. Acting in Swiss courts in matters of insolvency proceedings (filings, applications, appeals) on behalf of insolvent companies or of creditors.