

## Maurice P. CHOQUARD

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### Profile

Independent attorney at law admitted to the bar in Switzerland (Zurich & Geneva) and in California, USA. Professional experience includes 7 years' experience as in-house counsel (BBC BROWN BOVERI & Co.) & General Counsel (KUEHNE & NAGEL Group). 23 years in private practice (Geneva, San Francisco, Zurich). Practice concentrates in areas of Swiss and international business transactions; wills, estates & trusts; commercial arbitration & litigation. Fluent in French (mother tongue), English & German.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **1986 – Today**      **Private Practice of International Commercial Law as attorney at law**

Emphasizing the international aspects of arbitration, commercial litigation, contracts, corporations, banking law, labor law, inheritance, M & A, technology transfer, unfair competition & trusts.

#### **Private Practice** (Kusnacht-Zurich, 2000-Today)

**Representative Cases:** Negotiating sales contracts of Swiss high tech machinery to French, Russian and USA agencies. Acting as counsel for a foreign companies against other foreign entities before the Arbitral Tribunal of the Zurich Chamber of Commerce. Contracted the transfer of a young star from a Swiss Super-League football club to a top 'Bundesleagua' team. Contract negotiations on behalf of industrial conglomerates (Western Europe & EU) with North African counterparts. Formation of legal entities. Estate planning including trusts. Set-up Swiss/European headquarters of a foreign group of companies. Judicial representation of a major French bank against a major Swiss bank, including attachment and appeal proceedings. Consulting on behalf of a Swedish company group in its contracting strategic and material support of an African State Government for the infrastructure of its harbor, roads & sewer facilities, electrical and communication networks.

#### **Senior Partner in 14 lawyers' firm** (Zollikon-Zurich, 1996-2000)

**Representative Cases:** M & A in the Swiss steel market. Assisting a major automobile import group to ensure compliance with the challenging and ever changing Swiss/EU antitrust regulations. Contract negotiations on behalf of industrial conglomerates (W- & E-Europe) in their dealings with Northern Africa. Drafted a Code of Business Ethics for the General counsel of a Swiss conglomerate to promulgate among its 157 In-House Counsels. Strategic planning for the establishment of a foreign bank in Switzerland. Labor law dispute resolution. Formation of legal entities. Collection of remedies before a Swiss Court for a foreign resident claiming against a Spanish conglomerate as its long time business agent.

#### **Senior Partner in 4 Lawyers' Firm** (Zurich, 1986-1996)

**Representative Cases:** Complete restructuring of a major Swiss (CHF 550 million) automobile import company by redrafting all agreements (distribution, licensing, leasing, etc.). Asset protection (through negotiation, litigation and attachment in a dozen countries) for a woman and children against her husband's mistress in the United States who was seeking to divert US\$ 800 million from deceased's estate. Fiduciary sale of a valuable MODIGLIANI painting. Seizure and attachment proceedings for a bank claiming against the assets of Werner K. REY. Collection efforts involving US\$ 22 million embezzled from Soviet crude oil traders. Collections activity for a Swiss trade association. Arranged the release of a US\$ 53 mio claim paid by a Northern African State to a US co.

#### **1984 - 1986**      **KUEHNE & NAGEL INTERNATIONAL Ltd. , Pfaeffikon-SZ-CH, General counsel, Executive Vice-President.**

General counsel for the KN-Group. Services focused on corporate matters, contracts, litigation-arbitration, labor relations, insurance, and trademark matters. Reported directly to the co-owner, general manager and co-chairman of the Board of Directors.