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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.

Representative Cases: Negotiated a Joint Venture with the largest land transportation group of Brazil. Acquisition of an insurance company in Australia. Implementation of a distribution agreement with the largest French wine retailer. Establishment of the first foreign-owned legal entity in the Sultanate of Oman. Negotiation of a joint venture agreement with PUROLATOR Inc., for small package delivery between the U.S. & Germany.

1980 – 1984 **BBC BROWN BOVERI & Cie, Baden-AG**
Legal counsel.

Responsible for all legal issues worldwide of the three production departments of Traction (trains, streetcars, etc.), electronics and turbines. Main legal negotiator for transactions as a French speaker with North America. Emphasis on international business transactions, corporate issues, contracts, product liability issues, international litigation and arbitration.

Representative Cases: Negotiated the sale of BBC France (conglomerate with 9'500 employees) to ALSTHOM, pursuant to the direction of the French Prime Minister. Reorganization of the public steel and electricity production in Togo, Africa, through the formation of companies and drawing up of all related agreements (leases, loans, management, sales, shareholders', etc.). Negotiated a 600 million US\$ contract on the U.S. West Coast (including turbines, power stations, and substations) for supplying power to the Los Angeles Basin. Contract work permitting acquisition of sixty streetcars for the City of Geneva. Lead counsel in major litigation against the City of Wellington, New Zealand, regarding more than 80 streetcars, with sub-legal issues including seizure of bank deposits of a BBC consortium partner consistent with BBC's guarantee of the prime debt.

1979-1980 **NIXON PEABODY LLP (fka LILLICK McHOSE & CHARLES)Attorneys at Law.**
San Francisco, CA, USA Foreign attorney. Contract, Securities & Corporate Law.
1978-1980 **General Consulate of Switzerland San Francisco, CA. / USA**
Part-time legal counsel. Swiss law involving the Consulate and private clients.
1978-79 **Bernard PETRIE Law Firm, San Francisco, CA. / USA**
Foreign attorney. General practice.
1974-77 **(fka) JACQUEMOUD JEANRENAUD & VOUILLOZ, Attorneys at Law.**
Geneva, Switzerland. Junior attorney ("stagiaire")

EDUCATION

1980 **California Bar Exam** & admitted to the State Bar of California.
1978-79 **Master of Law (LL.M.)** in International Business Transactions, BOALT HALL School of Law, University of California, Berkeley. Graduated with Honors.
1978 **First foreign student** at GOLDEN GATE University School of Law, in San Francisco. Collected credit "units", no diploma) in Corporations, Civil Procedure, Wills, Estates & Trusts.
1977 **Geneva Bar Exam.**
1971-74 **J.D. ("Licence en Droit"),** University of Geneva.

LANGUAGES: **French:** Mother tongue **English:** Fluent **German:** Fluent.

MEMBERSHIPS: **CH:** Zurich Bar Association (ZAV) / Geneva Bar Association / Swiss Bar Association (SAV) / Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA) / Association Genevoise du Droit des Affaires / WIPO Arbitration & Mediation Center / Europa Institut Zurich (EIZ) / Zurcherischer Juristenverein / Association for the Application and Promotion of Electronic Technologies (APTE)
USA: State Bar of California / American Bar Association (ABA) **GLOBAL:** International Bar Association (IBA) / International Association Boalt Alumni (IABA) / British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) / Canadian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce / Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) / Cercle d'Affaires Franco-Suisse (CAFS).

VISIT www.ch.ca.choquattorneys.ch