

Dr. Clemens Maschke

Partner



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Frankfurt

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Overview

Dr. Clemens Maschke is an emerging markets specialist, as such using an established network helping clients capitalize on evolving trends in the marketplace - whether on domestic markets or frontier markets such as Africa, China, India, the Middle East or elsewhere by making sure client's perspective to a deal is adequately reflected, both in terms of legal implications always baring cultural nuances in mind. *Legal 500* recognizes such expertise at the "intersection with M&A transactions and joint ventures".

Clemens is part of Dentons' Corporate, Mergers and Acquisitions and Private Equity practices. He is also a member of Dentons' global Venture Technology group and the Dentons Iran team.

Rendering advice in a pragmatic and collaborative manner Clemens is contributing to the venture technology ecosystems both in terms of pro bono work, e.g. when partnering with Sigma Squared Society in support of founders tackling legal and commercial issues on their way building a successful start-up / scale-up, and as trusted advisor for VC funds and start-ups / scale-ups.

Clemens has advised on numerous domestic and cross-border transactions, the structuring of joint ventures, complex restructurings and venture technology deals, with a strong industry focus on automotive and TMT. Further, Clemens has extensive experience with international integration and compliance projects. He has worked across a wide range of industries, in particular, for global clients relating to their post-merger integration and subsidiary management, including, performing worldwide integrity checks followed by rectifications relating to the non-compliance matters / discrepancies observed and conducting business partners due diligences.

Before joining Dentons, Clemens worked at other leading global law firms where he led governance, risk and compliance practices and the Iran desk. He holds a doctorate from Heidelberg University.

Experience

- **New Enterprise Associates:** Advising as lead investor in the series B financing for e-book startup Inkitt GmbH.
- **German listed company:** Advising a leading German supplier to the automotive and engineering industries on a strategic joint venture with a Chinese state owned enterprise in the railway industry.

- **Venture Capital investor:** Advising a Series B investment (including 'media for equity structures') into an e-commerce platform for the sale / purchase of cars.
- **Chinese global client:** Advising a Chinese global client relating to the restructuring of its overseas subsidiaries, setting-up of a group-wide shared services center and preparations of a proposed listing at a Chinese stock exchange.
- **Chinese strategic investor:** Advising a Chinese hydrogen project investor on a strategic joint venture with a German clean-tech start-up in the hydrogen business.
- **Venture Capital investor:** Ongoing advice to Venture Capital fund in connection with its fund raising and various early stage investments in tech start-ups.
- **Renewable energy project developer:** Advising various solar energy project developer on the development of up to 1,000 MWp solar parks with a subsequent corporate PPA securing electricity supply for corporate off-takers.
- **Venture Capital investor:** Advising Venture Capital lead investor on a seed financing round for the Canadian technology company MergeBase. MergeBase develops innovative solutions in the field of cyber security.
- **Mobisol:** Advising Mobisol, a manufacturer of solar systems, on the takeover by the French energy supplier ENGIE.
- **Global Blockchain hard- and software producer:** Advising a leading German producer of innovative Blockchain hard- and software solutions start-up, on its various financing rounds and different stages of business scaling, e.g. relating to its offering of unique product solutions for the newly emerging industrial and enterprise Blockchain market.
- **Global manufacturing companies:** Advising on various Iran divestment projects.
- **Dentsu Aegis:** Advising on the acquisition of the German based data driven video marketing company Videobeat.
- **WayRay:** Advising the Swiss holographic AR solution startup, on its US\$80 million Series C financing round and a strategic cooperation with the German luxury carmaker, Porsche, as lead investor. In addition, Alibaba, Hyundai, China Merchants Capital, JVCCKENWOOD and a consortium of sovereign wealth funds acquired stakes in the company.
- **Global producer of foodstuff:** Advising on a proposed investment in Iran. The advice included the structuring of a subsequent joint venture with a Swedish private equity investor and a long-term strategic partnership with a local distribution company.
- **Renault Group:** Advising on various legal aspects of the largest car manufacturing joint-venture project to date in Iran.
- **Global personnel service provider:** Advising on a legal post-merger integration in five jurisdictions.
- **Private equity investor:** Advising on a merger of its portfolio company, a leading producer of natural health products, with its main US based competitor.
- **Chinese strategic investor:** Advising on the contemplated acquisition of a German based leading manufacturer of computer input devices from a global leader in driveline and chassis technology.
- **Global asset management company:** Advising on a legal post-merger integration in three jurisdictions.
- **Chinese strategic investor:** Advising on a contemplated acquisition of a satellite communications systems provider.
- **European salt producer:** Advising on the sale of a Spanish subsidiary to its main French competitor.
- **Chinese strategic investor:** Advising on the acquisition of a German based leading laser beam shaping

company.

- **Global digital service provider:** Advising on the acquisition of an IT-Service provider from a DAX 30-company.
- **Private equity investor:** Advising on the acquisition of the laboratory information management system division from a leading German IT-Service provider.
- **European telecommunication service provider:** Advising on a joint venture with a German bank.
- **Private equity investor:** Advising on the acquisition of a minority interest in a leading German shoe retailer.
- **German automotive parts supplier:** Advising on the acquisition of a majority interest in its major German competitor with a precedent carve-out of its workshop chain division.
- **MDAX-company:** Advising on the acquisition of a minority interest in and the structuring of a long-term and strategic cooperation with a German based manufacturer of beverage filling and packaging systems.
- **Private equity investors:** Advising on their investment in a German based print-on-demand provider.
- **Turkish institutional investor:** Advising on the acquisition of a major German automotive supplier.
- **Private equity investor:** Advising on the takeover of a German based airline by way of an asset deal.
- **French listed European engineering and technology consultancy company:** Advising on the acquisition of a majority interest in a German based automotive engineering company and the structuring of a long-term and strategic cooperation with a German DAX 30 car producer.
- **TecDAX-company:** Advising on the acquisition of a small-cap IT sector target.
- **DAX 30-company:** Advising on the sale of its fertilizer business division, active in more than 20 countries, to a major private equity investor.
- **Insolvency administrator:** Advising on the transferring restructuring of a leading German automotive supplier to a Chinese state-owned investment fund.
- **German municipal housing company:** Advising on the sale of a real estate portfolio of approximately 10,500 apartments and a subsequent comprehensive restructuring of the municipal housing company.
- **Credit management service provider:** Advising on the acquisition of a non-performing loan portfolio.
- **Private equity investor:** Advising on the contemplated acquisition of a furniture store company.
- **Digital broadcasting company:** Advising on a contemplated dual listing IPO (EU Regulated Market, Prime Standard, in Frankfurt and Amsterdam) and a subsequent trade sale.
- **Wind blade manufacturer:** Advising on a contemplated IPO (Open Market) in Frankfurt.
- **Real estate fund:** Advising on various (residential and commercial) real estate investments.

Pro bono

- **Sigma Squared (formerly Kairos Europe):** Supporting the start-up in restructuring and setting up a non-profit association, as well as setting up a learning platform.
- **ArtAsyl e.V.:** Support with various operational issues.
- **Kumbig e.V.:** Support in various operational projects.

Recognition

- Recognized in *The Legal 500* (2021) as expert for markets in transition.

Insights

Articles

- “Assessing compliance risks: Lifting of Iran sanctions and the consequences of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)”, *Compliance Business Magazine*, 2016
- “Comply when you buy – Compliance in the course of M&A transactions: What matters in praxis”, *Compliance Business Magazine*, 2015
- “The Societas Privata Europaea in the course of corporate acquisitions”, *Betriebs-Berater*, 2011

Books

- “The statute of the Societas Privata Europaea and its legislative development of creditor protection rules”, *Nomos* 2010

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

- Regularly presenting / holding workshops for Sigma Squared Society and its 1,000+ leading start-up / scale-up entrepreneurs.
- “Iran – chances and risks of an opening market: Overview on sanctions and sanctions compliance, including business and third party due diligence”, Frankfurt, 2016
- “Societas Privata Europaea a new European legal entity for small and medium-sized companies (SME)”, Frankfurt, 2011

Prior and Present Employment

- Partner, Dentons, 2019 to date
- Counsel, Dentons, 2017-2019
- Senior Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers Legal, 2009–2017
- Associate, Beiten Burkhardt, 2007–2008

Areas of focus

Practices

- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate in Germany

Industry sectors

- Private Equity
- Private Equity in Germany

Region

- Frankfurt

Education

- University of Heidelberg, 2010, Dr. iur.
- Legal clerkship, 2004-2006, Mannheim, Heidelberg and Speyer
- University of Konstanz, 2004, Legal studies

Admissions and qualifications

- Admitted to the bar, Germany, 2007
- Specialist Lawyer for Tax Law, Germany, 2017

Languages

- English
- German