

Werner Jahnel Partner, Zurich



Werner specialises in private wealth, advising private clients, family offices, foundations and trust companies on complex international estate planning and estate litigation, divorce proceedings, family law issues and art law.

He is certified by the Swiss Bar Association as a specialist in inheritance law and ranked by Chambers' High Net Worth Guide and Who's Who Legal as a leading practitioner in Private Client and Arbitration, as well as by Legal 500 as one of the leading private client practitioners in Switzerland. Having practised international arbitration for two decades, he currently acts as counsel and arbitrator in commercial and private client related disputes.

Current professional memberships

- + Member of Private Client Global Elite, The International Academy of Estate and Trust Law (TIAETL) and the International Advisory Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC)
- + Vice-president of the Swiss Association for Arbitration in Inheritance Matters (SVSiE)
- + Member of International Bar Association (IBA)

Career history

- + Partner, LALIVE, 2014 – present
- + Associate, LALIVE, 2008 – 2014
- + Senior Associate, Monero Meyer Marinel-Io Abogados, 2005 – 2008
- + Associate, ARP Andreas Reiner & Partners, 2002 – 2005

Academic qualifications

- + Lecturer, Vienna University, 2013 – present
- + Lecturer, Northwestern University Chicago/Instituto de Empresa Madrid, 2010 – 2020
- + Certified by the Swiss Bar Association as a specialist in inheritance law, 2016
- + CAS in Inheritance Law, Universities of Zurich/Luzern, 2016
- + PhD, University of Graz, Austria, 2001
- + MA International Law, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva 1996 – 1998

Contact

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Practices

- + Arbitration - International Commercial
- + Commercial Litigation
- + Private Client

Sectors

- + Art & Cultural Property

Languages

- + English
- + French
- + German
- + Spanish

Nationality

- + Austrian
- + Swiss

Admission

- + Zurich, 2014
- + Barcelona, 2008
- + Vienna, 2005

“One of the best Swiss private client practitioners”

Who's Who Legal National Leaders, Private Client, 2023

Recognition

Quoted as a “fantastic practitioner” with a “strong practice in international cross-border trusts and litigation”.

Who’s Who Legal, Thought Leaders, Private Client, 2022

Ranked as Foreign Expert

Chambers Global, Arbitration, 2023

The “excellent” Werner Jahnelt is a pre-eminent figure in the market, with peers describing him as “one of the best Swiss private client practitioners”

Who’s Who Legal National Leaders, Private Client, 2023

Recent publications

Die Stellung des Ehegatten nach Schweizer Erbrecht

WERNER JAHNEL, SUZAN CAN

In: Journal für Erbrecht und Vermögensnachfolge JEV, März 2024, Heft 1, S-9-17

The new law of succession – relevant for foundations

WERNER JAHNEL

In: THE PHILANTHROPIST – Das Magazin von Stiftung Schweiz, 4 January 2023

Der 1. Juli müsste ein Trigger-Event sein

WERNER JAHNEL

In: finews.ch, 6 July 2022

Recent conferences

International Academy of Estate & Trust Law (IAETL) - Annual meeting 2026

WERNER JAHNEL , Role: Chair of the session, Protection of Assets from External Risks in a Divided World (Discussion of protection of trusts in the investor state arbitration)

Vancouver, 17 May 2026

Private Client Exchange - Switzerland 2026

WERNER JAHNEL , Role: Co-chair

Guarda Val-Lenzerheide, 19 March 2026

Private Client Global Elite - Trust & Estates Litigation Forum

WERNER JAHNEL , Role: Speaker, Breakout Session: Behind the Canvas: Conflicts Shaping the Art World

Auchterarder, Scotland, 4 February 2026