





## SCHURTI PARTNERS

RECHTSANWÄLTE AG | ATTORNEYS AT LAW LTD

## Schurti Partners Attorneys at Law Ltd

Schurti Partners Attorneys at Law Ltd, a Liechtenstein law firm dedicated to meeting the highest international standards.

The firm was founded in 1991 as a partnership and incorporated in 2015. Over the years, it has grown to become one of the largest and most renowned law firms in Liechtenstein. From its inception as a traditional Liechtenstein law office, it has evolved over the decades to become a modern full-service law firm with a strong focus on international matters. Our lawyers are trained and qualified in a multitude of jurisdictions (Liechtenstein, New York, California, England

Schurti Partners Attorneys at Law Ltd regularly advises its international clientele in the following fields of law:

## Private Client /

## Asset & Estate Planning

- Trusts
- Foundations
- Establishments
- Trust Enterprises
- Limited Liability Companies
- Private Trust Companies
- Family Offices
- Asset Protection
- International Estate Planning
- Relocation
- Taxation
- Wills and Probate

### Corporate & Commercial Law

- M&A
- Corporate Migration
- Corporate Structuring
- Corporate Governance
- Private-Equity
- Intellectual Property
- Commercial Contracts
- Labour Law

### Finance Law

- Legal Opinions
- Securitisation
- Corporate Lending
- Asset Finance
- Insurance Finance
- Real Estate Finance

## **Dispute Resolution**

- Trust Litigation
- Foundation Litigation
- Corporate Disputes
- Banking and Finance Disputes
- Insurance Litigation
- Directors' Liability
- Commercial Litigation
- Arbitration
- Contentious Regulatory

### Regulatory

- Banking
- Insurance
- Investment Funds
- Private Label Funds
- Fiduciary Services
- FinTech
- Securities
- Compliance
- Contentious Regulatory

#### Tax Law

and Wales, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany and Austria) and

have gained extensive work experience abroad in some of the most prestigious international law firms. During the last

three decades, the firm has established close working rela-

tionships with other leading law firms in various jurisdictions and our team regularly works with some of the most repu-

table barristers. These well-established networks, combined

with our own multi-jurisdictionally qualified team, allow the firm to handle international matters efficiently and guarantee

our clients first-class legal advice on every aspect of their

international legal affairs.

- Corporate Taxation
- Individual Taxation
- Trust Taxation
- Foundation Taxation
- DTA
- TIEA
- CRS / AEOI
- FATCA

#### **Criminal Defence**

- White-Collar Crime Litigation
- Legal Assistance
- Restraint Orders
- Compliance
- Asset Tracing

#### Asset Tracing / Asset Recovering

- White-Collar Crime Litigation
- Legal Assistance
- Enforcement
- Trust Litigation
- Foundation Litigation



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## WalPart Trust reg.

WalPart Trust reg. is a medium-sized fiduciary service provider based in Vaduz. As a professional Liechtenstein fiduciary service provider, WalPart Trust reg. is licensed and supervised by the Liechtenstein Financial Market Authority.

Founded in 1990, WalPart Trust reg. continues to steadily expand. It cultivates a highly individual approach and focuses on offering tailor-made structures for companies and private individuals. The directors, Andreas Schurti, Urs Hanselmann and Moritz Blasy, lead a highly qualified team and strive to deliver comprehensive solutions for quality-conscious clients.

Fields of particular interest and expertise are estate planning, asset protection as well as the establishment, management and administration of corporate entities, foundations and trusts.

### WalPart Trust reg.'s services include:

## Liechtenstein and Foreign Trusts and Foundations

- Creation of Liechtenstein and foreign trusts and foundations
- Administration of Liechtenstein and foreign trusts and foundations
- Liquidation of Liechtenstein and foreign trusts and foundations
- Acting as foundation council members, trustees, liquidators and protectors
- Creation and administration of private trust companies (PTC)
- Provision of family office services

## Accounting Services

- Accounting for foreign and domestic companies and foundations
- Trust accounting
- Preparation of full financial statements

## Company Incorporation and Administration

- Incorporation, management and day-to-day administration of Liechtenstein and foreign companies (e.g. establishments, limited companies and trust enterprises)
- Liquidation of Liechtenstein and foreign companies
- Acting as directors, officers and liquidators
- Provision of family office services

### Tax Advice

- Tax planning for/involving trusts, foundations, companies and individuals
- Drawing up of tax returns
- Representation of clients before tax authorities

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## **Experts**



Dr. Andreas Schurti studied at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, (Dr. iur. HSG, 1989) and the University of Constance, Germany, before earning two postgraduate degrees, one from the University of San Diego School of Law (Master of Comparative Law, 1990), one from the

College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium (Diploma of Advanced European Legal Studies, 1991). In 1989, he was admitted to the Liechtenstein and in 1991 to the New York Bar. Dr. Schurti started his professional career in a Liechtenstein law firm and cofounded our law firm and its affiliated fiduciary service provider WalPart Trust reg. in 1990/91. Since then, he has provided legal advice in commercial, corporate and financial matters, including cases involving trusts and foundations. He is a well known litigator and active trustee.



Urs Hanselmann started his career as an accountant with a Liechtenstein trust and audit company and continued to work in this field in various positions. After obtaining his diploma as Swiss-certified accountant in 1989, he took over the accounting department of a large

Liechtenstein trust company as the managing director. Since 1989, he has been admitted as licensed Liechtenstein Professional Trustee. In 1991, he joined WalPart Trust reg. and has acted as director since then. Mr. Hanselmann looks back on over 30 years experience in the Liechtenstein trust business. He is active as professional trustee, tax consultant, supervising accountant and auditor.



Dr. Alexander Appel studied law at the Universities of Zurich, Switzerland, and Innsbruck, Austria, and obtained his Doctorate from the latter in 1995. After legal traineeships in Liechtenstein, Germany and the U.K. as well as a traineeship at the Liechtenstein District Court in Vaduz, he

completed postgraduate studies in international business law at the London School of Economics and Political Science from which he graduated with the Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.) with Merit. Dr. Appel passed the Liechtenstein Attorney's Examination in 1999. Subsequently, he practiced at a renowned international business law firm in Zurich as a member of the Corporate Law / Mergers & Acquisitions practice group. In 2001, he commenced working for our firm and has mainly been involved in advisory work, in particular in the fields of corporate, contract, commercial, banking, insurance and employment law as well as transactional work (both cross-border and domestic). Since 2004, he has also been a lecturer for contract law at the University of Liechtenstein.



Nicolai Binkert studied law at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, and graduated as licentiatus iuris in 2012 (magna cum laude). After his graduation, he worked in the Banking & Finance and Competition practice groups of one of Switzerland's largest and most reputable

law firms. After passing the bar exam in Switzerland in 2014, Mr Binkert joined our firm that same year. In 2015, he was admitted to practice as a Liechtenstein attorney. He complemented his professional skills with the qualification as a licensed Liechtenstein professional trustee in 2017. Mr Binkert's practice focuses on corporate, trust and foundation law, finance law and contract law. He also represents the firm's clients before the Liechtenstein courts and authorities.

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Dr. Moritz Blasy studied law at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and obtained his Doctorate in 2003. He earned a postgraduate Master of International Business Law (LL.M.) in 2005 from the University of Exeter, England. Dr. Blasy worked as a trainee at the Higher Regional Court

of Vienna and at the District Court of Liechtenstein. Before joining our firm in 2006, he worked with a leading CEE law firm headquartered in Vienna. Dr. Blasy was admitted as a Liechtenstein attorney in 2008 and qualified as an Austrian attorney in 2009 and as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales in 2011. He focuses on litigation (in particular in trust and foundation matters), regulatory matters, corporate law and private client work. In addition, Dr. Blasy is a licensed Liechtenstein professional trustee and has served as one of the directors of WalPart Trust reg. since 2017.



Marina Haase successfully undertook an extensive bank traineeship with a major bank in Lübeck, Germany, before she studied law at the University of Hamburg, Germany. She completed her education as a German lawyer in 1989 and subsequently worked in England, inter alia

with a renowned insurance company. After her return to Germany in 1992, she worked for four years as in-house counsel for a well-known private bank in Frankfurt. In 1995 she was admitted to the Bar in Frankfurt, Germany. She joined our firm in 1996. Her specialist practice areas are national and international company and trust law as well as banking and insurance matters.



Simon Ott studied law at the University of St. Gallen (HSG). Following his studies, Mr Ott worked in the financial industry for an asset manager in Liechtenstein. Prior to joining our firm, he was trained at the Princely District Court, Vaduz. Mr Ott focuses mainly on advising

and representing individuals and companies in criminal law matters. He has been involved in numerous high value and sensitive white-collar crime cases in the last years. Mr. Ott further advises and represents clients in multi-jurisdictional asset recovery and asset tracing matters.



Dr. Andreas Vogel studied law at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and obtained his Doctorate in jurisprudence in 1999. After a training period at Austrian Courts, he practised at prestigious law firms in Liechtenstein and Austria and also with the District Court and the

State Prosecutor's Office in Vaduz. Dr. Vogel was admitted to the Bar as a Liechtenstein attorney in 2004 and qualified as an Austrian attorney in 2005. In addition, Dr. Vogel has been a licensed Liechtenstein professional trustee since 2008. He commenced working for our firm in 2004 and today is engaged in litigation in both civil and criminal matters as well as an advisor in the fields of finance and insurance.

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## About Liechtenstein

## I. Liechtenstein

Having been a sovereign country for more than 200 years, Liechtenstein today presents itself as a modern state, situated in the heart of Europe. Liechtenstein is proud of its long-standing tradition of maintaining memberships in supranational organizations. Today, the country actively participates in the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the WTO. Since 1995, Liechtenstein has also been a member state of the Treaty on the European Economic Area (EEA).

Located in the picturesque Rhine Valley between Switzerland and Austria, Liechtenstein's economy is technologically advanced and innovative. With its industry, that today employs the largest part of the working population, Liechtenstein has developed from a country, whose population mainly worked in the agricultural sector, to the most highly industrialized country with a most diversified economy.

The financial services sector plays a significant role within the Liechtenstein economy. Liechtenstein maintains the highest international standards in the regulation of its financial sector.

As a result of its favourable legislative framework, Liechtenstein today is not only an important financial centre, but has attracted many industrial and commercial undertakings, a great number of which represent foreign groups of companies that are internationally acknowledged leaders in their fields. Some of these undertakings pursue highly specialized activities and also hold key niche positions in their markets.

## II. The Liechtenstein Legal System

With its slim bureaucracy, Liechtenstein has managed to keep up with the rapid pace of the international legislative developments to a greater extent than its neighbours. Set against this background, the Liechtenstein legislator has always striven to pursue, to the greatest extent possible, a liberal approach to the regulation of business activities.

In a nutshell, the Liechtenstein's legal system stands on four very influential pillars:

#### The Austrian Influence

For centuries, but particularly during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the key areas of civil and criminal law (including the respective procedural rules) were gradually adopted from Austrian law. This process is ongoing. The structure and practice of the Liechtenstein court system is a prime example of the long-standing influence Austrian law has had on the Liechtenstein legal system.

#### The Swiss Element

Following the implementation of a customs and monetary union with Switzerland in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, increasingly more Swiss law was adopted. However, the adoption of Swiss law has been confined to legal areas with a typically economic background. Relevant Swiss law is adopted either by amendment or implementation in Liechtenstein statues or by direct application by the Liechenstein courts of Swiss law and court decisions. As a result, the Swiss element has

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influenced areas such as Liechtenstein's general company law, property law, labour law (including healthcare and pensions/social security) and a number of business statutes of regulatory nature including those relating to banking.

## EEA Passporting Rights

As a member of the EEA since 1995, Liechtenstein today implements all EU-directives relevant to the EEA. EU-directives relating to judicial issues or tax harmonization do not fall within the scope of the EEA.

This process has not only brought many regulatory Liechtenstein laws (such as the Insurance Act, the Banking Act, the Law on Investment Enterprises etc.) into line with EU law, but today also permits increased passporting opportunities for Liechtenstein banks, insurers, investment undertakings and other companies.

Since Liechtenstein's approach to European integration was different and more directly receptive, as opposed to the restrictive «à la carte» approach adopted by its important partner Switzerland, the bilateral relationship between the two countries had to be adjusted. Today, the principle of «parallel marketability» ensures that Liechtenstein benefits from a two-fold symbiosis: with Switzerland on the one hand and with the EEA on the other. As a result, goods conforming to Swiss standards as well as those conforming to EEA standards may be traded in Liechtenstein.

#### A Unique Heritage

Notwithstanding these foreign influences, Liechtenstein law itself rests on its own broad pillar that underpins most of Liechtenstein's public laws as well as one of the country's core pieces of legislation, the Persons and Companies Act. The latter has been a key factor in the meteoric and highly successful economic development of the country.

The Persons and Companies Act also constitutes the basis for Liechtenstein trusts, thus playing a significant role in the international estate planning and asset protection market. Liechtenstein trust law was modelled along the lines of both the Anglo-Saxon common law trust, with the pertinent legislation sharing features similar to the English codifying legislation included in the Trustee Act of 1925, as well as with a variant based on the Massachusetts business trust. Thus, the Liechtenstein trust today both reflects and benefits from the influence of Anglo-Saxon common law and its worthy traditions.

Because of the above-mentioned influences, the Liechtenstein courts have tended to take into account foreign authorities when dealing with cases of a cross-border dimension. Such cases are widespread in everyday Liechtenstein legal practice, due to the country's diversified population and economy, with its many international links and the large number of foreign-controlled legal entities based here.

Our Data Policy Notice is available on our website.

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