Schellenberg Wittmer



Dr. Simone Nadelhofer

Partner, MAS ECI

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Attorneys at Law
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Recognitions

- Chambers and Partners Europe: White-Collar Crime since 2017
- Ranked among the "100 Women in Investigations 2021" worldwide ranking by Global Investigations Review
- Chambers and Partners High Net Worth: Private Wealth Law since 2023
- The Legal 500: Key Lawyer in Dispute Resolution: Litigation, Key Lawyer in Regulatory, Compliance and Investigations since 2025
- Lexology Index: Thought Leader in Asset Recovery since 2023; Thought Leader in Investigations since 2020; Recommended in Business Crime Defence since 2023; Recommended in Private Client since 2023
- Women in Business Law Awards 2025 EMEA: Lawyer of the Year: White-Collar Crime

Languages

French, English, German, Italian

Selected Publications

- Auf dem Weg zur aufgeschobenen Anklageerhebung ?
- Cybersicherheit ist Chefsache – ein Weckruf für Verwaltungsräte
- Verfahrensbeendende Vereinbarungen im Fokus – Teil 2
- Auftaktserie zu verfahrensbeendenden Vereinbarungen im Compliance-Berater

Simone Nadelhofer is a Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer in Zurich and a leading expert in internal investigations, compliance, governance, regulatory and crisis management, as well as economic and corporate criminal law. She has more than 26 years of experience advising globally active financial institutions and international companies on complex, highly regulated and cross-border matters. A particular focus of her practice lies in the design and execution of internal investigations, the support of enforcement, supervisory and criminal proceedings, and the development and implementation of robust governance, compliance and risk management frameworks. Simone Nadelhofer advises boards of directors, executive management, as well as audit and risk committees on regulatory risks, corporate governance, conduct and culture, and the management of acute crisis situations. She has extensive experience in dealing with Swiss and international supervisory and law enforcement authorities and regularly assists clients in sensitive regulatory examinations, enforcement and remediation proceedings. Her advice is characterised by strategic foresight, legal precision and a deep understanding of regulatory expectations. Clients value Simone Nadelhofer as a clear, independent and assertive adviser, particularly in time-critical and reputation-sensitive situations. Integrity, accountability and sustainable corporate governance form the foundation of her work.

Expertise

- Dispute Resolution
- Internal Corporate Investigations
- IT Security and Cybercrime
- White-Collar Crime and Compliance
- Blockchain-Technologies & FinTech
- Financial Services
- Sports
- Telecommunication

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Experience

- Adviser to boards, audit committees and senior management of Swiss and international financial institutions, including insurers, in complex FINMA and cross-border regulatory and enforcement matters. Regularly developing defence, remediation and regulator-engagement strategies in situations with significant financial, reputational and governance risk. Focus areas include product governance, client suitability, disclosure, sanctions, AML, and internal control failures, including support for comprehensive governance reforms such as strengthening the compliance function, amending organisational regulations and remuneration rules, and introducing institutional control mechanisms as part of ongoing enforcement proceedings.
- Led large-scale cross-border investigations for listed and private multinationals across Europe, North America, Russia, Africa and Asia. Focus on sanctions exposure, corruption risk, third-party governance, supply chain vulnerabilities and ESG compliance failures. Advises boards and executives on investigation findings, remediation, high-risk exits and compliance framework enhancements.
- Counsel to companies in high-stakes crises involving executive misconduct, governance breaches and cultural failings. Conducted and supervised investigations at C-suite and board level, supporting boards in taking decisive actions while preserving stability and reputation.
- Strategic adviser in cross-border investigations involving data seizures, mutual legal assistance and conflicting regulatory regimes. Extensive experience with Swiss blocking statutes, data protection and international data transfers, balancing cooperation and legal risk.
- Swiss counsel to a US-appointed monitor of a major financial institution, advising on Swiss law aspects of monitorships, data protection, employment law and regulatory authorisations. Experience in remediation programmes, governance reforms and sustainable improvements to compliance frameworks in regulated environments.

Career

2024	Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer
2014	Partner at a major disputes law firm in Zurich
2009	Counsel at a dispute law firm in Zurich
2003	Associate at a leading Swiss law firm
2002	Foreign Attorney at an international law firm, Delhi, India
2001	Legal Counsel with a major Swiss bank
1999	Trainee Lawyer at a leading Swiss law firm

Education

2008	PhD, University of Lucerne (summa cum laude), (Awarded Professor Walter Hug prize and the Universitätsverein Lucerne prize)
2007	Master of Advanced Studies in Economic Crime Investigation (summa cum laude)
2001	Bar Admission in Switzerland
1999	Bilingual Bachelor of Law (summa cum laude), University of Fribourg, Switzerland

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Additional Professional Activities

- Vice Chair of the IBA Business Crime Committee
- Anti-Corruption Committee Liaison Officer of the IBA's Business Crime Committee
- Member of the advisory board of the Master Economic Crime Investigations studies at the Lucerne University
- Elected to the pool of presidents of the arbitration court of the Swiss Bar Association
- Member of Advisory Board for the project of the Swiss National Scientific Fund "Assessing the nature and impact of transnational corruption through the lens of Swiss Businesses"
- Member of the ACi ISO Subcommittee for the new ISO standard on internal investigations
- Past chair of the Interpacific Bar Association's Anti-Corruption Committee
- Co-editor of a leading Swiss commentary on internal investigations (Handbücher für die Anwaltspraxis, Interne Untersuchungen, Helbing & Lichtenhahn)