

Regional Desk

Middle East & Türkiye



Schellenberg
Wittmer

Regional Desk

The firm's Middle East & Türkiye desk advises Swiss businesses and expatriates with projects in the region as well as local businesses and high net worth individual investing abroad. It also leads major international commercial arbitrations and litigation matters, especially in respect of oil and gas and construction project disputes.

“
**First-rate with
a breadth of
very experienced,
excellent and
recommended
lawyers.**
”

Lexology Index

Expertise

Schellenberg Wittmer has been involved in projects in the Middle East & Türkiye since the early 80s, especially in the GCC countries, and has developed an extensive network in the region. For decades, we have advised Swiss businesses and expats in connection with their activity in the region.

We assist local companies, especially family owned enterprises, with structuring their investments abroad and with corporate governance matters, helping them to adapt to the risks and to seize the opportunities of the geopolitical changes in the region. We have a strong experience in family business succession planning.

High net worth individuals from the region turn also to us for a wide array of projects in respect of their assets abroad, ranging from banking, real estate, yacht and aircraft finance or art and philanthropy. We are also regularly called to advise on case related to family governance and relocation.

Our leading international litigation and arbitration teams based in Switzerland and Singapore offer outstanding strategic advice and advocacy for international commercial, investment and sports disputes. With our experience and understanding of the market, we manage to bridge cultural gaps and achieve the expected results be it through negotiation, mediation, adjudication or arbitration proceedings.

Deals and Cases

- We are advising, on an ongoing basis, the Swiss private banking affiliate of a prominent GCC Bank on all regulatory and commercial legal issues
- We are assisting a Middle Eastern family for estate planning purposes, in setting up a private dedicated mutual fund for holding and consolidating the bulk of family's asset abroad, ranging from financial assets and private equity to real estate
- We are advising a Middle Eastern

family business in structuring and operating a joint venture with a foreign entity for a major infrastructure project

- Representation of the Vice President of the Qatar Football Association, in a high-profile sports-related dispute regarding his suspension by the FIFA Ethics Committee. The case was won on appeal, the decision was overturned and all the disciplinary charges against the client were dismissed
- We act as Swiss counsel to a State-owned entity and a State in high value ICC arbitration. The dispute related to one of the largest construction projects in the energy sector in the world in which our client has invested billions of dollars
- We act as lead counsel in a multi-billion dollar licensing dispute involving the Israeli and Swiss subsidiaries of one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies
- We are lead counsel to a leading Middle Eastern construction company in an ICC arbitration arising out of the termination of a construction contract

Recognitions

The group and leading practitioners are highly ranked and recognised among leading law firms in global directories and publications:

- Chambers & Partners
- Legal 500
- Lexology Index Switzerland
- IFLR 1000

Contacts



Bernard Vischer, LL.M.
Partner Geneva
Head of Middle East &
Türkiye Desk



Jean Jacques Ah Choon
Partner Geneva



George Ayoub
Partner Geneva



Philippe Bärtsch, LL.M.
Partner Geneva/Zurich



Dr. Christopher Boog
Partner Zurich/Singapore



Elliott Geisinger
Partner Geneva



Tarek Houdrouge, LL.M.
Partner Geneva



Yves Jeanrenaud, LL.M.
Partner Geneva

>150 lawyers
15 languages
30 nationalities
21 practice areas
15 sectors and industries
1,978 years of experience
Collaboration with
300 law firms worldwide
in more than
50 jurisdictions

Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd is your leading Swiss business law firm with more than 150 lawyers in Zurich and Geneva, and an office in Singapore. We take care of all your legal needs – transactions, advisory, disputes.



Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd



Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd



Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd
Attorneys at Law

Zurich
Löwenstrasse 19
P.O. Box 2201
8021 Zurich / Switzerland
T +41 44 215 5252
www.swlegal.com

Geneva
15bis, rue des Alpes
P.O. Box 1400
1211 Geneva 1 / Switzerland
T +41 22 707 8000
www.swlegal.com

Singapore
Schellenberg Wittmer Pte Ltd
50 Raffles Place, #40-05
Singapore Land Tower
Singapore 048623
T +65 6580 2240
www.swlegal.sg