

Sectors & Industries

Financial Services



Schellenberg
Wittmer

Sectors & Industries

Switzerland is one of the world's leading financial markets. Domestic and international banks, insurance companies, asset managers and other financial service providers based in Switzerland play a major role in the global financial industry, which has undergone massive regulatory changes in recent years. Schellenberg Wittmer's activities in the financial industry are part of our core competencies and strengths. Our multidisciplinary and integrated Financial Services Group features specialists across our various practice groups (such as Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Mergers and Acquisitions, Internal Investigations, White Collar Crime and Compliance, Taxation, and Dispute Resolution). Our extensive experience, profound market knowledge and commercial approach have earned us a strong recognition as a market leader in these areas. We are active in industry associations and closely involved in legislative and regulatory projects. We regularly advise and represent banks in their most complex disputes and investigations.

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**Excellent and
frequently
recommended.**
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Legal 500

Expertise

Our group advises financial institutions, issuers, investors and other market participants in areas such as:

- Financing transactions
- Debt and equity capital market transactions
- M&A transactions in the financial industry
- Licensing of banks, securities dealers, insurance companies and other financial institutions
- Internal investigations and compliance issues
- Enforcement proceedings before regulatory authorities (FINMA, SIX Swiss Exchange, etc)
- Representation of financial institutions in civil and criminal proceedings

Deals and Cases

- Lead counsel in the merger of TWINT (PostFinance) and Paymit (SIX), creating the leading Swiss mobile payment solution TWINT 2.0, together with Credit Suisse, UBS, PostFinance, Raiffeisen, Zürcher Kantonalbank and Banque Cantonale Vaudoise
- Adviser to Swiss Bankers Association in respect of derivatives regulation and documentation
- Swiss counsel to ams AG in the placement of USD 350 million senior unsecured bonds due 2022 and EUR 600 million senior unsecured bonds due 2026, both convertible into new shares listed on SIX
- Counsel to Credit Suisse Funds in connection with the set-up and approval process by FINMA of a newly authorised Swiss mortgage umbrella fund
- Swiss lead counsel to Credit Suisse in offshore tax evasion investigation launched by the US authorities in 2011, and in the subsequent settlement reached between the bank and the US government
- Counsel to EFG International in the acquisition of BSI SA from Banco BTG Pactual, for a preliminary purchase price of CHF 1.060 billion
- Successful representation of UBS AG before the Zurich Commercial Court and the Federal Supreme Court

in a CHF 25 million lawsuit brought by a Swatch Group company for losses suffered through bond fund investments during the financial crisis

- Representation of a Swiss bank in criminal proceedings and civil litigation in the context of a substantial claim brought by a foreign corporate client that claimed a lack of diligence in payment transactions and abetting of money laundering
- Successful representation of a major Swiss bank in two cases in which the claimants requested information and disclosure of documents under data protection and contract law
- Representation of several Swiss banks and/or senior management in enforcement proceedings conducted by FINMA in connection with alleged regulatory shortcomings

Recognitions

Leading practitioners of the group are highly recognized in:

- Chambers
- Legal 500
- Lexology Index Switzerland
- Global Investigations Review GIR

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**Schellenberg Wittmer's
strengths are its
availability, communication
skills, client attention,
knowledge and experience.**
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>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.



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