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Digital transformation: Luther and WHU business school launch interdisciplinary continuing education for lawyers

Cologne – In order to provide clients with comprehensive legal advice in a digital world, pure legal thinking is no longer enough. With DEEP, the commercial law firm Luther is launching a continuing education programme for lawyers that combines technology, business and law.

DEEP stands for "Digital Education & Experience Programme". Luther will be offering this new training programme for lawyers for the first time in July 2021. The law firm developed the concept and implementation of the content of the continuing education programme in collaboration with WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management, one of the most renowned German business schools with proven expertise in the field of executive education.

DEEP is intended to combine technology and business aspects with relevant legal issues surrounding digital transformation in a practice-oriented way. With this interdisciplinary continuing education programme, Luther is responding to the challenges facing the legal industry in the wake of digital change.

The programme will start with 25 participants. DEEP is expressly aimed at lawyers across all levels of seniority, from Associate to Partner. In addition to lawyers from Luther's own ranks, the programme is also open to interested clients' in-house lawyers and to partners from the unyer network that Luther recently founded with the French law firm Fidal.

Asking the right questions and combining the relevant know-how

When accompanying digital projects, lawyers often have to shape tomorrow's world based on yesterday's laws. "DEEP provides lawyers with the basic technical and entrepreneurial knowledge needed to see the big picture, ask the right questions and bring together the necessary legal know-how," said Torsten Schneider, Director Human Resources at Luther and one of the initiators of the new format. Christian Kuß, lawyer and Partner from Luther's Information Tech & Telecommunications practice, who also played a significant part in developing DEEP, added: "Our consulting practice has shown that if you understand a technology in its context, you can classify it from a legal perspective. Only then will you know which additional colleagues with what know-how to involve in order to be able to provide the client with integrated advice."

The new format comprises three modules. In the "Tech for Law" module, renowned scientists from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) will provide participants with the basic technical knowledge needed to understand digital services and value networks. In the "Business for Digital" module, experts from WHU will introduce the lawyers to the entrepreneurial side of digital business. Participants will come to understand how companies develop and implement business models and what start-ups do differently. In an exchange with experts from the Liquid Legal Institute, participants will additionally take a look at overarching future issues affecting legal advice and legal design. In the "Law for Tech" module, in-house experts from Luther will show what questions of law from the analogue world need to be dealt with anew and how existing law needs to be adapted to take account of the new world. This applies to multiple fields of law, from antitrust to labour law and the protection and commercialisation of data up to and including contract and liability law as well as general aspects of financial supervisory law, e.g. for fintech.

"This interdisciplinary training demonstrates that as business lawyers we strive to provide our clients with guidance, and with the greatest possible legal security for their investments in the future," said Dr Markus Sengpiel, Co-Managing Partner at Luther, summarising the approach.

Brief profile Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH

Luther is a leading German commercial law firm that offers comprehensive legal and tax advice. The full-service law firm employs over 420 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented in ten German economic hubs as well as with ten of its own international offices in key investment locations and financial centres in Europe and Asia. Its clients include medium-sized enterprises and large corporations, as well as the public sector.

Luther works closely with other commercial law firms in all the prevailing jurisdictions. Luther is a founding member of unyer (www.unyer.com), a global organisation of leading professional services firms that cooperate exclusively with each other.

Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH is a law firm with a business approach: our innovative awareness aspires us to provide our clients with customised legal advice that addresses individual needs and delivers the greatest possible economic benefit. All of Luther's lawyers and tax advisors have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks. Luther was named "Law Firm of the Year 2019" by the German legal publisher JUVE. Further information is available at: www.luther-lawfirm.com

WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management:

WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management is an internationally oriented, privately funded business school with university status, with campuses in Vallendar and Düsseldorf, Germany. At WHU, more than 50 faculty members carry out research and teach in the fields of Management, Finance and Accounting, Economics, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Marketing and Sales, and Supply Chain Management. WHU's high level of competence in research is due to its focus on three key research principles: quality, internationality, and practical and academic relevance.

WHU's strategy is based on four core values: excellence, entrepreneurship, community and cosmopolitanism. At WHU, great importance is being attached to an atmosphere that is characterised by openness, curiosity, diversity and equal opportunities. Further information is available at: <http://www.whu.edu/>

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