

# Luther.



## Russian Desk

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Luther has long been supporting Russian, German and international clients in cross-border activities in the field of Eastern-European (primarily, German-Russian) legal relations. In cooperation with our local partner law firms in the CIS countries, we help our clients resolve complex legal issues promptly and professionally.

As our team comprises both lawyers of German descent and lawyers of Eastern-European origin, we are familiar with the specific economic, social and legal structures in these regions. We combine professional expertise with linguistic, cultural and legal knowledge and, in doing so, we also take into account the characteristic features which are particular to each mentality.

Our Russian Desk currently consists of eight lawyers licensed to practice law in Germany and two lawyers qualified to practice Russian law.

Our goal is to serve as a first point of contact for the operational implementation of business projects of Eastern-European/Russian and German companies in Russia, the former CIS countries and/or in Germany. Our China, Singapore and Myanmar offices and our Corporate Services in India, Malaysia and Indonesia additionally provide comprehensive advice in the Asian market. With our full-service approach, which also takes account of financial and tax matters, Luther provides advice on all aspects of business law in Germany and, in cooperation with local partners/colleagues, also covers any need for legal advice in the respective jurisdictions.

Our extensive experience includes:

- Advising Russian companies in Germany on the incorporation and administration of companies, on transactions and investments, in matters pertaining to employment, social, customs, commercial, corporate and tax law and in all areas of law which are of interest to a company in Germany;
- Advising German companies on how to enter the Russian market and on their continued economic activities in Russia;
- Advising German companies on their cross-border investments in Russia;
- Providing assistance with establishing and developing representative offices, joint ventures and Russian corporations (OOO, AO);
- Providing assistance with tax structuring, customs matters, etc.;
- Advising and supporting German and Russian companies when it comes to determining the scope of sanctions legislation and to making contractual arrangements within the limits defined by EU sanctions.

Luther and the members of the Russian Desk attend conferences, summits and events in order to keep current on new developments in Russia and other CIS countries. We also keep track of changes in German and Russian legislation and case law, which ensures that we are always up-to-date and best able to meet our clients' needs.

Recent consultation assignments successfully undertaken by us include:

- Advise of Russian VC investors within the framework of granting a convertible bond and – subsequently – when converting the bond, within the framework of the participation in a further participation series (Series E) as well as the purchase of further assets (target was in this case car 1 / “We buy your car”, investment volume: EUR 5 million in step 1; EUR 20 million in step 2).
- Advise of a Russian investor when granting different loans concerning a construction project in Berlin (draft and negotiation of different loan agreements and security treaties; investment volume: several millions).
- Comprehensive legal advise of MonArch-Group (Concern MonArch) within all activities in Germany. The advise focused on project developments in the area of living and retail business with different investment volume: (in the double and three digit million area).

- Advise of a German defence company during negotiations with Russian state-owned companies regarding the reversal of a purchase agreement which became invalid as a result of sanctions in the three digit million area.
- Advise of a German telecommunications company within the framework of arbitration proceedings before an arbitration court in Moscow (conclusion of a telecommunications contract with a Tajik telecommunications company).
- Advise of the Austrian “Immofinanzgruppe” concerning the sale of numerous property locations, inter alia in Russia.
- Various requests of German companies regarding specific questions relating to Russian law.

Luther and/or our staff are members of the German-Russian Forum, the Russian Arbitration Association, the German-Russian Law Association and the German-Ukrainian Law Association.

We provide all our advisory services optionally in German, English or Russian, or also bilingually (e.g., when drafting contracts).



# Our Foreign Offices and International Desks

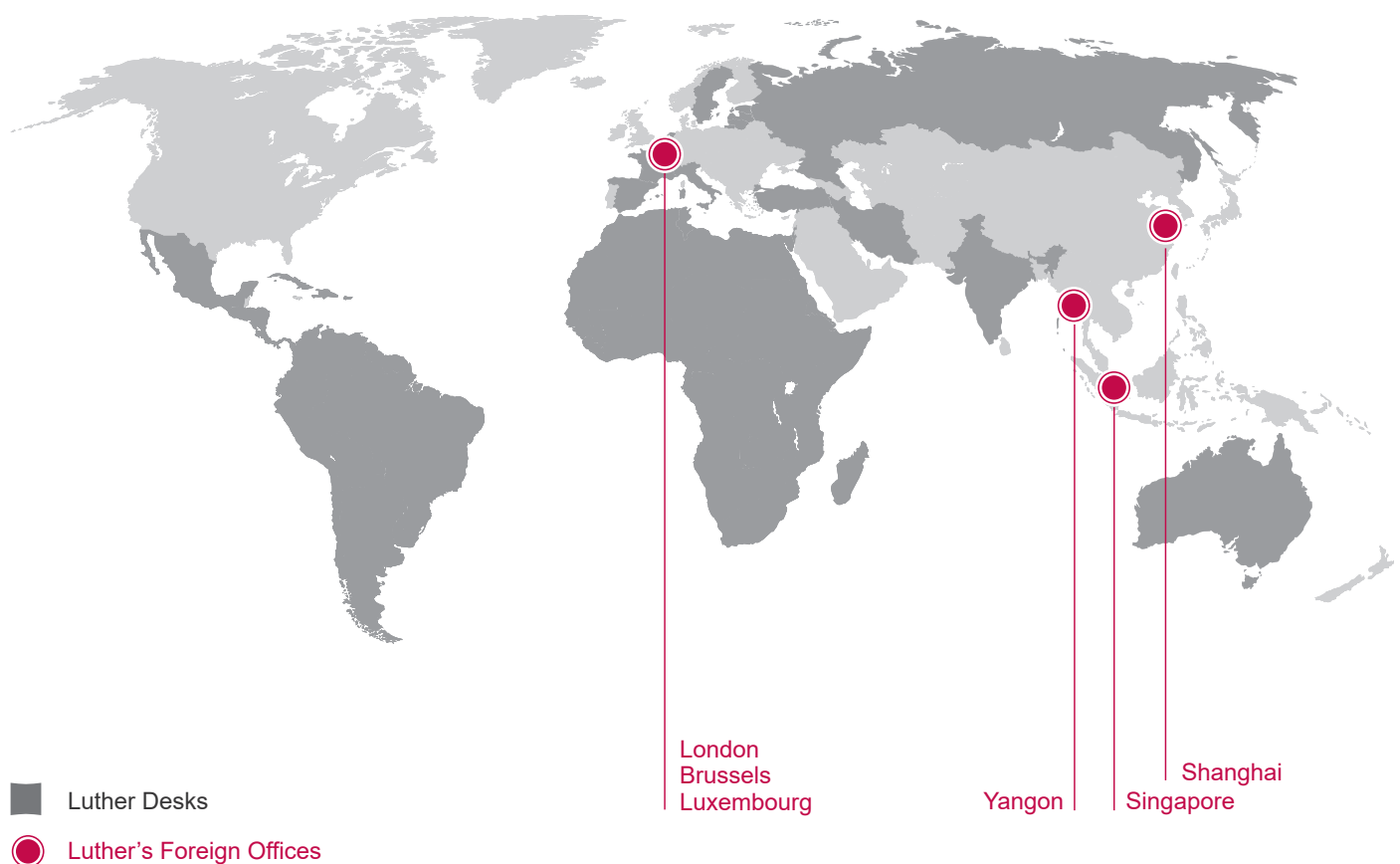
With the assistance of six foreign Luther offices, we provide cross-border advice and handle international projects in the most important European and Asian markets.

However, we also assist local clients in many other important industrialized countries and central international markets in all matters pertaining to German law, and we advise German investors who wish to do business in such countries.

For this purpose, Luther has a series of International Desks where professional expertise is combined with language skills and knowledge of the culture and the political and economic situation in the respective country.

Overview of our International Desks:

- Australian Desk
- Baltic Desk
- Brazilian Desk
- Dutch Desk
- French Desk
- Iranian Desk
- Israeli Desk
- Italian Desk
- Latin American Desk
- Russian Desk
- Spanish Desk
- Swedish Desk
- South Africa/African Desk
- Turkish Desk



# Our Team



## Reinhard Willemsen

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## Anna Bashkova LL.M.

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Reinhard Willemsen was born in 1965. After studying law and carrying out his legal training in Cologne (Germany), he began his career working in the Auditing Department of Price Waterhouse. In 1998, he transferred to Luther's predecessor law firm, where he soon became interested in recapitalisation and insolvency law due to his profound knowledge and experience in accounting and bookkeeping. He has managed this practice area since 2004.

## Areas of Practice

In addition to providing recapitalisation and insolvency law advice (both to debtors and to creditors), Reinhard Willemsen advises on all matters pertaining to commercial and distribution law, especially in connection with the implementation of sales structures, the negotiation of supply contracts and distribution agreements, and dispute resolution in and out of court, with a particular focus on warranty and liability issues.

## Languages

German, English, Russian

Anna Bashkova was born in 1987. After studying law at the Russian Academy of Justice in Moscow, she initially worked as in-house counsel for a large Russian import company. In her role, she was responsible for protecting intellectual property outside of the Russian Federation, in particular under trademark law. Alongside working for this company, she started her second degree in finance and banking. From October 2009 onwards, she studied at the Christian-Albrechts University of Kiel (Germany), where she gained her LL.M. in international business law in 2011 and also graduated with a degree in economics from Moscow (Russia). Anna Bashkova joined Luther's international arbitration team in November 2012.

## Areas of Practice

Anna Bashkova advises German and international clients in complex international disputes and arbitration proceedings with a particular focus on investment arbitration. Furthermore, she advises in matters relating to transnational business relationships between German and Russian/CIS parties.

## Languages

German, English, French, Russian

## Our Team



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### Nikita Kondrashov

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Christine Herdt was born 1984 in Omsk, Russia. She completed her law studies at the University of Bayreuth and the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. During her legal traineeship at the Higher Regional Court of Munich she worked inter alia in the law firm Noerr LLP in Moscow in the areas of tax and corporate law. After being admitted to the German bar in 2012, she worked for a worldwide operating law and tax counselling firm in the area of international tax law. She joined Luther in 2016.

### Areas of Practice

Christine Herdt advises clients on all areas of national and international tax law. Her main counselling focuses are tax structuring, tax advisory on M&A and real estate transactions as well as corporate and asset succession.

### Languages

German, English, Russian, Spanish

Nikita Kondrashov was born in 1989 in Moscow, Russia. He has originally completed his legal studies focusing on international private law with Russian Foreign Trade Academy (Moscow), subsequently obtaining a master degree in international private law from Diplomatic Academy of Russian Federation (Moscow) and admission to practice as an attorney in Russia from Moscow Regional Bar. Having spent over 6 years with Russian attorney offices, working mainly in dispute resolution, white collar crime and corporate law, Nikita Kondrashov has continued his education, obtaining a LL.M. degree from Bucerius Law School (Hamburg) in 2015. He joined Luther in 2016.

### Areas of Practice

Currently Nikita Kondrashov is working with our dispute resolution practice in Hamburg, focusing on various aspects investment and commercial arbitration.

Being a member of our Russian desk, Nikita also participates in CIS-related projects, requiring knowledge of local language, legislation and business practices.

### Languages

English, Russian, German, French





## Wladimir Leonhard

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Wladimir Leonhard was born in 1984. He obtained a law degree in both Germany and in Ukraine. While studying law at Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), he focussed on business, company and tax law. He also completed foreign-language legal studies in Russian law at Humboldt-Universität Berlin. From 2012 to 2014, he carried out his legal training at the Higher Regional Court of Berlin, which included working in the tax departments of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Berlin and of a big law firm in Frankfurt am Main (Germany). Throughout his legal training, he additionally worked for an internally operating audit firm (Big Four) in "International Tax." Wladimir Leonhard joined Luther in April 2015.

### Areas of Practice

Wladimir Leonhard advises on German and international tax law. His main areas of expertise include tax structuring, tax planning, real estate transfer tax and tax due-diligence. Wladimir Leonhard provides legal assistance and represents clients in court.

### Languages

German, English, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian

Irene Nezer-Kasch was born in Berlin (Germany) in 1984. After studying law in Berlin, she carried out her legal traineeship at the Berlin Higher Regional Court. Irene Nezer-Kasch was admitted to the German Bar in 2014. From the beginning of 2015, she worked for the real estate department of Hogan Lovells International LLP in Munich, before joining Luther in 2016.

### Areas of Practice

Irene Nezer-Kasch advises national and international funds and institutional investors on matters pertaining to real estate law. A particular focus of her advisory services is on commercial leasing law and on real estate transactions.

### Languages

German, English, Russian

## Our Team



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### Dr Anastasia Schreiber LL.M.

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Vilma Remmert-Fontes was born in Lithuania in 1977. She studied law at the University of Hamburg, Germany, before completing a post-graduate degree in business law. During her traineeship, Vilma Remmert-Fontes worked for Bundesverband für Wassersportwirtschaft e.V. (Federal Association of German Water Sport Industries) in Cologne and in the corporate law department of a large international law firm in Hamburg. Ms Remmert-Fontes has worked as a mediator since 2009. She joined Luther in 2011. She is a member of the Commercial Service Line.

### Areas of Practice

Ms Remmert-Fontes mainly advises on matters pertaining to commercial law, general corporate law and commercial tenancy law. Ms Remmert-Fontes has German and foreign clients and advises companies on national and international processes.

### Languages

German, English, Lithuanian, Russian

Ms Dr Anastasia Schreiber was born in Irkutsk, Russia, in 1984. After studying law at the State University of Irkutsk in Russia and Kiel University in Germany she completed her traineeship in the district of the Schleswig-Holstein Upper Regional Court with posts at an international corporate law firm based in Hamburg as well as at the legal department of Siemens AG in Erlangen, among others. She obtained the Master of Laws with a focus on the law of civil procedure and insolvency law followed by a dissertation on German and Russian civil law and the rules on the conflict of laws. She joined Luther in 2016.

### Areas of Practice

Dr Anastasia Schreiber advises national and international companies on all issues of trade and distribution law as well as in the field of restructuring and insolvency. She is a member of the Russian desk as well which is dedicated to providing advice to German companies in Russia and Russian companies in Germany.

### Languages

German, English, Russian





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Patrick Schwarze was born in 1988. From 2009 to 2014, he studied law at the University of Jena (Germany) with a focus on German and European Business Law. As part of his legal training at the Higher Regional Court of Celle (Germany), he worked inter alia in the law firm Noerr LLP in Moscow (Russia) in the areas of commercial law and company law. He was admitted to the German Bar in 2016 and joined Luther the same year as a lawyer.

### Areas of Practice

Patrick Schwarze advises clients on all areas of contract law, commercial law and distribution law issues, with a particular focus on drafting and reviewing purchase agreements and supply contracts, general terms and conditions and non-disclosure agreements. Another focus of his work is on litigation and dispute resolution.

### Languages

German, English, Russian

Elena Solomatina was born in Chernigov, Ukraine. She completed her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) at Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University in Ukraine with distinctions and gathered first legal experience at the Ministry of Justice in Ukraine. During her legal traineeship at Luther in 2016 she obtained valuable insights into corporate structures in Singapore and across ASEAN.

### Areas of Practice

In her role as Legal Manager, she advises clients on all areas of national and international corporate structures. Furthermore, she is involved in developing business with the Russian Business Federation and established various business contacts in Russia and Ukraine.

### Languages

English, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian

## Notes

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Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH advises in all areas of business law. Our clients include medium-sized companies and large corporations, as well as the public sector.

Berlin, Brussels, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Essen, Frankfurt a. M., Hamburg, Hanover, Leipzig,  
London, Luxembourg, Munich, Shanghai, Singapore, Stuttgart, Yangon

Luther Corporate Services: Delhi-Gurgaon, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Singapore, Yangon

Your local contacts can be found on our website [www.luther-lawfirm.com](http://www.luther-lawfirm.com).

**Hits the mark. Luther.**

