

29 April 2014

Luther wins five person team around Dr. Eckart Petzold for location Dusseldorf

Dusseldorf – Per 1 July 2014, Dr. Eckart Petzold (57) and Dr. Karl von Hase (45) transfer as partners to the Dusseldorf office of Luther Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH. In the future, they will be joined by Wolfgang Liebau (Senior Associate, 40) and two additional associates to support the Corporate and M&A Practice of Luther. The team was formerly at GSK Stockmann + Kollegen, where it advised foreign and German clients on cross-border projects, in particular in the areas M&A, corporate law, litigation and arbitral proceedings as well as on supplier agreements.

The team especially focuses on the support of Italian groups and their German subsidiaries in their strategic and operational activities in Germany. In addition, the team also supports German companies, in particular medium sized enterprises, in Italian investments.

Since 2005, Dr. Eckart Petzold has been the head of the "Italian Team" of GSK Stockmann + Kollegen that he built jointly with Dr. Karl von Hase. Jointly, the "Italian Team" inter alia advised Deutsche Post AG on the acquisition of its subsidiaries in Italy as well as Italy's largest textile trader Coin/Oviesse in the acquisition of Kaufhalle from METRO.

Dr. Eckart Petzold explained this step: "Luther's extensive specialized consulting services enable us to cover the consulting needs of our clients under one roof." Dr. Karl von Hase added: "To

this end, the strong international presence and the efficiency of a large firm platform convinced us."

Dr. Markus Sengpiel, one of Luther's Managing Partner says: "We are happy that we can significantly strengthen our strategically important Dusseldorf office with the team around Dr. Eckart Petzold and Dr. Karl von Hase. Our clients will profit enormously from the additional expertise gained thereby, in particular also in regard to cross-border transactions in regard to Italy."

Hans-Christian Ackermann, Head of the Dusseldorf office of Luther added: "Furthermore, there is significant synergy potential in the areas employment law, IP/IT as well as Commercial." Luther's Dusseldorf office includes after the new addition around 35 professionals, thereof 14 partners.

Curriculum vitae Dr. Eckart Petzold

From 1989, Dr. Eckart Petzold was a partner in the firm Triebel Weil Elsing, which became Lovells in 2000. In 2005, he transferred as a partner to GSK Stockmann + Kollegen, where he led the "Italian Team" and was until 2011 a member of the Executive Committee. Since the beginning of his work as an attorney, he has focused on the corporate law advice, in particular of Italian clients.

The lawyer studied in Freiburg and Lausanne. He obtained a doctorate in 1986. Since 2010, he has been a specialist attorney for trade and corporate law. Among other accomplishments, he is the President of MERCURIO Deutsch-Italienische Wirtschaftsvereinigung e.V. [German-Italian Trade Association "MERCURIO"], Vice President of AIGLI Internationale Vereinigung italienisch-sprachiger Juristen [International Association of Italian-Speaking Lawyers (AIGLI)] and member of the Board of Trustees of the MEDICI Association.

Curriculum vitae Dr. Karl von Hase

Since 2005 Dr. Karl von Hase worked as partner at GSK Stockmann + Kollegen. He specialized in the advice on trade and corporate law, distribution law, the representation in litigation and the support of arbitral proceedings.

In 1996 Dr. Karl von Hase was admitted to the bar as an attorney. Previously, he studied at the Universities of Heidelberg and Urbino (Italy). The lawyer is a specialist attorney trade and corporate law as well as a state-approved translator for German/Italian in the Higher Regional Court [OLG] district of Dusseldorf. Among other functions, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Internationale

Vereinigung Italienischsprachiger Juristen (AIGLI) [International Association of Italian-Speaking Lawyers (AIGLI)] as well as a member of the arbitral commission of the Foreign Chamber of Commerce (AHK) in Milan.

Brief Profile Luther

Luther is a leading German commercial law firm that offers comprehensive legal and tax services. The full-service law firm employs over 350 lawyers and tax advisors and is represented at 11 German economic centres and at important investment locations and financial centres in Europe and Asia with international offices in Brussels, Budapest, London, Luxembourg, Shanghai and Singapore. Our clients are 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 worldwide. On the Continent, Luther is part of a group of independent leading law firms who have worked together for many years on joint cross-border projects. Luther is also the German member of Taxand, a global organisation of tax advisory firms.

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. Our lawyers and tax advisors have a solid understanding of interdisciplinary matters and a wealth of experience in collaborating on complex tasks. Further information is available at: www.luther-lawfirm.com

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