

Package services

Our packages allow us to offer you select legal services, clearly specified in advance and easy to follow, at prices that are fixed and transparent. These services are of course limited to German law but, at your request, we can call upon the assistance of our corresponding attorneys abroad, also at fixed prices. Please note that our fixed prices do not include value-added tax.

Establishing a GmbH

(German limited liability company)

The GmbH (Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung) is the classic legal form for companies. A GmbH limits the liability of the company to its equity capital, which must amount to at least € 25,000 (€ 12,500 of which must be paid at the time of formation). Compared to the German stock corporation (Aktiengesellschaft or AG), both the costs of formation and the ongoing costs are lower. Raising capital from outside sources is considerably more difficult, however, due to the limited market for selling GmbH shares. Moreover, the GmbH has tax disadvantages compared to the GbR, oHG and KG, as far as the distribution of profits to shareholders is concerned.

- Creation of an all-purpose memorandum of association, while allowing for the specific circumstances of the client.
- Transcription of the first shareholder meeting for the appointment of the managing director(s).
- Scheduling and preparing the formation in consultation with the notary.

Prices:

GmbH	600,- €
Plus notary costs (with 25.000 € paid in capital)	500,- €

Establishing a GbR or an oHG

(non-trading and general partnerships)

The GbR (Gesellschaft des bürgerlichen Rechts) and the oHG (offene Handelsgesellschaft), its commercial counterpart, are the basic legal forms of partnerships. In both cases, each shareholder is fully and personally liable. The disadvantages of this unlimited liability are offset by low ongoing administration costs, tax benefits and relative freedom in structuring the deed of partnership.

- Creation of all-purpose articles of incorporation, while allowing for the specific circumstances of the client.
- Additionally, in the case of an oHG: scheduling and preparing the entry of the oHG into the trade registry in consultation with the notary.

Prices:

Non-trading partnership (GbR)	400,- €
General partnership (oHG)	600,- €

Package services

Establishing an AG

(German stock corporation)

The AG limits the liability of the shareholders to the minimum nominal value of the share capital, which must be at least € 50,000 (€12,500 of which must be paid at the time of formation.) Compared to a GmbH, the AG is subject to higher ongoing administration costs and can be structured less freely, due to numerous formal stipulations. However, these disadvantages have been alleviated by the introduction of the so-called “small” AG, which even a single individual may found. With an AG, outside capital can be more easily obtained through the sale of shares, which can be done either on- or off-exchange. Given the fewer official restrictions on an AG, even small companies may be well advised to adopt this legal form right from the beginning. For example, this could help them avoid the high cost of converting into an AG at a later time, once the need arises to raise capital by selling shares.

- Creation of all-purpose articles of incorporation, while allowing for the specific circumstances of the client.
- Fulfillment of the incorporation formalities: incorporation committee, incorporation audit report and minutes of the statutory meeting.

- Transcription of the first meeting of the corporate supervisory board for the appointment of the managing board and the supervisory board chairman.
- Scheduling and preparing the incorporation in consultation with the notary.

Prices:

„Normal“ AG	1 200,- €
Plus notary costs: (with 50.000 € paid in capital)	700,- €
„Small“ AG	900,- €
Plus notary costs: (with 50.000 € paid in capital)	700,- €

Establishing a KG or a GmbH & Co. KG

(limited partnership or limited partnership with a limited liability company as general partner)

The KG (Kommanditgesellschaft) contains aspects of the GbR in terms of administrative costs and tax benefits, while also offering some of the shareholders a limitation of liability similar to that of a GmbH. However, these limited-liability shareholders are for the most part excluded from managing the KG.

The GmbH & Co. KG is a hybrid of the two forms. The personally liable (and therefore actively managing) shareholders of a KG organize themselves in the form of a GmbH. This combination results in limited liability for the otherwise fully liable shareholders. It also preserves the tax benefits of a KG, albeit subject to higher administrative costs.

For the KG:

Creation of an all-purpose deed of partnership, while allowing for the specific circumstances of the client.

Scheduling and preparing the entry of the KG into the trade registry in consultation with the notary.

For the GmbH & Co. KG

Creation of an all-purpose deed of partnership/articles of incorporation, while allowing for the specific circumstances of the client.

Transcription of the first shareholder meeting for the appointment of the managing director(s).

Scheduling and preparing for the formation/incorporation in consultation with the notary.

Prices:

KG	700,- €
GmbH & Co. KG	1 300,- €
Plus notary costs: (with 25.000 € Paid in capital)	1 000,- €

Package services

Trademark research

Before launching a business and/or introducing a new product to the market, one has the duty to become informed about the potential rights of third parties. Such rights may include trademarks, company names, names of works, or general third-party names. We are happy to assist you in fulfilling your due diligence to the extent needed. Specifically, we offer the following search services, including legal evaluation of the results:

- Trademark search in Germany, including IR trademarks with respect to Germany, and EU trademarks.
- Trademark search in Austria, Benelux, Denmark, Italy, Spain, France, Great Britain, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Canada, U.S.A.
- Company name search in Germany.
- Title of a work: search in Germany

Prices (depending on the scope of individual research results):

Trademark research in Germany

From	150,- €
To	300,- €

Trademark research elsewhere

AT, BX, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, IT, SE, CA, CH, NO, LI, MO, US	
by Country	300,- €
Company name search	200,- €
Search for title of a work	500,- €

Trademark registration

When registering a trademark, one must describe the goods and services to be offered correctly, and in a way that takes the future into account. However, one must also pay attention to the actual trademark being registered. Many a trademark owner has been surprised to find – once problems with a third-party arose – that the registered trademark did not at all correspond to his actual business, or that it was defined far too narrowly in terms of the rights being protected. Adequate care must therefore be taken. Our “Trademark Registration” package covers all the bases and includes:

- Checking the trademark for registrability; if needed, advice on required changes.
- Preparing the schedule of goods and services.
- Shepherding the registration past the initial examiner at the German Patent and Trademark Office, the WIPO and/or the Harmonization Office for the Common Market (EU Trademark Office).
- Notification of the expiry of the grace period for use and of the extension period.

Prices (without official fees)

German trademark, basic fee	2000,- €
IR trademark, basic fee	1000,- €
Per country, supplemental fee	80,- €
EU trademark, basic fee	600,- €

Advertising campaigns

Advertising campaigns – whether they involve billboards, flyers, brochures, banners or commercials – always incur the risk of infringing competition rights or other third-party rights. Our “Advertising Campaign” package includes a comprehensive review of your planned campaign using the following legal criteria:

- Infringements of competition law or associated legalities, such as pricing regulations.
- Verification of possible third-party rights to the third-party materials used, in accordance with specific client instructions.
- Verification of possible third-party trademark rights to documents/printed matter.

Prices:

Placards/bills, flyers, banners (all one-sided)	300,- €
Brochures, up to ten pages	700,- €
Brochures, up to twenty pages	1100,- €
Advertising spot (up to 30 seconds long):	600,- €

Package services

Domain monitoring

Domain monitoring serves to protect your trademark rights while using your domain name on the internet. Strict monitoring allows you to check for the presence of your trademark in second-level domains. This way you can nip a whole raft of problems in the bud: the establishment of unwanted distribution channels, damage to your reputation or that of your product, proliferation of uninvited middlemen or the emergence of a “gray market”.

- Verification of the actual situation as part of the domain search.
- Setup of continual monitoring.
- Reporting on a biweekly basis.

Domain search - International

Domains .com, .net, .org, .edu, .gov, .info, .biz according to scope, and regardless of the number of top-level domains:

From	200,- €
To	400,- €

Domain search - National

Top-level Domain e.g. „.de“

From	200,- €
To	400,- €

Costs of other national domain searches, such as “.at”, “.ch” etc., provided upon request.

Domain monitoring

Deutschland .de	20,- €
Austria .at	20,- €
Schweiz .ch	20,- €
InterNIC	
.com, .net, .org, .edu, .gov, .info, .biz	18,- €
.eu	25,- €

Package services

Internet scanning

Infringements of trademarks, illegal use of trade names, piracy of products and trademarks, as well as unauthorized dealing in trademarked products all result in damages and erosion of customer confidence, which in turn lead to billions in losses. Protect yourself with our internet monitoring service:

- Design of a search strategy for online auctions or online shops.
- Identification of wrongful use of trade names.
- Identification of unlicensed dealers.
- Legal opinion along with recommended course of action.

Prices (with an annual contract):

One-time basic fee	300,- €
Monthly fee per auction company	200,- €

Trademark monitoring

Continual trademark monitoring protects your legal interests and allows you to keep an eye on the market. The purpose of trademark monitoring is to discover easily confused trademarks right when they are registered, so as to be able to take legal action as soon and as inexpensively as possible.

Prices:

For the first character and month	17,- €
For the 2nd to the 10th character	14,- €
For the 11th to the 25th character	12,- €
For the 25th to the 50th character	10,- €
For the 51st character and above	7,- €

Data privacy

Breaches of data privacy entail serious risks. For example, data-privacy enforcement agencies may confiscate entire IT structures and prevent the affected party from using them for weeks or even months on end. Similarly, competitors may exploit a breach of data privacy law to place a temporary (but long-lasting) legal injunction on the further use of the data at issue. With our “Data Privacy” package you can avoid this and other harmful consequences:

- Legal analysis of the acquisition and use of data.
- Verification of the content structure of databanks in use.
- Recommendations for long-term risk minimization.

Package price	800,- €
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Package services

Employment contracts

A company's personnel structure and the employment contracts that go with it often conceal unforeseen risks. Often these problems only become evident when staff is cut on short notice or when restructuring is underway. By then it is usually too late for corrective action. Another danger lies in the hiring of so-called "bogus independent contractors" – an abuse against which the German Revenue Office (BfA) is becoming ever more vigilant. If discovered, the offending employer could be forced to pay ruinous arrears.

Our "Employment Contracts" package therefore contains comprehensive verification of your existing personnel structure and employment contracts, using legal criteria such as:

- Layoffs related to operations, transfer of individual employees.
- Outsourcing of duties.
- Freelance employment contracts that fail the "bogus independent contractor" test.

Prices:

Companies with up to 10 employees	400,- €
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Companies with up to 21 employees	600,- €
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Companies with up to 21 employees	850,- €
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Companies with over 60 employees. Negotiable according to size.

Sale and distribution contracts

Distribution by means of sales agents, dealers or commercial brokers offers an initially economical cost structure. But it also involves commitments, loyalty, and payment obligations: factors which become especially relevant once the contractual relationship is terminated, and which can often result in painful outlays. Our "Sales and Distribution Contracts" package includes a review of all your company's existing agreements with sales agents, dealers and commercial brokers, especially with respect to the following points (plus recommendations for improvements and possible contract modifications):

- Post-contractual payment obligations and their amount.
- Loyalty obligations of the company during the contract period.
- Any restrictions on simultaneous distribution by the company.
- Duty to sign a contract following a brokered transaction.

Per contract type	400,- €
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General Business Terms and Conditions

All general business terms and conditions (GBTC), as well as boilerplate contracts (this includes all contracts used on a recurring basis), are subject to continual modification by lawmakers and courts. Due to these changes, most general business terms and conditions rarely comply with prevailing law and are therefore only partially valid. Our "GBTC" package comprises a review of your GBTC to determine their conformity with current law as well as their general validity and, above all, their enforceability.

Per GBTC	400,- €
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We would also be happy to draw up a new set of general business terms and conditions for you, at a package price to be negotiated according to the expected amount of work involved.