



German Public Building Law

Our expertise

April 2018

Our expertise in the field of German Building Law

Public building law plays an important role in the context of real estate development and transactions.

The high-level regional planning authorities lay the groundwork for the admissibility of a planned project. In addition, the municipalities control the urban development via the urban land-use planning, thus playing a key role in the legality of a planned project. Ultimately, the building permit authorities decide upon the admissibility of a planned project. Hogan Lovells offers extensive expertise in the field of German Building Law.

Our focus includes:

- Comprehensive advice and representation of municipalities and proprietors in regards to urban planning proceedings and building permit proceedings.
- Advice on issues related to real-estate transactions, including retail properties
- Advice and representation in the development and the refurbishment of significant retail trade projects. In this context, obtaining building rights as well as eliminating conflicting building rights is crucial.



A selection of our expertise

Distinctive experience



Autobahn Tank & Rast GmbH

Ongoing advice regarding concessions for the construction and operation of federal motorway service areas.



Lukas Development 1. GmbH

Advice in construction and planning law in connection with the realization of a residential district in Düsseldorf.



3M Deutschland GmbH

Advice on construction and planning law in connection with the development and expansion of a chemical park.



IMR Innovative Metallrecycling GmbH

Project support in questions on building and planning law.



Active Tools (Europe) GmbH

Advising on construction and planning law in connection with a plant expansion.



A leading European metal recycling company

Advice on partial demolition and renovation of a recycling plant.



Redevco Services Deutschland GmbH

Advice regarding the expansion of the retail sales area in the Rhein-Ruhr-Centre.



IMS-Messsysteme GmbH

Advice on planning and building law in connection with the extension of the company headquarters.



City of Heiligenhaus

Advice in planning law regarding the restructuring of an existing business park.



Terra Firma Capital Partners

Advising on various real estate and environmental aspects, including the acquisition of Viterra Development.



Bundesverband der Gießereiindustrie e.V.

Restructuring of research and development departments and advising on various issues in connection with planning law and building regulations.



An automobile association

Object-related construction planning and advice on building regulation.



Gauselmann-Gruppe

Advising on construction and planning law issues.



A North Rhine-Westphalian project company

Advising on planning and regional planning law issues specific to the retail industry.



Smurfit Kappa Group

Advising on construction and planning law.



Löwen Entertainment

Advising on standard contracts and regulatory issues.



City of Monheim (Ruhr)

Advising on procurement and construction planning law in relation with the development of a retail centre.



German Defence Ministry

Advising on construction planning law.



A German Chamber of Agriculture

General advice on planning and construction law.



A real estate development company

Construction law advice regarding a hotel complex in a large city in North Germany.

Our Team



Prof. Dr. Thomas Dünchheim

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Prof. Dr. Dünchheim is a renowned expert in all aspects of public law. He is head of the Government Regulatory practice of Hogan Lovells in Germany and is a member of the International Global Policy and Advocacy Initiative.

Prof. Dr. Dünchheim holds a diploma in public administration (Diplom-Verwaltungswirt) and studied law at the University of Cologne. From 1999 to 2009, he was the full-time mayor of the City of Monheim and as such responsible for the departments for Legal Affairs, Human Resources and Administration, Urban Planning and Promotion of the Economy. Furthermore, from 1991 to 1995 Prof. Dr. Dünchheim worked as an inspector at the Food Law Authority of the district of Mettmann. Since February 2016 he holds a professorship for Constitutional Law and Government Law as well as for Public Economic Law. Prof. Dr. Dünchheim published various articles and textbooks on current legal topics in administrative procedural and administrative litigation law, municipal and commercial law. In addition, he has more than ten years of experience as shareholder, supervisory board chair and board member in various municipal companies.

Since January 1st, 2016, Prof. Dr. Dünchheim is Office Managing Partner of Hogan Lovells in Düsseldorf and Professor for Constitutional and Public Commercial Law at the EBS University in Wiesbaden.



Dr. Steffen Schleiden

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Dr. Steffen Schleiden is an associate in the firm's Düsseldorf office. As a member of the practice group "Public Sector" he advises on all aspects of public law, with a predominant focus on building law.

Dr. Steffen Schleiden has over 8 years of experience in German public law. Along with his comprehensive expertise in construction planning law, he has an extensive experience in planning law. He is particularly experienced in complex land-use planning proceedings with questions regarding environmental impact assessments (EIA).

Dr. Steffen Schleiden studied law at the University of Trier. In Trier he worked at the Institute of Environmental and Technology Law as an academic assistant. During this time, he finished his doctoral thesis on fundamental questions of the definition/establishment of flight routes. His legal training included stages in Speyer, Stuttgart and Belgrade. He was admitted to the bar as a lawyer in 2009.



Carsten Bringmann is an associate in the firm's Düsseldorf office. As a member of the "Public Sector" practice group he advises on all aspects of public law. He focuses on gambling law and constitutional law.

Following his studies at the Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf, Carsten completed his legal internship in the District of Higher Regional Court in Hamm at the Parliament of North Rhine Westphalia and a well-known law-firm in the public law sector.

In addition to his work, Carsten currently prepares his doctor's thesis on Gambling Law.

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Our approach?
Cooperative.

We take the time to
understand your
needs and objectives.

Market recognition

A selection of awards and market recognition



One client is fond of the team's propensity to offer a quick yet in-depth commercial view, saying: "The lawyers offer help at short notice and give you comprehensive advice."
Chambers Europe, 2017



Another praises the lawyers for their "unbelievable technical competence and excellent communication."
Chambers Europe, 2017



Hogan Lovells International LLP's advice is 'targeted and shows detailed subject matter knowledge'. Thomas Dünchheim has a focus on municipal law and policy consultation.
Legal 500, 2017



Thomas Dünchheim is a 'very good networker, proactive and highly active'. (client)
Legal 500, 2017



Strengths: Advice to international clients and on international projects. Strong public sector ties.
Recommended: Hon.-Prof. Dr. Thomas Dünchheim ("very strong municipal contacts in Nordrhein-Westfalen", client).
JUVE Handbuch, 2016/2017



The tremendous capability in industry expertise is one of the main characteristics of the German practice.
JUVE Handbuch, 2016/2017

*Law Firm of the Year 2016
JUVE Awards*



Germany
Law Firm of the Year

*Law Firm of the Year 2016
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"I enjoy the personal relationship I have with the firm; a few lawyers take the lead and remain the first point of contact even if they engage other people, such as experts or associates." (Client)
Chambers Europe, 2015

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