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HORSE INTERNATIONAL

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CHOICE

DRESSAGE
ROYALTY



AN ALLIANCE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING EQUINE LAW FIRMS

European US Asian Equine Lawyers is an Alliance Group founded by Schelstraete Holding B.V. with its head office in Oisterwijk, the Netherlands. The Alliance Group has independent partners in Europe, Asia and the United States and is still growing. The Alliance Group can help clients worldwide with contracting, purchase assistance, Sports law, FEI Doping cases and Litigation. It is our pleasure to introduce to you the last two members of the Alliance Group.



Monika Gattiker, LANTER Attorneys & Tax Advisors Zurich-Switzerland

How many lawyers does your firm comprise?
11 lawyers.

Which field of law does your firm specialise in?

We provide specialised lawyers for all legal requirements of corporate clients.

Who are your "most common clients" in the equine law practice?

The riders.

Which other fields of law do you often see applied together with equine law?

Commercial law.

How come you chose to specialise in equine law?

As a horse owner and person with more than 40 years of riding experience it seems self-evident to work in this field. My commercial focus and the special interest in life sciences and health care is also very useful for my work in equine law.

What are the ties of the firm to the equine world?

One of our partners used to own racehorses, and as mentioned earlier, I have close ties to the equine world.

Why do you find it important to have lawyers specialising in equine law?

In order to assist equine law clients and serve their best interest it is required to have broad knowledge about horses, the horse business and in fact the entire equine world, as well as, to have experience in the equine world. Further, there is a specific arbitration law applicable to equestrian sport matters, which comprise a number of traps for persons who are not familiar with these rules and regulations. Equine law is a specialisation as, for example, maritime or aviation law.

What are the most common issues arising in the field of equine law?

Medication/doping cases and disputes related to horse purchases.

What has been one of your most challenging cases?

A horse abuse case in 2008 involving a very well known rider. There was no evidence except from 8 statements of witnesses on behalf of the FEI. Finally, we could prove that the witnesses had been "briefed" by the deputy chief steward. The hearing was 10 hours, and it was a tough fight to achieve relieve from the accusations. The FEI Tribunal made clear in its decision that it would have suspended the rider for at least two years had they been convinced of the accusations.

Longest/shortest case?

2 years/3 weeks

How do you see equestrian law has developed through the last years?

It is a growing industry, getting more professional and more commercial.

How do you see the field developing in the future?

There will be more international and more substantial horse deals.

Which issues within equine law do you see appear (more often) in the coming years?

Disputes between seller and buyer.

How long has your firm been a part of the EUAEL alliance?

One year.

Why is it so important to have a worldwide alliance of equine lawyers?

The equine world is international, and therefore there are often questions related to a different jurisdiction.

How does your client benefit from the firm being a part of the EUAEL alliance?

We can also cover our client's requests if they concern questions related to foreign law or cross border issues.