ACQGLOBALAWARDS2009 - WESTERN EUROPE 119

"I experienced that MKRG's lawyers are agile team players who do not only work very efficiently and smoothly with each other, but are also a humorous crowd. And, although each MKRG partner is an individual having his own entrepreneurial mind, the partnership is astonishingly stable and has a strong collective identity. Until now, MKRG has seen none of its partners leaving the firm."

Dr Maximilian Koch

Small Law Firm of the Year

Winner:



Mütze Korsch Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft mbH (MKRG) is a German full-service law firm with offices in Dusseldorf and Cologne. MKRG has 27 lawyers of whom 15 are partners. The main areas of MKRG's legal practice are:

- Real Estate including Construction Law, Public Private Partnerships, Public Procurement Law;
- Corporate Law, M&A including Financial and Capital Markets Law as well as Insolvency Advice and Restructuring;
- Labor Law (individual as well as collective) including Immigration Law;
- IP / IT, Commercial and Competition Law.

MKRG was established in 2004. Although the brand MKRG is quite young, the partners are very experienced. Due to the Sabanes-Oxley regulations, PwC separated from its former law firm of which the Dusseldorf and Cologne offices finally became MKRG. Since then MKRG has successfully expanded its partnership internally as well as via fortunate lateral hirings.

In March 2005, Dr Maximilian Koch entered MKRG as an equity partner after practising as a corporate lawyer with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Dusseldorf, for several years.

"Shortly after I had joined MKRG, I advised the Maredo steak house top managers on their first MBO vis-à-vis their former British parent company Whitbread as well as the private equity investors in 2005. This MBO dropped in via my partner Thomas Kerkhoff, IP law, who had been advising Maredo for years already. The deal proved that the best friends relationship between MKRG and PwC worked very well in practice. I involved PwC because of the tricky tax law aspects the MBO had for the management", remembered Dr Maximilian Korh

"Since then I had the opportunity as a MKRG partner to work on many interesting projects and

cases in corporate law, M&A, finance and commercial law. I experienced that MKRG's lawyers are agile team players who do not only work very efficiently and smoothly with each other, but are also a humorous crowd. And, although each MKRG partner is an individual having his own entrepreneurial mind, the partnership is astonishingly stable and has a strong collective identity. Until now, MKRG has seen none of its partners leaving the firm."

The professional legal community acknowledges MKRG's lawyers as being experts in their respective fields and working at the highest legal quality standards.

Although MKRG is completely independent, this comparatively small law firm is able to work inter alia on a best-friends basis with PwC regarding industrial auditing, tax law and business management issues.

Due to its autonomy and the high quality of its work MKRG is, last but not least, a valued partner of international law firms not possessing a German office.

"I was extremely happy, when I heard that MKRG had won an ACQ Global Award 2009 in the category Small Law Firm of the Year – Western Europe and, of course, I am very proud that the successful secondary MBO of Maredo, which I had advised on the top managers' side in 2008 - three years after their first MBO - and on which the ACQ Finance Magazine reported last year, was the deal which brought MKRG the award.", said Dr Maximilian Koch.

"However, as the category description of this accolade aptly puts it, it is not only our practice group Corporate Law / M&A or even a single person but, as a matter of fact, the entire MKRG team that won it. All of MKRG's practice groups are indeed punching above their weight which is documented by a series of headline deals and cases MKRG advised on." ACQ



Dr Maximilian Koch

DETAILS

Dipl-Kfm Dr Maximilian Koch

Managing Director, Partner Trinkausstraße 7, D-40213 Düsseldorf

Tel.: +49 (0) 211 882929 koch@mkrg.com