

KordtRechtsanwälte



Werner Kordt, Senior Partner, says: Enterprises are best served by a law firm whose profile, philosophy and size match their own.

The law firm

The law firm **KordtRechtsanwälte** advises foreign enterprises doing business in Germany, Britain's largest export partner in Europe, and those intending to start business here.

The complexity of the global market requires commercial enterprises, and medium-sized companies with attractive products, to expand abroad. Their challenge is our challenge.

The main features

The firm was established in 1985 and now comprises 15 professionals. It specialises in civil and commercial law with a particular emphasis on private international law and all cross border issues. By comparison with big international law firms **Kordt** may be considered medium-sized, but boasts a niche in efficiently advising mainly medium-sized enterprises, both privately and publicly held, on their domestic and international business activities.

The location

Kordt is based at Essen in the Federal State Northrhine-Westfalia in the northwest of Germany. Essen is in the heart of the Rhine/Ruhr area which is, together with London and Paris, one of the three most populated agglomerations in Europe and the most important economic region of the country. The region's primary focus is the north western part of Europe including Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium. The head offices of many foreign companies for their German-centric business are based in the region.

Essen will be the European Capital of Culture in 2010. The town has an extremely good transport system. It is accessible from Düsseldorf airport in 30 minutes by car and from the international airports of Cologne and Dortmund on a comprehensive motorway network. Intercity Express trains that link Frankfurt, Cologne and Düsseldorf with Berlin and Hamburg all stop at Essen.

The international positioning

Due to the firm's specialisation and the nature of its clientele, **Kordt** has significant experience in international matters. This international focus is reflected by the firm's legal staff and its well established contacts. All lawyers work in German and English. Most of them have a foreign law background and have one or more other languages. Members of the firm speak and correspond variously in Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish and Arabic.

Foreign lawyers regularly co-operate in matters of foreign and international law. **Kordt** maintains close day-to-day links with **Druces LLP** in London and **Willems Advocaten** in Amsterdam partly by means of reciprocal admission of colleagues to the respective local bars and partly by their work as foreign law consultants to the other firms.

As international business often requires input from various jurisdictions, in 1996 **Kordt** co-founded, and still is an active member of, the **Alliance of Business Lawyers**, an association of some 35 law firms in 24 countries mainly in Europe. As and when required members of the association, known personally by **Kordt**, provide specialist advice in other jurisdictions, with strict quality control and predictable fees.

The firm's activities

Kordt provides legal services tailored to the client's needs, ranging from "one-off" cases to permanent retainers. Long term projects and other complex matters are dealt with on a continuing basis by preparing legal opinions, negotiating and drafting contracts and other commercial documents. The firm also pursues claims of all kinds, whether extra-judicially, in the courts, or by arbitration.

The firm's clientele comprises individuals, partnerships and corporations, such as banks and insurance companies, as well as businesses in commerce and manufacturing, construction and development, turnkey projects, commercial agency and distribution, and information technology. Work typically also comes from foreign clients entering into joint ventures with German partners. More than a third of the matters dealt with by the firm has a cross border element, and a considerable part thereof is related to Great Britain.

We are used to forming working groups or task forces to meet clients' needs regarding various legal issues often on short notice.

As business advice necessarily involves accounting and tax matters **Kordt** works closely with, and in fact shares offices with, a well established tax advisors' practice whose professionals participate, where necessary, in the handling of matters.

The notary's office

To a much greater extent than elsewhere in Europe, German law statutorily requires certain business activities to be dealt with by a Notary, in particular with regard to Commercial and Company (for example, the registration of businesses or branch offices in the Commercial Register, the establishment of companies, sale and purchase of shares, mergers and acquisitions), and with regard to Real Estate (for example, the sale and purchase of land and business premises, charges and mortgages securing the financing of an enterprise).

Werner Kordt, the Senior Partner, is also a Notary and is experienced in handling all sorts of notarial matters in a private or business context. Deeds are recorded in English if required.

Doing Business in Germany

By way of an introduction we invite you to read our publication "Doing Business in Germany" which gives an overview of the legal framework of the German market. The guide can be downloaded from our website.

What can we do for you?

Kordt is the partner of choice for British enterprises seeking legal and commercial advice in relation to their activities in Germany. We have close links to both the British and Dutch markets and jurisdictions. We are also proud to offer specialized legal services to clients in the environment required of international law firms, at fees that are proportionate to the matter and to the client's expectations.

Get to know us

For more details of our various activities please visit www.kordt-law.com.

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