CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
FRANKFURT • GERMANY

List of Attorneys in SAARLAND

The Frankfurt Consular District includes the states (Länder) of:
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in the Federal Republic of Germany.
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Address of the U.S. Consulate:

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* The asterisk refers to attorneys who have expressed a special interest in criminal law cases.

RETAINING A FOREIGN ATTORNEY

In retaining the services of a foreign attorney concerning a private dispute abroad, the following guidelines may assist you in protecting your interests.

1. **Selecting an Attorney**
When you receive a list of attorneys, it is recommended that you contact several attorneys, briefly describing the nature of the services you desire. Before you decide which attorney to engage, request a written schedule of fees generally charged for the services you need, inquire whether the attorney is fluent in the English language, and become acquainted with a particular attorney. Do not submit any documents or funds until you are certain that the attorney understands your problem and is willing to handle your case.

2. **Barristers and Solicitors**
In some foreign cities, districts, or provinces it may be necessary for you to retain the services of both a solicitor and a barrister. In such jurisdiction, barristers are allowed to appear in court, including superior courts and courts of appeal. Solicitors are allowed to advise clients, represent them in the lower courts and prepare cases for barristers to try in the higher courts.

3. **Notaries Public, “Notaries” and “Huissiers”**
In some foreign countries, notaries public, “notaries” and “huissiers” can perform many of the functions performed by attorneys in the United States. For example, foreign notaries frequently draft instruments, wills, and conveyances. In some countries, a notary public is an official, appointed by the Ministry of Justice, whose functions include not only the preparation of documents, but the administration and settlement of estates. Such notaries may serve as repositories for wills and are empowered to serve legal documents. (In some countries, “huissiers” serve documents.) They are not lawyers, but are very specialized members of the legal profession. They may not plead cases in court.

4. **Coordination with Counsel in the U.S.**
American attorneys may not be in a position to represent your interests abroad, particularly because they will not be permitted to participate in foreign court proceedings under the laws of the foreign country. American attorneys experienced in international law may be helpful in

explaining the complex international issues involved in your case and some may have associates or partners abroad to whom they can refer you.

5. **Legal Aid Association**
There may be facilities in a foreign country for low cost or free legal services. Ask the local bar association or the Ministry of Justice about the availability of legal aid. You may also wish to consult the European Judicial Network Webpage:
http://ec.europa.eu/civiljustice/legal_aid/legal_aid_int_en.htm

6. **How to Deal with Your Foreign Attorney**

Always research the attorney's qualifications and experience. Find out how the attorney plans to represent you. Ask specific questions and expect the attorney to explain legal activities in a language that you can understand. Ask what fees the attorney, notary, or huissier charges and how the attorney expects to be paid. Notaries and huissiers are usually government officials who must charge fees established by their government. Some attorneys may expect to be paid in advance; some may demand payment after each action they take on your behalf, refusing to take further action until they are paid. Some may take the case on a percentage basis, collecting a pre-arranged percentage of the moneys awarded to you by the foreign court.

Ask that your attorney keep you informed of the progress of your case according to a pre-established schedule. Remember that most court calendars are crowded. You may, therefore, wish to ask the attorney to send you monthly reports, even though no real developments have ensued, simply to satisfy your doubts about the progress of the case. Have your attorney analyze your case, giving you the positive and negative aspects and probable outcome. Do not expect your attorney to give a simple answer to a complex legal problem. Be sure that you understand the technical language in any contract or other legal document prepared by your attorney before you sign it. Keep your attorney fully informed of any new developments in the case. If you need to provide complex or technical documents to your attorney, you may wish to consider having the documents translated into the native language. An elementary knowledge of English may not be enough to enable the attorney to understand the documents you provide. Tell the attorney every relevant fact in order to get the best representation of your interests. Find out how much time the attorney anticipates the case may take to complete. Request copies of all letters and documents prepared on your behalf.

7. **Assistance of the Department of State**
If you have additional questions, you may contact:

Office of Citizens Consular Services
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel: (202) 647-3444

8. **Complaints against Foreign Attorneys**
If the services of your attorney prove unsatisfactory, in addition to notifying the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad, you may address your complaints to the local (foreign) bar association.

HOMBURG

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Specialty: Insurance, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Auto/Accidents
Language: English, Spain, French

SAARBRÜCKEN

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Language: English (fluent)

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Language: English