



Philip Smitka

Partner and Head of Representation in Frankfurt

Philip Smitka is an attorney-at-law and partner in charge of the German office and representation of HAVEL & PARTNERS in Frankfurt am Main. The Frankfurt office provides support to clients and business partners from Western Europe whose business is directed to the CEE region, as well as to clients from Czechia and Slovakia wanting to expand into Western markets.

Philip specialises in mergers and acquisitions, including real estate transactions, contracts and international trade, litigation, commercial and investment arbitration as well as compliance. He focuses on advising clients in the automotive and information technology sectors.

He has been involved in a number of transactions both on the buyers' and sellers' side, including in the automotive and technology sectors. He has conducted numerous internal investigations and advised on compliance and compliance-related issues in the context of product law and commercial practice.

Within commercial law, he focuses on the law of contracts, especially in the international context, such as comprehensive long-term supply contracts.

In addition, Philip has extensive experience as Coordination Counsel on international multi-jurisdictional legal projects. For example, he coordinated advisory for a major German DAX-listed industrial company regarding the defence against both individual and mass claims across various European and non-European countries.

Before joining our law firm in 2024, he worked for several years as a partner in an international law firm in Stuttgart and before that he worked in a renowned German law firm in Munich and Prague. Philip has many years of legal experience on the German and Czech markets.

Projects

- M&A advisory for one of the world's largest building materials companies concerning its expansion in Czechia
- Representation of Czechia in international investment arbitration under the UNCITRAL rules in Paris
- Advisory for a leading US-pharmaceutical company on distribution law in the German market concerning the reorganisation of the distribution network

Membership in professional associations

Czech Bar Association
Stuttgart Bar Association
German Arbitration Institute (DIS)
German Bar Association – International Trade Working Group
German Bar Association – IT Law Working Group
German-Spanish Lawyers Association (DSJV)

Languages

German, Czech, English, Spanish, French

Education

Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen, Germany, Faculty of Law (1991-1992)
Universidad de Bilbao, Spain, Faculty of Law, Erasmus programme, European Law (1994)
University of Cologne, Germany, Faculty of Law, 1st State Exam (1997)
Higher Regional Court, Munich, Germany Traineeship, 2nd State Exam (1999)