



Blocking Period until 17 July 2018, 00:00 a.m.

Kellerhals Carrard is expanding to Geneva as of 1 January 2019

The law firm Kellerhals Carrard (KC) is continuing its development in Switzerland by establishing itself in Geneva and will merge, as of 1 January 2019, with the law firm known as de Pfyffer | avocats as well as six Partners from the law firm known as Python, and Charles Ochsner, Of Counsel, in Tokyo. Kellerhals Carrard Geneva will comprise 35 lawyers. Through this new development, Kellerhals Carrard has completed the latest stage of its national expansion. With 195 lawyers/consultants and around 285 employees, Kellerhals Carrard will become the second largest firm in Switzerland and will have one of the largest presences in the Geneva market. The firm is now a significant force in the area around Lake Geneva and more widely in French-speaking Switzerland.

One of the leading law firms in Geneva and the region around Lake Geneva

The law firm **de Pfyffer | avocats** is a very well established in Geneva. It is made up of 8 partners and 11 associates/trainees. It has a significant corporate-commercial practice with domestic and international clients, and its lawyers advise on complex structures and contracts, lawsuits and arbitration proceedings - including in the area of sports law - as well as in the areas of banking and private clients (family office, estate planning).

The senior partner of de Pfyffer and former president of the Geneva Bar Association, **Luc Argand**, welcomes the merger: "It permits us to take our firm to a national level, without having to relinquish our local and regional networks and characteristics. It is a very exciting and logical development, because we have forged close ties with Kellerhals Carrard for decades, and it is also a commitment to the next generation, which will need to think beyond Geneva."

Six Partners currently at the Geneva-based **law firm Python** will join Kellerhals Carrard Geneva. Clarence Peter, Ingrid Iselin Zellweger, Nicolas Hoffmann, François Micheli, Henry Immink and Rémy Sacerdote, together with 9 associates/trainees as well as Charles Ochsner, Of Counsel in Tokyo will bring their expertise to Kellerhals Carrard. The team has an extensive portfolio with domestic and international clients, and is active in the following areas in particular: Corporate Commercial M&A, Private Clients, Tax, Start-ups White Collar Crime and Intellectual Property.

Kellerhals Carrard Geneva will be managed by **Emmanuèle Argand** and **Clarence Peter**. Clarence Peter notes: "We are convinced by the federal success model employed by Kellerhals Carrard, which is based on a decentralised structure. This model leverages the strong local networks as well as the specific capabilities developed in the various locations. This foundation guarantees top-quality services in a dynamic work environment. The personal and professional relationships with Kellerhals Carrard as well as with our colleagues from de Pfyffer, with whom we share the premises at Rue François-Bellot, have always been and continue to be close – and now they are being formalised. It was important to all of the new

partners at the Geneva location that we could in this way better develop and exploit all the synergies between us.”

Beat Brechbühl, Managing Partner of Kellerhals Carrard, comments: “We are pleased to be able to strengthen our position in Switzerland by taking this step. Our presence in all of the major economic centres in Switzerland together with our excellent local, national and international networks and the proximity to our clients will allow us best to exploit these success factors. The firm has a unique and very active regional presence which allows us quickly to put in place interdisciplinary, cross-site teams for large national and international clients. I am convinced that the additional presence in Geneva together with our existing offices in Lausanne and Sion puts us in a very strong position in French-speaking Switzerland. Our federal structure, collaborative approach to work and our ongoing digital projects are all strengths of Kellerhals Carrard for the future.”

After a rapid growth phase over the past few years, Kellerhals Carrard will now set its focus on consolidation.

www.kellerhals-carrard.ch as of **1 January 2019** at a glance:

- Founded in 1885
- Almost 195 qualified professionals (partners, associates, consultants, tax advisors, auditors, notaries and paralegals)
- Locations in Zurich, Basle, Berne, Geneva, Lausanne, Sion, Lugano as well as representations in Binningen, Shanghai and Tokyo
- All aspects of corporate and commercial law, M&A litigation, arbitration, white-collar crime, sports law, private clients, tax and a special start-up desk
- Working languages: German, French, English, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, Polish
- Listed as one of the leading law firms in Switzerland, including in Chambers, Legal 500, and Who’s Who.

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