



**LIST OF ATTORNEYS
SPECIALIZING IN CRIMINAL LAW
IN THE MUNICH CONSULAR DISTRICT**

(April 2021)

The Munich Consular District consists of the German State of Bavaria.

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About this list

The following is to assist you in selecting a private attorney, should you wish to retain one. The U.S. Consulate General Munich, Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by the following persons or firms. Inclusion on this list is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or the U.S. Consulate. Names are listed alphabetically and by geographic location, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. The information in the list on professional credentials, areas of expertise and language ability are provided directly by the respective lawyers. You may receive additional information about the individuals by contacting the local bar association:

Rechtsanwaltskammer
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Some Things You Should Know About Retaining an Attorney

German lawyers are not as active in court as U.S. lawyers, due to the prominent role of the presiding judge. Your defense counsel should, however, argue your case for you and try to convince the court to interpret the facts and apply the law in a manner favorable to you. Your German attorney is your primary source of advice. Ask him/her any questions you have about the case and listen carefully to the advice you receive, for he/she is trained in German criminal law and has the duty to defend you to the best of his/her ability.

Attorney Fees

☞ **Legal services will be at your own expense.**

If you have no funds, see the section on ***Pflichtverteidiger* (court-appointed attorney)** below.

The State Department cannot provide funds for employing a lawyer, but is willing to contact your family or friends on your behalf, to request their financial assistance.

Attorney fees are regulated by a state-approved schedule of fees. The attorney will adhere to these tariffs if the retainer fee has not been specially discussed. In cases of complicated and time-consuming proceedings (for example, major offenses or crimes), the attorney, in order to cover excess time spent beyond normal services, will suggest an individual contract concerning the cost of his services. This contract must be signed by the client in order to be valid and binding. The attorney usually will request a down payment from his client at the beginning of the proceedings, and will account for it at their termination. Once you have signed a power of

attorney, you are obligated to pay your lawyer's bill for services rendered to date, even if you change attorneys. You should know that the lawyer may charge for additional services that are not related to your criminal case, as well as frequent and lengthy telephone conversations with your relatives/friends.

Selection of Defense Attorneys

Private Attorney (*Wahlverteidiger*)

According to article 138 of the German Penal Code the defense attorney must either be licensed to practice before German courts or be a law professor at a German university.

Retaining a criminal defense attorney is mandatory in the following cases

- If the initial trial will be held at the *Landgericht* (Regional Court) or *Oberlandesgericht* (Higher Regional Court);
- if the accused is charged with a felony (*Verbrechen*),
- if the proceedings may result in withdrawal of a professional license;
- if pre-trial detention is being enforced;
- if an expert opinion must be prepared regarding the mental condition of the accused, which might lead to the accused's admission to a mental institution;
- if the court orders the prisoner's admission to a mental or medical treatment facility; or
- if a previously appointed defense attorney is dismissed from the proceedings by a decision of the court.

In other cases not specified above, at the request of the accused or automatically, the court will appoint a defense attorney if the severity of the offense or the legal complexities involved make it appear warranted that legal assistance to the accused is required [in a legal sense], or if it is otherwise obvious that the accused is not capable of handling his own defense.

Court-appointed Attorney (*Pflichtverteidiger*)

A prisoner in pre-trial detention can either hire a private attorney or receive a court appointed attorney. A German court-appointed attorney is not the same as an American 'public defender'. Any private attorney can be appointed as a public defender. Therefore you may choose an attorney and, if the attorney agrees to defend you on a court appointment basis, you should give his name to the judge. If you do not choose an attorney, the court may appoint an attorney of its choice.

If you need an interpreter to communicate with your attorney, the attorney should apply for one. The costs will be borne by the German government.

If you are convicted and sentenced, the *Justizkasse* (billing department of the German Department of Justice) will, at the end of the entire proceeding, send a notice to you to pay for

all costs incurred, e.g. court costs, costs for the interpreter, the witnesses, translations, and also for the court-appointed attorney.

For incarcerated U.S. citizens:

☞ Please see the booklet entitled "Information for U.S. Citizens Imprisoned in Germany" for more details. This Handbook contains further information about selecting legal counsel, private attorneys and court-appointed attorneys.

Attorneys for Criminal Law in the Consular District of Bavaria:

A N S B A C H

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Good

Educational Background: University Würzburg, Germany

Law Background: Has practiced law for 7 years

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law (adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage & divorce), Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Commercial Law, Auto/Accidents

AUGSBURG

Gerhard DECKER

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Webpage: www.ra-decker-kollegen.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: good

Educational Background: University Augsburg

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1978

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Auto/Accidents

Ernst LAUFFER

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent

Educational Background: Universities of Munich & Speyer, Germany

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1976

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law (adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage & divorce), Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Labor Law, Immigration, Auto/Accidents

Michael SCHEERSCHMIDT

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: Italian

Educational Background: University Munich

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1977

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Collections, Commercial Law, Estates, Labor Relations, Auto/Accidents

BAD KISSINGEN

Dr. Gerhard W. STAAB

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Webpage: www.drstaab-seufert.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: French

Educational Background: University Munich and Würzburg

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1975

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Auto/Accidents

BAYREUTH

Martina MEISEN-GOOLEY

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Email: Bayreuth@Kanzlei-emc.de
Webpage: www.kanzlei-emc.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent

Educational Background: University

Law Background: Since 1989 self-employed lawyer

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law, Adoptions, Child Custody, Parental Child Abduction, Child Protection, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Civil Law, Damages, Narcotics, Labor Relations, Auto/Accidents, Criminal Law

GRAFENWÖHR

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Webpage: www.carrington.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: French (very basic)

Educational Background: German law degree, Master of Laws, LL.M.

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1985

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law (child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage & divorce), Civil Law, Criminal Law, Estates, Auto/Accidents

MEMMINGEN

Dr. Sybille THIEL

Law firm Bogdahn & Kollegen

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Webpage: www.bogdahn-kollegen.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Good

Educational Background: University Würzburg, Germany, graduated 1998, internship at the District Attorney's Office in Media, Pennsylvania

Law Background: Has practiced law in Memmingen since 2001

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Insurance, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Auto/Accidents

MUNICH/ MÜNCHEN

Dr. Stephan BEUKELMANN

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: - Spanish

Educational Background: University Munich and Rostock

Law Background: Has practiced law for 17 years

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Christian GERBER

Law firm: Kremer, Höck & Kollegen

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: French

Educational Background: University

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1999 at Kremer, Höck & Kollegen

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law, Narcotics

Hartmut GIRSHAUSEN

Law firm: Kreuzer, Pfister & Girshausen

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent

Educational Background: University Mainz

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1995

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Dr. Wolfgang KREUZER, LL.M.

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: French

Educational Background: University Munich; Lausanne; Berkeley, CA

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1973

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Dr. Klaus LEIPOLD

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent

Educational Background: University of Giessen and Freiburg

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1985

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Dr. Werner LEITNER

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: French, Spanish

Educational Background: Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, Law traineeship in Chicago, USA

Law Background: Has practiced law as a defense lawyer since 1989 and as an accredited specialist for criminal law since 1997

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Prof. Dr. Eckhart MÜLLER

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent, Other Languages: -

Educational Background: University Erlangen; Munich and University Passau, where he is an honorary professor.

Law Background: Has practiced law for 37 years

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Maximilian MÜLLER, LL.M

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Webpage: www.rae-strafrecht.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: Spanish and French

Educational Background: University LMU Munich, Université de Lausanne, Master of Law Trinity College Dublin, studies of the Spanish language at the Academia Hispano-Americana (Mexico)

Law Background: Has practiced law for 8 years

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Thomas PFISTER

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Ability to Read/Speak English: good; Other Languages: Italian

Educational Background: University Munich

Law Background: Has practiced law for 25 years

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Dr. Peter SCHNEIDER

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: French, Spanish

Educational Background: University Regensburg

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1981

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law, Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Narcotics

Dr. Karl SIDHU

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent

Educational Background: University of Osnabrück

Law Background: Has practiced law since 2000

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent

Educational Background: University Munich

Law Background: Has practiced law for 20 years

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law, Narcotics

Marco VON SCHIRACH

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Good; Other Languages: -

Educational Background: criminal law

Law Background: Has practiced law since 2008

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

NUREMBERG/ NÜRNBERG

Jochen HORN

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Webpage: www.horn-coll.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: good

Educational Background: University Regensburg

Law Background: Has practiced law for 16 years

Cases Willing to Handle: Criminal Law

Dr. Günther KREUZER

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Webpage: www.kreuzer.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: Italian, French

Educational Background: University of Erlangen, Germany

Law Background: Has practiced law for 38 years

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law (adoptions, child custody, marriage & divorce), Insurance, Banking/Financial, Commercial/Business Law, Foreign Investments, Marketing Agreements, Patents/Trademarks/Copyrights, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Collections, Commercial Law, Contracts, Transportation Law, Corporations, Foreign Claims, Estates, Taxes, Labor Relations, Immigration, Auto/Accidents

REGENSBURG

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Webpage: www.ra-hofmann-regensburg.de

Ability to Read/Speak English: Good; Other Languages: French

Educational Background: University Regensburg

Law Background: Has practiced law more than 25 years

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law (child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage & divorce), Insurance, Banking/Financial, Commercial/Business Law, Marketing Agreements, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Narcotics, Collections, Commercial Law, Contracts, Transportation Law, Estates, Labor Relations, Auto/Accidents

ROSENHEIM

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: Italian, Russian (fluent), Chinese, Arabic (limited), Spanish, and French (good)

Educational Background: University of Munich

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1974

Cases Willing to Handle:

Family Law, Marriage/Divorce, Commercial/Business Law, Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Commercial Law, Contracts, Foreign Claims, Labor Relations, Immigration, Auto/Accidents

WOLFRATSHAUSEN

Karl BRUNNHUBER

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Ability to Read/Speak English: Fluent; Other Languages: Spanish and French

Educational Background: University Munich, 1984 internship at law firm in Fairfax County, VA

Law Background: Has practiced law since 1986

Cases Willing to Handle: Family Law (child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage & divorce), Civil Law, Criminal Law, Damages, Estates