




DR RALF THAETER

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Ralf is a corporate partner based in Germany.

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BACKGROUND

Ralf graduated from the law school of the University of Passau, Germany in 1987 and passed his second state examination in the state of Bavaria in 1990. He holds a Doctor of Laws (Dr. iur.) from the University of Passau and, as a Fulbright scholar, a Master of Laws from the American University, Washington D.C., where he was awarded the "Outstanding Graduate Student Award".

Before joining Herbert Smith Freehills in 2013, Ralf was a partner in a leading German law firm for over 19 years.

KEY SERVICES

Corporate
Mergers & Acquisitions

KEY SECTORS

Energy
Technology, Media and Telecommunications

EXPERIENCE

With his wealth of experience Ralf helps clients by piloting them to a commercial solution in difficult negotiation situations that require a clear strategic vision for closing the deal.

He has over 26 years of experience in corporate law, with a focus on public and private M&A, cross-border work, general corporate advisory and capital markets. His sector focus covers energy (in particular gas, power and renewables), regulated industries and private equity.

Ralf's experience and expertise in M&A and particularly in cross-border transactions is highlighted by clients who praise his pragmatic approach and commercial acumen.

Ralf's recent experience includes advising:

- GIC, leading sovereign wealth fund of the Government of Singapore on its acquisition of 50% of Railpool and establishment of a joint venture with Oaktree
- Stagecoach with respect to the sale of their European business "Megabus" to Flixbus
- Italmobiliare S.p.A. with respect to the sale of 45 % of the shares in Italcementi S.p.A. to HeidelbergCement AG for EUR 1.67 billion
- TUI Travel plc on its €5.8 billion all share merger with TUI AG
- CDC infrastructure on the acquisition of a participation in an offshore wind farm project in Germany
- Norbert Dentressangle, a transport, logistics and freight forwarding company, on its acquisition of Fiege's logistics operations in Italy, Spain and Portugal

ACCOLADES

Ranked as one of "Germany's Best Lawyers" for Corporate, M&A and Energy *Best Lawyers/Handelsblatt 2021*

Listed in "Germany's Best Lawyers 2019" for Corporate Law, Energy Law and M&A (each year since first publication in 2009) *Handelsblatt Rating in cooperation with Best Lawyers*

Described by clients as "a very experienced corporate lawyer with excellent understanding of the energy industry", Ralf is recommended by JUVE, Chambers and other handbooks for his expertise in M&A and energy.

"One of the frequently recommended M&A lawyers" *JUVE Handbuch 2016/2017*

"Ralf receives widespread praise for his work on public and private M&A with a particular focus on the gas and power sectors" *Who's Who Legal, M&A/Governance, 2015*

"Clients praise his pragmatic and knowledgeable approach: 'He has an eminent understanding of the law, combined with a very good understanding of the commercial realities of the market'" *Chambers Europe 2013*

"A very experienced corporate lawyer with an excellent understanding of the energy industry" *Chambers Europe 2012*

"Ralf Thaeter 'quickly finds the most efficient legal structure'" *Legal 500, 2010*

"... highly regarded corporate expert focused on big-ticket energy deals ..." *Chambers Europe 2010*

"One of the world's leading Energy and Natural Resources lawyers" *Expert Guides: Guide to the World's Leading Lawyers 2010*