

According to the Federal Lawyer's Act, the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main is a corporate body under public law and performs its tasks under autonomous self-management of the legal professionals. It is insofar not subject to any directions, but governed only by the law. Its actions can therefore be reviewed only by the courts and the governmental supervision of the Land administration of justice. It is responsible both for sovereign tasks and for self-management tasks of the legal profession which are in the general interest of proper administration of justice. It performs its activities within the potentially conflicting relationship between the freedom of exercise of profession of the lawyers on the one hand, and the safeguarding of the interests of the citizens seeking advice on the other hand.

The Chamber of Lawyers is part of the administration of lawyer's interests, oriented towards a separation of powers. The regulations of the professional ordinance of the lawyers are passed by the statutory assembly of lawyers elected throughout Germany, within the scope of the statutory power allocated to it by the law. The judicial means of reviewing the decisions of the Chamber are ensured by an independent, multi-instance lawyers' court.

The highest body is the Chamber's Assembly, the assembly of all members. Its primary task is the election of the Board, the endowment of the Board with the means to perform the tasks of the Chamber, and the examination of its accounting. All self-management tasks are performed by the 33-member Board, which elects a President and a Presiding Committee from among its ranks. For a number of tasks, the Board makes use of its legal possibility of determining divisions which can exercise the tasks incumbent on the Board within the scope of their competence. Divisions, Board and President work on an honorary basis and are supported by a full-time management.

The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main is the second largest chamber of lawyers in the Federal Republic of Germany, with currently about 17,000 members. It is responsible for all lawyers practicing in the districts of the regional courts Frankfurt am Main, Darmstadt, Wiesbaden, Hanau, Gießen, and Limburg. Its competence also covers the entire Rhine-Main area and thus one of the internationally most important economic areas in Germany. The scope of activities resulting therefrom is described on the website in the activity report published under "About us".

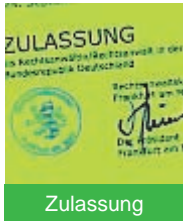


Ausbildung

The education for lawyers in Germany is traditionally entirely organised by the government. After studies at a university, the legal examination office holds the first legal state exam, then organises the two-year practical education within the scope of the so-called Referendariat, before the candidates can then be admitted to the second legal state exam. After having successfully passed the second state exam, the graduate jurist may without any further admission examination take up any legal profession, i.e. also that of a judge, prosecutor or lawyer. This educational system for lawyers in parts differs considerably from those of other countries, where very often the admission to individual legal professions, in particular to the profession of a lawyer, is performed by the professional organisation.

However, since it has become apparent that the governmental administration, the courts and the prosecutors' offices can take on only a small number of the graduates, and the major part push into the private sector of the economy, and in particular into the law firms, the statutory regulation on legal education has reacted. Since 2004 the relevance for the profession of the lawyer has been considerably reinforced, both in the university studies and the practical preparatory stages as well as in the content of the examinations.

In order to ensure the quality of new professionals, the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main wishes to contribute to the effort that the profession-related contents is given the adequate weight in education, also by experienced practitioners as trainers. Thus, the Chamber is especially involved in the two universities within its district and in the design of legal seminars during the preparatory service. The exemplary depiction of the legal perspective and the work of lawyers on the basis of individual core subjects during the practical seminars is exclusively performed by legal practitioners appointed as lecturers by the Chamber of Lawyers, in close cooperation in the performance of the seminars. In an effort to also increase the relevance for lawyers in the state exam, the number of the lawyers proposed by the Chamber of Lawyers as examiners for both state exams has been considerably increased.



Lawyers can be admitted to the legal profession only through the Chamber of Lawyers. After successful completion of the second state exam, the applicant can upon presentation of its certificates and without further proof of qualification apply for the admission at the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main if he proves the establishment of a law office within its district. At the same time, the lawyer is obliged to take out a professional liability insurance with a minimum cover of EUR 250,000.00 for covering the liability risks for pecuniary losses arising from his professional activities, and maintain such insurance for the duration of his admission. The admission certificate is handed out after the applicant has been duly sworn in at the Chamber of Lawyers with regard to the constitutional system and the obligations of a lawyer.

The Chamber of Lawyers is also obliged to examine and if necessary perform the revocation of an existing admission if for example the law office or the professional liability insurance are no longer maintained or if there are other reasons in the person of the lawyer which the law ties to the forfeiture of admission.

The admission to the legal profession can as a rule also be maintained if the lawyer holds an employee position within an enterprise, and has to dedicate his working capacity there (in-house counsel). Such activity, however, is not compatible with simultaneous admission if the activity is of a sovereign nature or conflicts with the independent position of the lawyer.

The Chamber of Lawyers also admits the Rechtsanwalts-GmbH and the Rechtsanwalts-AG, two types of corporate law firms, which are not granted their admission for practicing as a law firm in the consultation market upon registration with the commercial register, but only upon admission by the Chamber of Lawyers. These corporate law firms become members of the Chamber of Lawyers with all rights and obligations.

Any decisions taken by the Chamber of Lawyers in connection with admission and revocation procedures can be judicially examined by the Lawyers' Court and then by the Lawyers' Senate at the Federal High Court of Justice.



Mitglieder

After their admission to the legal profession, the members can make use of a range of functions and services of the Chamber of Lawyers.

Thus, the Chamber's Board is obliged to advise the members on all questions relating to the legal professional law. The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main therefore by all means of communication provides information relating to both the conduct of lawyers in legal dealings and their problems relating to the management of a law office. The institution of an independent trusted lawyer can serve as contact for lawyers who incurred financial difficulties.

The Board furthermore upon request conciliates in disputes among the members of the Chamber, upon application also in disputes between members of the Chamber and their clients. The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main takes these consultancy and conciliation activities very seriously, and developed several procedures to enable an early balancing of interests and an out-of-court settlement of disputes. This includes the establishment of a fee referral and conciliation of fees, a conciliation board and an arbitration tribunal.

In addition to these statutory tasks, however, the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main also renders services to its members: Thus, for example, the Board regularly notifies current developments in the legal professional law and relevant information regarding the administration of justice in the periodically published printed work KAMMER AKTUELL, as well as electronically via the Chamber News. For the benefit of the members, a job market for lawyers and their employees as well as an advertising section can be found on the website. All lawyers who are members receive an official lawyer's card for free, which documents the status as a lawyer and can additionally serve as a signature card.



The quality assurance of legal services is one of the primary targets of the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main. In times of constant change of legal framework conditions, lawyers need keep abreast with current development at all times, for the benefit of the clients seeking legal advice. Lawyers are therefore required by law to constantly commit themselves to further training. Such quality assurance is also of fundamental importance for lawyers in competition with other consulting professions.

The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main therefore very early started to offer its own further training seminars to its members. Highly qualified lecturers could be recruited from among its own ranks, including judges. This training segment was then outsourced into an own company which has now been transferred to the Stiftung der Hessischen Rechtsanwaltschaft, a foundation of Hessian lawyers. Furthermore, the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main is a member of the Deutsches Anwaltsinstitut (DAI), a further training institution of all chambers of lawyers in Germany.



Upon the initiative of the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main, a quality certificate was developed which lawyers can acquire and use if they prove comprehensive further training over a period of three years.

An essential element of the quality offensive of the German legal profession are the designations as accredited specialist lawyer as regulated in the Fachanwaltsordnung, the accredited specialist lawyers ordinance. Meanwhile there are more than 20 different accredited specialist categories, each of which describes a self-contained special legal field. To acquire such accredited specialist certificate, the applicant must prove to the Chamber of Lawyers that he has acquired theoretic knowledge, but also that he has handled a specific number of practical cases in that special legal field. An oral examination can also be taken in the special legal field. The correspondingly qualified examination boards are maintained by the Chamber of Lawyers. The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main has meanwhile granted 3000 colleagues to hold such accredited specialist qualification. The accredited specialist lawyers have an additional obligation to perform further training, as they have to prove 10 further training hours in their special legal field per year.



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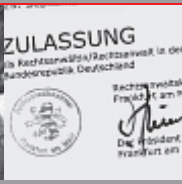
The quality of legal services, however, is also essentially determined by the support provided to lawyers and attorney-notaries by the qualified clerical staff in their team. The Chamber of Lawyers offers an independent apprenticeship with a qualified certificate for clerical staff, whose range of tasks among other things comprises the following: Direct contact with clients, file management, correspondence with authorities, courts, clients, observation of time limits and appointments, payment transactions, dunning procedures, etc.

The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main is therefore the legally competent agency for the professional education of legal clerks and notary's clerks. The Chamber keeps the list of apprenticeships where the contract of apprenticeship and essential changes of its content have to be recorded. According to the Policy on Educational Guidance, apprenticeship advisors have been appointed, who advise the apprentices and the lawyer responsible for the vocational training. Once a year the Chamber holds an interim exam, and final exams take place twice a year. It supervises and promotes the performance of the preparation for the apprenticeship, the vocational training and the professional retraining, and is responsible for the performance of further vocational training.

According to the Labour Court Law, the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main established a conciliation committee for the settlement of disputes arising from existing apprenticeships, which has to be applied to before the case is brought before the labour court. In almost all cases, a conflict can be settled out of court.

The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main developed the content of teaching and an examination procedure for the acknowledged vocational qualification "Geprüfter Rechtsfachwirt/Geprüfte Rechtsfachwirtin", which enables the legal and notary's clerks to gain a qualified further education.

These measures contribute to the creation of qualified workplaces, and the Chamber of Lawyers gets involved on all levels of the promotion of workplaces by participating in job fairs, projects for the development of apprenticeships, or the creation of new types of apprenticeships ("Legal Assistant").



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Legal work concerns people and enterprises who wish to get their right, or secure their right as a precautionary measure. The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main also serves their interests, and the public seeking what is their's by right should also have access to the information and services provided by the Chamber of Lawyers.

Thus, the Chamber's website has for many years maintained an online lawyers' directory where citizens can find the lawyer that suits their needs, depending on the location and the legal field. The search options also include the possibility to find a notary or mediator. The same service is upon request also provided on the telephone.

The consumer can obtain information on legal fee matters from the Chamber's website, or contact the Chamber in writing in any case of disagreements with its lawyer. The Chamber will then try to either discuss the disagreements with such lawyer, or seek to act as a mediator between the two parties if both parties agree to a mediation procedure offered by the Chamber.

If the consumer is of the opinion that the conduct of his own or of the adverse lawyer should be investigated, he can file a complaint with the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main. In the legally prescribed complaint proceedings, the Chamber is obliged to investigate the matter and, if necessary, take the supervisory measure of a "reprimand". If such reprimand seems to be insufficient, the matter will have to be investigated by a tribunal on standards of lawyer's conduct. These investigation options, however, relate only to cases of violation of a lawyer's professional obligations, and not to the contents of handling a mandate. If a client feels that a mandate was handled incorrectly and seeks damages, the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main can only conciliate.



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The Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main also provides offers for the general public's information interest. In particular, the Chamber News are publicly available as an electronic version, but also the electronically available version of the publication "KAMMER AKTUELL" and a news portal can be accessed online.

Press releases of the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main and press releases of the Federal Chamber of Lawyers can be read on the website. Members of the press can upon request discuss relevant issues with a public relations officer of the Chamber of Lawyers.

The initiative www.Legal-Profession.org of the Chamber of Lawyers Frankfurt am Main contains an entirely new information offer. Legal organisations all over the world can be reached via a world map on this platform. Both these organisations, which have rendered outstanding services to the legal profession all over the world, and the lawyers and law firms themselves make contributions by providing information and indicating events on international cross-border activities. Of particular interest are the notices on further education seminars in international legal dealings.



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