

Member Spotlight: Dr. Jana Schott

A Boutique Path to New Beginnings



Dr. Jana Schott is one of the founding partners at AQUAN Rechtsanwälte.

Her legal expertise is focused on company law, M&A, trade law and contract law and she represents clients in Germany and internationally. These clients range from start-ups to family-owned businesses, and international investors.

She has significant international experience working on a range of cross-border M&A transactions.

Entrepreneurial businesses require a young, dynamic law firm that understands them. They also need a team of lawyers passionate about solving the challenges inherent in growing a successful company from modest beginnings.

This is the philosophy espoused by Dr. Jana Schott as she embarks on an exciting new stage in her career and becomes a partner in her own legal practice.

It has been a stellar rise for Jana since completing her Doctorate in Law (Dr. jur.) from the University of Münster in 2015.

She practised as an Attorney-at-Law with a larger Düsseldorf firm MKRG, before joining forces with Urs Breitsprecher earlier this year, to form the new law firm AQUAN Rechtsanwälte.

The fresh approach taken by AQUAN to the business of law is partly motivated by providing a counterpoint to the stifling corporate culture often seen in large firms. Jana is clear that her mission

is to create a modern boutique practice based on the principles of honesty, integrity and professional ethics.

One of the ways she hopes to differentiate AQUAN from other firms is a focus on technology, particularly legal tech, in an effort to streamline processes and create efficiencies for her client base.

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She says: “Technology will provide one of the most important opportunities for law firms during the next few years, because it is developing so quickly. In legal tech, for instance, there are new systems to help with due diligence. Artificial intelligence programs can work through documents and provide a summary to aid legal opinion.”

"Many of our clients are SMEs and entrepreneurs who take an innovative approach to business. In the new generation of companies, the responsible persons are often young and they want modern solutions. This type of efficiency is greatly appreciated."

While the move is a big step, there are huge opportunities for Jana to build a career that fits with her ideals around client service, legal practice and lifestyle.

"We have always had a good team, along with our assistants, built on the philosophy of working closely together with the same goals. We want to do the same with our team in our new office. I think we are doing it in the right way, remaining a specialised law firm focused on our areas of expertise in M&A, restructuring, corporate and contract law, which is perfect for me."

She adds: "Now for us it was the right time and place to make the move to our own law firm. It is a great opportunity to create my job on a blank page of paper."

"Being a young leader is not a matter of age, but of entrepreneurship and assertiveness"

As Jana is well connected and has developed her own business, it was the next step to be a partner in her new law firm. "Being a young leader is not a

matter of age, but of entrepreneurship and assertiveness nowadays," Jana says.

She and Urs are planning to grow the practice slowly, focusing on the core business and increasing the number of lawyers to around 10 within the next few years. One important point is to keep the boutique element of the business and the close team spirit that is part of AQUAN's ethos.

The inspiring spirit of AQUAN does, however, present a challenge. "I live in Düsseldorf with my husband, very close to the office, perhaps ten minutes away by bicycle. This is good and bad, because, although it's a very short commute, I am tempted to be in the office all the time. I really love the work that I do, but I do need to be careful not to spend all my time there."

Jana does see herself as a city person, although she grew up in the countryside in Northern Germany and appreciates green spaces. She believes Düsseldorf is a perfect city for her, with the right mixture of culture and outdoor living.

She says: "I love to connect with culture, through the opera, art exhibitions and shopping, but I also like to spend time outdoors. In Düsseldorf we are close to the Rhine and there are lots of opportunities for outdoor activities, not far from the city centre. Me and my husband are both busy people, so we decided that we would choose golf as an activity we could do together. It is now our common hobby and we go to the course together most weekends to play."

Travel is another passion for Jana and an opportunity to appreciate other cultures. She has been to Myanmar, China and South Africa in the last two years. She also enjoys travelling for business, whether that is to another region of Germany to appear at court on behalf of a client, or to attend an international conference.

As AQUAN grows and develops its international client base, it is certain that opportunities for foreign travel will increase exponentially for Jana. If she is also able to find a little time for culture and leisure amidst all the business meetings, then we suspect she will be very happy indeed.



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