



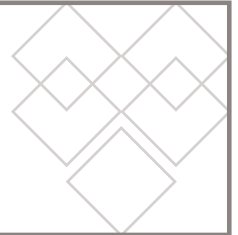
Bankruptcy & Insolvency 2024



PROFILED:

CHRISTOPH REITER

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Bankruptcy & Insolvency



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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Christoph Reiter is a partner at CERHA HEMPEL with more than 12 years of experience, specialising in IT projects and restructuring cases, including contracts and M&A work. He advises renowned national and international clients with regard to IT/TMT, e-commerce and insolvency and restructuring cases of all kinds. He has wide expertise and special knowledge in the fields of cross-border work and regularly advises business partners of insolvent debtors on the efficient protection of their interests, both in and out of court.

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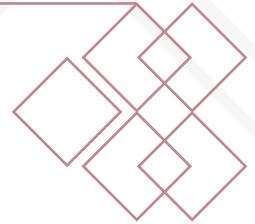
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**CHRISTOPH REITER**

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Q&A WITH CHRISTOPH REITER

**What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?**

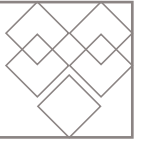
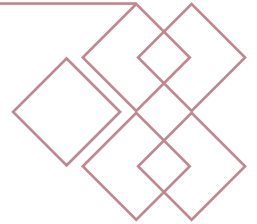
◆ Legal issues of any kind and nature, no matter whether they are rather ‘standard’ or highly intricate, require tailor-made solutions and creative thinking outside the box. These virtues are conveyed by our team and our firm as a whole. There are no ‘ordinary’ cases or ‘ordinary’ clients; every legal matter we take on is special in its own manifold facets. It is important to show our clients that they may rely on us to resolve any issues they may face, anytime and anywhere. I think this fundamental mindset distinguishes our team from many others, making us a valid choice for everyone seeking high-quality legal advice combined with the down to earth personalities of the lawyers taking on their case.

Could you provide an insight into how you approach your work? What drives and motivates you?

◆ In my opinion, the foundations of a successful lawyer’s practice are threefold. First, utmost diligence in his or her approach toward each and every legal challenge presenting itself. Second, creativity in the sense of an ability to think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions to oftentimes very intricate and challenging issues within the framework of an ever changing set of legal rules and clients’ needs. Lastly, passion for the job and an appreciation of the fact that our work – if done properly – has significant value for society as a whole with respect to the defence and curation of a functioning and efficient legal system as the basis of equal rights and liberties of all citizens. As a lawyer I constantly strive to abide by these principles and am motivated and determined to work and live in accordance with them as closely as possible every day.

**CHRISTOPH REITER**

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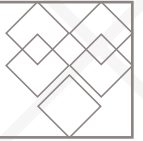
**Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?**

◆ We are currently facing a challenging economic situation throughout Europe. According to recent statistics, corporate insolvencies in Austria reached a five-year peak in the first quarter of 2024, with the amount of newly initiated court insolvency proceedings – compared to the previous three months – rising by 20 percent to 1718 for the period. The main driver of this concerning development is definitely a stumbling real estate market, but the private service sector as well as tourism have been badly affected too. I think what we are seeing here is part of the consolidation process many experts had expected much sooner as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It remains to be seen how things develop further, but I am optimistic that our economy will be resilient enough to cope with the tribulations at hand in the mid and long term. ■

**“ACCORDING TO RECENT STATISTICS, CORPORATE INSOLVENCIES
IN AUSTRIA REACHED A FIVE-YEAR PEAK IN THE FIRST QUARTER
OF 2024.”**



CHRISTOPH REITER
CERHA HEMPEL



REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Currently representing several financial institutions and investors as creditors in the insolvency of the Signa group of companies, the biggest insolvency case in Austrian history. Advice regarding the assertion and enforcement of claims in the amount of several hundred million euros.
- ◆ Recently advised a group of German companies as creditors in the insolvency of Kika/Leiner group, one of the major Austrian furniture retailers.
- ◆ Recently advised a major Polish plant manufacturer with regard to insolvency proceedings involving an Austrian business partner.
- ◆ Recently advised a major Chinese automotive manufacturer in the restructuring and in-court insolvency proceedings of an Austrian subsidiary.
- ◆ Currently advising a major Austrian food retailer with regard to several IT and e-commerce related projects.
- ◆ Currently advising a US-based group of companies providing specialised software solutions for leasing businesses with regard to their entire IT portfolio.
- ◆ Currently advising one of the major Austrian energy providers with regard to various IT and M&A projects.

