



Bankruptcy & Insolvency

2021



PROFILED:

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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Trettnak is a corporate partner at CERHA HEMPEL heading the firm's insolvency and restructuring practice. Dr Trettnak advises local and international corporations, investment companies and corporate bodies on transactions, projects and in 'special situations' in jurisdictions across Europe, mainly in their capacity as creditors, shareholders or business partners evaluating the legal and strategic alternatives in restructurings of all kinds. The advice he provides covers the full range of distressed M&A transactions and joint ventures, and he also represents clients both in and out of insolvency courts.

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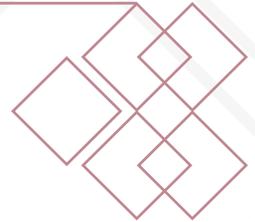
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THOMAS TRETNAK
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Q&A WITH THOMAS TRETNAK



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

◆ At our firm, everything we do is about quality – both in terms of legal quality and timing, as well as working at a reasonable cost for the client. We believe that a high-quality work product helps our clients to pursue and accomplish their own goals. With this in mind, we focus on our clients' accomplishments above our own. While I have been fortunate to receive individual recognition for my work from time to time, at the end of the day I am just one small part of a great team at CERHA HEMPEL. What drives and motivates me – like many of my colleagues – are the achievements of our clients, brought to fruition as a result of working together. Even in times of high workload and time pressure, I often remind myself of what our goal is: happy and successful clients.

In what ways do you endeavour to support the career development of your colleagues rising through the ranks?

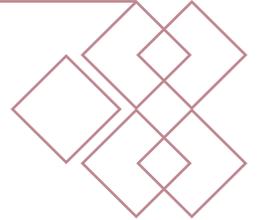
◆ As a young associate in the early 2000s, I was extremely lucky to be part of a premier law firm and a great team that allowed me to grow and improve every day. I had mentors at the firm who have been invaluable in training and mentoring me, instilling in me the need to take pride in our work, coupled with an uncompromising approach to quality. Today, I have the pleasure and duty to act as a mentor myself for a number of younger, highly talented and motivated lawyers. I assist in equipping and encouraging them to grow, both as a person and as a lawyer. When I get the opportunity, I try to put our younger associates in the front-seat of transactions as well. This experience has been a true blessing for me, and will be a true blessing for them, too.



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

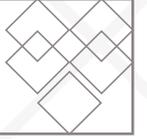


◆ In today's legal world, it is all about our clients and what they need to achieve their goals. Clients value advisers who are committed and have a solid work ethic. Some say that all good things stem from a positive attitude, and they may be right. Going the extra mile is much easier when you are also positive in what you do and think – so we would call ourselves optimists with a good degree of real-life experience. As positive people, we keep setbacks in perspective, persevere and find joy in our work that can be infectious. At CERHA HEMPEL, we all share the responsibility for advancing our clients' goals and objectives, no matter what position we occupy within the firm's organisational structure. As we are all team players, communicating constantly with each other and our clients, we strive to reach our goals for the sole benefit of the client. We understand that we all work for the 'captain', and the captain is the client. ■

"TODAY, I HAVE THE PLEASURE AND DUTY TO ACT AS A MENTOR MYSELF FOR A NUMBER OF YOUNGER, HIGHLY TALENTED AND MOTIVATED LAWYERS. I ASSIST IN EQUIPPING AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO GROW, BOTH AS A PERSON AND AS A LAWYER."



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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Currently advising an international investment group in insolvency and restructuring proceedings involving a large Ukrainian bank.
- ◆ Currently advising the investment company of a Swedish retail giant as local Austrian counsel in cross-border M&A.
- ◆ Currently advising a US-based real estate investment group in insolvency and restructuring queries involving an Austrian real estate portfolio.
- ◆ Advised a major Chinese motor manufacturer in the restructuring and in-court insolvency proceedings of a major Austrian subsidiary.
- ◆ Advised a German steel giant in its role as a major business partner and creditor in one of the largest insolvencies of the year in Austria.
- ◆ Advised numerous middle-market private equity funds, including UK and US funds, in a variety of distressed acquisitions, joint ventures, recapitalisations and reorganisations in Austria and the Central and Eastern Europe region.

