

## Press release

### **RITTERSHAUS Strengthens Real Estate and Energy Practice with 15-Member Team from Arnecke Sibeth Dabelstein**

Munich/Frankfurt, 16 September 2021: The German law firm [RITTERSHAUS](#) is strongly expanding its real estate and energy practice in Munich and Frankfurt with experienced lawyers from Arnecke Sibeth Dabelstein. On 1 October 2021, an integrated 15-member team specialized in real estate transactions and financing, private and public construction law, public procurement law and energy law surrounding the renowned partners Prof. Dr. Antje Boldt and Steffen Holatka in Frankfurt and Dr. Michael Grünwald, Dr. Wolfgang Patzelt, Dr. Daniel Pflüger and Dr. Florian Hänle in Munich will join the firm. With the joining of the team, the Munich office will gain eleven professionals and the Frankfurt office four.

"We are significantly expanding the expertise of RITTERSHAUS in real estate and construction law at once with the addition of this team with market-leading real estate law expertise and an excellent reputation. This outstanding expertise of our new partners is a consistent reinforcement of our existing real estate advisory services and in particular of our Munich office, which ideally fits into our recognised corporate and M&A practice", Prof. Dr. Christof Hettich, Managing Partner of the firm explained.

"RITTERSHAUS is one of the leading German law firms with an international orientation and stands for integrated innovative advisory approaches. The innovative model of integrated project management that we have developed fits very well with the mediation-analogue advice at RITTERSHAUS. Together, we will break new ground in the avoidance and settlement of contentious disputes in major projects," Prof. Dr. Antje Boldt emphasised. "We are looking forward to contributing our special expertise in real estate, construction and energy to the dynamically growing team. RITTERSHAUS will thereby be able to provide even more comprehensive guidance in the entire life cycle of real estate properties in a highly specialised manner, from project acquisition and financing to planning permission as well as project realisation and sale," Dr. Michael Grünwald added.

"We see an enormous growth market for advisory services in real estate, construction and infrastructure projects. This applies all the more to the area of renewable energies, especially wind or solar parks. This is where we can contribute our many years of expertise to RITTERSHAUS," Dr. Wolfgang Patzelt explained.

Together with the established real estate practice surrounding the partners Dr. Felix Klemt, Dr. Hartmut Fischer, Dr. Andreas Torcka and Dr. Christoph Rung (all Mannheim) and Bernhard Naujack (Frankfurt), RITTERSHAUS is joining the ranks of the highly specialised firms in the real estate sector, in advising both municipalities as well as private investors and project developers.

For RITTERSHAUS, this is a further step in its strategic development into one of Germany's leading commercial law firms. The firm has always consistently focused on specialisation and innovative approaches and most recently attracted attention with its broad-based corporate practice in the advising of the Tübingen-based mRNA developer CureVac as well as with its market-leading private client practice.

With the newly joining teams, the RITTERSHAUS offices in Munich will once again be significantly upgraded. "We have succeeded in putting an exclamation mark on Munich," Managing Partner Dr. Wolf-Henrik Friedrich was pleased to say. "From the beginning of

our talks, we noticed that we have the same understanding of a professionally highly ambitious, friendly law firm culture, which always looks beyond the purely legal and attaches great importance to being attractive to the brightest young minds.”

With this step, the firm will grow to a total of 86 professionals. The percentage of women is now more than one third – with an upward trend.

Profiles of the new partners can be found in the appendix to this press release.

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**About RITTERSHAUS:**

With now more than 80 lawyers at its offices in Frankfurt/Main, Mannheim and Munich, RITTERSHAUS focuses on advising internationally operating medium-sized companies. Founded in 1969, the law firm specialises in corporate law with a particular focus on restructuring, M&A, private equity and venture capital transactions, as well as corporate finance and corporate and asset succession. Further practice areas are banking and capital markets law, employment law, intellectual property law, public law and IT law as well as real estate law. The focus on real estate law was significantly strengthened in 2021 with the addition of the real estate unit from Arnecke Sibeth Dabelstein. In addition, RITTERSHAUS is integrated into a global network with law firms on five continents via [Legalink](#) and handles clients worldwide on a cross-border basis.

In 2020, RITTERSHAUS was nominated by the editors of the JUVE Directory, the leading publication on commercial law firms in Germany, for the award as “Law Firm of the Year for M&A” and was named Law Firm of the Year 2020 for Succession, Wealth and Endowments. In 2021, RITTERSHAUS was recommended by FOCUS as a top business law firm 2021 in data protection and, as in the previous year, in corporate law. RITTERSHAUS has already been recognised by Wirtschaftswoche as a top law firm for corporate law and patent law in 2019 and as a top law firm for data protection law in 2020 and 2021.

More information on the Internet at [www.rittershaus.net](http://www.rittershaus.net).

## Profiles of the new partners

**Prof. Dr. Antje Boldt** began working as a lawyer in 1994 in a law firm specialising in construction law. She joins RITTERSHAUS as an equity partner. She specialises in advising on the preparation and implementation of projects in the areas of infrastructure, school and day-care centre construction as well as health care, e.g. hospital construction. In particular, she focuses on new contract management forms of the integrated project alliance and methods from Lean Construction Management and Building Information Modelling. Antje Boldt is a professor of commercial law at the Fresenius University of Applied Sciences in Wiesbaden, an arbitrator at the Chamber of Architects in Hesse, an arbitrator under the Arbitration Rules for Construction Disputes (SGOBau) and under the Arbitration Rules of the German Institution of Arbitration (DIS), and an adjudicator.

**Dr. Michael Grünwald** is a specialist in real estate transactions and financing as well as in issues of land law and joins RITTERSHAUS as an equity partner. He provides comprehensive advice to companies, fund companies and developers on the purchase and sale of real estate and assists his clients with the financing of construction and real estate projects.

**Dr. Florian Hänle** advises on real estate transactions for all types of use and real estate financing (senior and mezzanine financing) as well as on land law issues, such as heritable building rights. He will join RITTERSHAUS as an equity partner. Florian Hänle holds a real estate-specific Master of Business Administration (MBA) from an international executive MBA programme.

**Steffen Holatka** advises on all facets of construction and architectural law and specialises in particular in legal advice during construction. He joins RITTERSHAUS as an equity partner. Steffen Holatka advises project developers, property developers, asset managers of life insurers, private construction companies, engineers as well as cities and municipalities in connection with the realisation of medium-sized and larger construction projects or project developments. Starting with contract negotiation and drafting, Steffen Holatka has sound expertise in construction-related "(anti)claim management" as well as the judicial clarification of remuneration and defect issues during or after the completion of a construction project.

**Dr. Wolfgang Patzelt** is a specialist lawyer for administrative law and advises project developers and investors on the fast and legally secure enforcement and structuring of building law. He advises projects in the residential/commercial/industrial sectors as well as in the renewable energy sector, primarily wind power and photovoltaics. He also represents municipalities in urban planning law. In addition to drafting development plans, he specialises in drafting urban development contracts for building land development, designing municipal building land concepts and indigenisation models, as well as developing new urban districts. In addition, he represents municipalities and property owners in large infrastructure projects (roads, railways, airports, waterway development). He also specialises in nature conservation and species protection law, water, soil protection, monument protection and immission control law as well as planning approval law including expropriation and compensation law. He joins RITTERSHAUS as an equity partner.

**Dr. Daniel Pflüger** is a specialist lawyer for administrative law and has been advising on public building and environmental law for almost 20 years. His advisory focus is on the creation of building law, especially in the project development of complex building projects. His advisory spectrum ranges from the approval of single-family homes to the urban land use planning of large housing estate projects and special real estate such as clinics, shopping centres and logistics locations. This includes structuring and accompanying the various procedures, drafting urban development contracts, negotiating neighbouring agreements and managing the various conflicts that inevitably arise during project development. If necessary, he also enforces his clients' interests in court. He joins RITTERSHAUS as an equity partner.

**Anna Gries** is a specialist lawyer for construction and architectural law and specialises in project-related advice and litigation on liability for defects and fee claims in private construction law, architectural and engineering law, project management law and property development law.

**Thomas Hartl** is a specialist lawyer for administrative law and Maître en droit (Paris II). He specialises in public law, in particular public building law (including construction planning and specialised planning law), urban development contracts including building land models/indigenous models as well as environmental law including soil protection, immission control and species protection law.

**Ulrich Loetz** primarily advises on public construction law, energy law, municipal commercial law and environmental law. He also advises on project development, in particular on public building and energy law. He is a lecturer in energy law at Biberach University of Applied Sciences.

**Manuela Luft** is a specialist lawyer for construction and architectural law. She advises companies and public clients on all aspects of private construction and public procurement law, e.g. drafting contracts, designing award procedures, providing legal advice during construction, representing clients in court disputes and award review proceedings.

**Dr. Marina Schäuble** specialises in real estate business law, real estate transactions, tenancy and lease law, land law and asset and property management.

**Julia Zerwell** is a specialist lawyer for construction and architectural law as well as a graduate in administration (FH). She specialises in advising on private construction law, architectural and engineering law and public procurement law.