

Marina Castelli-Joos

Partner



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Marina Castelli-Joos is a partner specialized in Mergers & Acquisitions, Venture Capital and Private Equity, as well as corporate law and governance. She brings the sharp judgment and pragmatic approach needed to see a deal through to a successful outcome, advising major institutional investors, investment funds, corporate groups, SMEs, entrepreneurs, start-ups and management teams. She is recognized in leading guides, such as Chambers and Partners and Legal 500, and was voted Lawyer of the Year in Mergers and Acquisitions in Lausanne (Best Lawyers, 2026).

ABOUT

Profile & approach

Marina is recognised by Chambers and Partners, Legal 500, Best Lawyers and Leaders League, and was voted by her peers Lawyer of the Year in Mergers and Acquisitions in Lausanne in the 2026 Best Lawyers edition.

She advises major venture capital and private equity funds, family offices, multinational corporations, startups, SMEs and seasoned entrepreneurs on M&A and distressed M&A, business transfers, venture capital and private equity deals, corporate restructurings and debt financing, including cross-border transactions, as well as on corporate governance.

Before joining id est avocats in 2020, Marina spent over a decade at major Swiss commercial law firms. She studied at the Universities of Geneva and Lucerne and at Harvard Law School, is licensed to practice before all Swiss courts, and works in English, French and Spanish, with working knowledge of German and Italian.

CORE EXPERTISE

Practice areas

01 **Mergers & Acquisitions, Business Transfers**

03 **Corporate Finance**

05 **Commercial Contracts**

02 **Venture Capital & Private Equity**

04 **Corporate Governance**

06 **Insolvency, Corporate Recovery & Restructuring**

BACKGROUND

Experience & career



2021–	Partner, id est avocats
2020	Senior Associate, id est avocats
2015–20	Associate, then Senior Associate, Kellerhals Carrard
2012–15	Associate, Lalive
2009–12	Junior Associate, Lenz & Staehelin

CREDENTIALS

Education



2009	MLaw, University of Geneva (valedictorian, summa cum laude)
2009	Certificate of Transnational Law, University of Geneva (summa cum laude)
2008	Merit-based academic exchange, Harvard Law School
2007	BLaw, University of Geneva (magna cum laude); exchange, University of Lucerne

NETWORKS

Memberships & collaborations

Member, Vaud Bar Association (OAV)

Former Swiss law expert, World Bank Doing Business Report

Selected publications & presentations

Publications

Révision et modernisation du droit de la société anonyme suisse, with Jean-Luc Chenaux, TRV-RPS 2017/6, p. 677

World Bank Doing Business Report 2015, local legal expert and primary contributor to the Swiss chapters

Switzerland is reviewing its judicial system in relation to mass claims, IBA International Litigation News, May 2014

Vers une "class action" helvétique?, Revue de l'avocat 11-12/2013, pp. 487-493

Lectures and presentations

Speaker, "Making Business Succession in Switzerland a Success", Lombard Odier, May 2025

Co-moderator, "M&A Transactions with University Spinoffs", IBA M&A in the Technology Sector Conference, March 2025

Speaker, Economic Forum of the Valais Fair, Business Transfers, October 2024

Lecturer, Finix Events, liability risks of board members, June 2024

Lecturer, Fidial SA, Corporate Financing, January 2024

Recommendations & accolades

Lawyer of the Year, Mergers & Acquisitions, Lausanne (Best Lawyers 2026)

<p><i>“Her combination of legal acumen, reliability and human approach makes her an invaluable partner and a true pleasure to work with.” (Chambers Europe, 2026)</i></p>	<p><i>“What distinguishes Marina is not only her strong legal expertise but also her remarkable interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence.” (Chambers, 2026)</i></p>
<p><i>“Marina Castelli-Joos is driven, talented, hard-working and responsive; combines in-depth knowledge of the law and razor-sharp analytical skills with sound commercial judgment and pragmatic solution finding.” (Legal 500, 2025)</i></p>	<p><i>“Marina Castelli-Joos is crazy smart. She thinks about everything. Truly amazed.” (Legal 500, 2023)</i></p>