



MELANIE SCHÄRER

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW (SWITZERLAND)

CONTACT

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Pfäffikon SZ, Switzerland

LANGUAGES

- (Swiss)German (Native)
- Spanish (Fluent)
- English (Fluent)
- French (Advanced - comfortable as panel member)
- Italian (basic)

EDUCATION

- Executive Master in Art Market Studies (EMAMS), University of Zurich (2011-2013)
- Swiss Bar Admission, Canton of Schwyz (20 September 2004)
- Lic. iur., University of Fribourg, Switzerland (2000, cum laude)

PROFILE

Swiss-qualified Attorney-at-law with over 20 years of practice in international sports law, with a primary focus on football-related disputes and regulatory matters. Former in-house counsel at FIFA.

Extensive experience in international sports dispute resolution, including proceedings before FIFA bodies, national dispute resolution chambers (NDRCs), the Court of Arbitration for Sport (TAS/CAS), the Swiss Sports Tribunal, and the Swiss Federal Tribunal.

Member of several adjudicatory and disciplinary bodies in national and international sport, with substantial expertise in the assessment and application of sports regulations, CAS jurisprudence, and Swiss law.

CURRENT AND FORMER POSITIONS

- Attorney-at-law, MS International Law (Switzerland) (2010-present) - independent practice
- Arbitrator (Football List), Court of Arbitration for Sport (2026-present)
- Member of the Disciplinary Chamber, Swiss Basketball (2022-present)
- Member of the Appeals' Panel, FIBA (2023-present)
 - Former Member of the Disciplinary Commission, Gymnastics Ethics Foundation (2023-May 2026)

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Swiss Bar Association (SAV)
- Schwyz Bar Association (AVSZ)
- Women In Sports Law (WISLaw) - Founder and former President
- Swiss Association for Sports Law (ASDS)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Attorney-at-law, MS International Law (2010–present)

Extensive involvement in international sports dispute resolution, including more than 800 proceedings before FIFA bodies, the CAS, NDRCs, the Swiss Sports Tribunal, and the Swiss Federal Tribunal.

Associate, Greenberg Traurig LLP (Switzerland) (2008–2009)

Group Leader, Players' Status Department, FIFA (2005–2008)

Led a legal team within the Players' Status Department, overseeing the handling of a large number of international disputes and contributing to decision-making processes.

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

- "The Jennifer Hermoso Case or the World Cup Kiss", Les Cahiers de l'Arbitrage, CAPJIA, 2024
- "The Diarra Judgment and its Contractual Consequences: The Challenge for Article 17 RSTP to Balance Competing Interests", Football Legal, Issue #23

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- International sports arbitration and dispute resolution
- Football regulatory framework (FIFA regulations) and related contractual matters
- Transfer-related disputes (including sell-on fees, training compensation, solidarity contributions and transfer financing arrangements)
- Employment disputes involving players and coaches
- Agency and intermediary-related matters
- Disciplinary and ethics proceedings, including club licensing and competition matters
- Governance and regulatory compliance in sport
- Swiss law (lex arbitri of CAS proceedings)