



Dr. Stephan Netzle

Partner

Attorney at Law
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Business Leadership

Stephan Netzle has taken on and successfully achieved various challenges as a leader and expert mainly in three business areas.

1. Telecommunication

- From 2009 to 2020, he served as a member and then president of the Swiss Communications Commission (ComCom), i.e. the Swiss telecom regulator. In 2019, he led the auction of the 5G spectrum and paved the way for the roll-out of the new technology in Switzerland, as one of the first European countries.
- Immediately after the privatisation of the telecom market in the early 90ies, he acted for a start-up cable company which became the Swiss CATV market leader.

2. Health care

- In 2004, Stephan Netzle was appointed chairman of a regional institution for elderly care, which he transformed from a traditional retirement home to a modern care centre with various needs-based programmes. The centre invested about CHF 50 M in new infrastructure.
- He advised a medical start-up company which later became a leading Swiss fertility clinic. He also accompanied the acquisition of a sports clinic by one of the major hospitals in Zurich.

3. Event management and sports

- Stephan Netzle acted as president of the board of the Zurich Congress Centre for 14 years and managed the process which led to the conversion of the iconic building into a modern event facility which will be re-opened later this year.
- He was part of the team, which installed a much acclaimed pavilion at the Swiss National Fair 2002 in Biel dedicated to a virtual Switzerland.
- Stephan Netzle served as vice-president of Swiss Olympic from 2007 until 2015. He also helped to create a performance centre for the Swiss national rowing teams in the premises of a venerable monastic school at the lake of Sarnen.

Stephan Netzle is well at ease with the practical implementation of new business ideas and knows his way around the dialogue between private enterprises and political authorities. He has developed an excellent network in both the private and public sector.

On a personal level, Stephan Netzle was a competitive rower, participated in two Olympic Finals (Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984) and became World Champion as a member of the Swiss coxless four.

Expertise as a legal practitioner

Stephan Netzle is a well-known specialist in *telecommunication, sports law, health care and arbitration*. He has a long-standing experience in representing and advising international sports organisations, event organizers, athletes, marketing agencies and other rights holders in commercial and disciplinary matters. He has carried out more than 200 arbitration procedures as a sole arbitrator, chairman or party-appointed member of panels, e.g. with the ICC focusing on disputes related to IT, IP, telecommunication and the sports industry, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the Basketball Arbitral Tribunal (BAT). He served as an *ad hoc* judge with the CAS, who had to decide disputes which occurred at the Olympic Games in Sydney (2000) and Beijing (2008). He is admitted to all Swiss courts.

He is a lecturer for international arbitration at the Zurich University and educates aspiring sports doctors in the law.

Education

1991	LL.M.	University of Virginia, USA
1987		Admission to the bar
1987	Dr. iur.	University of Zurich
1984	Lic. iur.	University of Zurich

Recent publications

Der Sponsoringvertrag, in: *Kommentar zum ZGB/OR*, Hrsg. Markus Müller-Chen, Daniel Girsberger, 4th ed. Zürich 2021

The Court of Arbitration for Sport, together with Michael Beloff QC and Ulrich Haas, in: *Sport: Law and Practice*, ed. by Adam Lewis QC and Jonathan Taylor, 4th ed. 2021

Telekommunikation, together with Jan Pohle and Stefan Polster, in *Handbuch für Internationales Wirtschaftsrecht*, Hrsg. Herbert Kronke, Werner Melis, Hans Kuhn, 2nd ed, Köln 2017.

Kommentar zur Schweizerischen ZPO, Art. 374 - 377, Hrsg. Thomas Sutter-Sohm, Franz Hasenböhler, Christoph Leuenberger, Zürich 2016.

Sports Arbitration: What Are Its Limits as a Model for Other Fields of Arbitration? in: *Sports Arbitration: A Coach for Other Players?*, ed. by Elliott Geisinger and Elena Trabaldo-Mestral, ASA Special Series No. 41, 2015.

Editor Switzerland of the bi-monthly Sport und Recht (SpuRt).