

## **Chambers Europe 2008**

Our law office and its lawyers are ranked by the recognized publication Chambers Europe – Europe’s Leading Lawyers for Business as one of the most high-profile firms in the Czech republic, with ratings in commercial law, litigation agenda, intellectual property and real estate. Also Slovakia and our tax department have been ranked to Chambers Europe ratings for the first time this year. We provide some illustrations of Chambers Europe assessment:

### **1/ CORPORATE / M&A**

**The Firm:** Clients appreciate this firm’s strategic approach to transactions, calling on a legacy of experience in structured financing, preparation of acquisitions, and associated legal and tax audits. They “*get the job done with minimum fuss*” and, as a member of Geneva Group International and The Association of European Lawyers, are able to utilise an international network of contacts and resources.

**The Lawyers:** Multi-talented partner **Pavel Šafář** flies the flag high for his firm’s M&A practice, and is appreciated by clients for his “*knack for problem-solving*” .

**Clients/Work Highlights:** The firm's portfolio includes local and international clients. It advised Vodafone on the acquisition of a phone distributor.

### **2/ DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**The Firm:** This widely appreciated team is well known in the market for its dedication to dispute resolution matters. The lawyers represent clients in a variety of cases before local courts, but are also frequent players in international arbitration cases. Sources singled out the firm’s arbitration work for particular praise, as the team continues to act for some of the most prominent Czech clients: for example, it advised a Czech securities trader on an international arbitration dispute concerning a multimillion-CZK damages compensation claim. The firm also advised a Czech mobile phone operator on international arbitration proceedings with a Czech advertising agency. Other work of note includes advice to a Slovak company on an international arbitration case with a Czech banking institution, seeking the recovery of approximately CZK40 billion.

**The Lawyers:** Pavel Šafář is the key partner for all dispute resolution matters.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** The team has acted for a number of high-profile national and international clients, including the Czech state and Vodafone.

### **3/ INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

**The Firm:** “*A team you can really rely on,*” Konečná & Šafář vos is trusted by clients to handle the entire spectrum of IP matters including industrial rights, registration and associated proceedings before the Industrial Property Office, trade mark management, design and patent portfolios and issues related to copyrights, licenses and domain names. The quality of work handled by the firm is reported to “*stand up to exacting international standards,*” and clients recommend its services to both domestic and foreign clients.

**The Lawyers:** Head of the IP department Tomáš Zacha “*thinks outside the box, yet always keeps his mind on his client’s business requirements.*”

**Clients/Work Highlights:** Recent work includes the structuring of multilateral contracts for the licensing of software and databases, the implementation of trade mark protection for an industrial group in the oil and gas industry, and representing a domestic company against a cybersquatter.

#### 4/ REAL ESTATE

**The Firm:** This local firm scores highly for its tax expertise and extensive experience in real estate. Deemed a sound alternative to international firms, it has been making strong progress in the market for acquisitions work. It recently advised GEM Group on the EUR100 million purchase of ICKM Group, a matter that required significant structuring expertise; regional deals include the development of major shopping centres in Liberec, Chomotov and Opava. Clients commend the lawyers for their strong negotiating skills and “*extensive knowledge of the retail market.*”

**The Lawyers:** Radka Konecná earns tributes for her negotiating style, spurring one source to comment: “*She moves things forward and has the skill to bring deals to a successful end. She’s the type of deal maker you really want on your side.*” She advised on the EUR100 million sale of a shopping centre by Multi-IMMOEAST.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** Clients include Crestyl; Highridge; Pinnacle; Acred Group and GEM Group.

#### 5/ TAX

**The Firm:** This tax group of five advisers is well versed in Czech and Slovak tax legislation. The three-year-old team has also garnered recognition for its knowledge of VAT, excise and custom duties. It has recently been advising on the tax issues arising from the privatisation of state-owned companies and the new VAT regulations ensuing from the Czech Republic’s accession to the EU.

**The Lawyers:** Partners and tax consultants David Stanek and Milan Tomíček are the group’s main contacts. Stanek handles corporate tax work and Tomíček has expertise in VAT matters. Both have had previous positions at Big Four firms.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** Scania; Peugeot; Tesco; AXA and Kia.

#### 6/ REAL ESTATE - SLOVAKIA

**The Firm:** Real estate is the core practice area of this Czech firm, which has gained broad experience in a variety of multinational transactions and development projects across the Slovak Republic. Clients praise the “*highly organised and knowledgeable*” Bratislava team for preparing top-notch contracts and documentation.

**The Lawyers:** Local partner Dagmar Yoder is a “*very strong negotiator and a pleasure to work with,*” sources said. She is in charge of the real estate practice in Bratislava and has several years’ experience in the field.

**Clients/Work Highlights:** The firm represented a major developer in the development and leasing of a logistics park in Western Slovakia. Other development projects include advising a leading Dutch developer on a shopping mall project in Eastern Slovakia, and advising an Irish developer on negotiating retail leases for an international trade centre in Bratislava.

Link on CHE here : [Chambers 2008](#)