



**Dr Thomas Gädtke**

**Partner**  
HEAD OF EUROPEAN CROSS BORDER LITIGATION GROUP

**INTERNATIONAL CO-HEAD, GLOBAL CLASS ACTIONS**

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Dr Thomas Gädtke specializes in cross-border disputes, international arbitration proceedings as well as all types of national dispute resolution mechanisms (ordinary courts, arbitration, mediation). He has extensive experience in national and international mass litigation proceedings, in particular with a US-link.

Thomas is Head of DLA Piper's European Cross Border Litigation Group and International Co-Head of DLA Piper's Global Class Actions Group.

Thomas represents companies and their bodies in complex commercial disputes, in particular liability disputes (contractual, D&O, product liability), corporate disputes (including post-M&A and W&I), as well as disputes in the areas of banking and capital markets law, energy/plant engineering, IT and insurance law. He has conducted mass litigation on a large scale, both for clients from the automotive sector (inter alia diesel) and the financial sector (prospectus liability), in the area of directors' and officers' liability/D&O also with reference to US class actions. In addition, he has represented clients in large international arbitration proceedings in various sectors under different arbitration rules.

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN**

- German
- English

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Banking and Finance Litigation
- Cross-Border Litigation
- Insurance and Reinsurance Disputes
- International Arbitration
- Product Liability, Mass Torts and Product Stewardship
- Corporate and Securities Litigation

- Financial Services
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Insurance

German English

- Representing a leading international automotive group in a mass litigation for warranty and damage claims relating to the specified exhaust gas values for diesel vehicles.
- Representing the insolvency administrator of BEV-Bayerische Energieversorgungsgesellschaft against the model declaratory action

of a consumer protection association.

- Representing Deutsche Bank AG in connection with the lodging of claims for damages against its former Management Board Chairman, Dr. Rolf Breuer, as a result of the fallout from the Bloomberg interview in 2002 (published).
- Representing Bayerische Landesbank in connection with asserting the D&O liability claims against its former members of the board of management and board of administration due to the failed acquisition of Hypo Alpe Adria Bank (published).
- Representing a leading international electronics company in defending against alleged claims under product liability due to a defective gaming console.
- Representing a leading international high-tech company in an ICC arbitral proceeding relating to various high-volume disputes arising from a company purchase.
- Representing a leading international IT-service provider in a DIS arbitration against an leading international service provider in the telecommunications industry regarding damages claims in relation to a comprehensive IT outsourcing project.
- Representing various fund initiators and prospectus issuers in numerous court proceedings for defence against prospectus liability claims in connection with numerous closed-end funds (mass litigation).
- Representing a leading international energy provider in the oil & gas sector in an ICC arbitration regarding claims for delay liquidated damages, damages claims due to defects in relation to a large industrial plant.
- Representing a leading international reinsurer in a large and complex dispute relating to an event cancellation insurance due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CREDENTIALS

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### Professional Qualifications

- Rechtsanwalt admitted with the Rechtsanwaltskammer Munich

### Prior Experience

Before changing to the Munich office of DLA Piper in 2011, he worked for another large international law firm (2005-2011).

### Recognitions

- *JUVE Handbook 2021/2022*: Leading name for D&O advice (2021/2022) and dispute resolution: commercial disputes (2019/2020); frequently recommended for dispute resolution: litigation and arbitration/mediation and insurance law: litigation and product advice; “excellent litigator”, “very good knowledge of insurance law”, competitor; 2019/2020: “stands out as a personality”, “dogmatically top”, “brilliant lawyer”, competitors; 2018/2019: “good litigator in management liability” competitors, “seasoned D&O advisor for corporate bodies [...], but who also knows the insurance side”, “one of the most renowned D&O specialists”, JUVE
- *Legal 500 Germany 2022*: Leading individual for insurance law: dispute resolution and recommended for dispute resolution: arbitration (including international arbitration) and commercial litigation as well as insurance law: dispute resolution; “Thomas Gädtke’s litigation/arbitration team is very competent, high-performing and well-rehearsed, especially when it comes to complex and high-volume litigation”; Thomas is considered a key contact for mass litigation and he “has extensive experience and a high level of expertise in the field of issues surrounding D&O insurance and liability”. He “has many years of high-level experience in litigation and negotiations with D&O insurers”; Thomas has a “very pleasant personal manner, distinctive commercial approach, highly recommended” and is an “excellent address with excellent reputation in the industry.”
- *Chambers Europe Germany 2022*: Recommended for insurance; “Thomas combines extensive know-how on insurance law and excellent case handling.” 2021: He is singled out for his expertise in arbitration and described by clients as “the top lawyer for D&O matters.” Gädtke is an experienced adviser on cross-border mandates.”
- *Handelsblatt* in cooperation with *Best Lawyers 2022*: Recognised as “lawyer of the year” for product liability litigation (2021) and recommended for insurance law, product liability litigation, litigation and international arbitration
- *WirtschaftsWoche 2020*: Listed as German “Top Lawyer” in the area of insurance law

### Education

- Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Dr. phil. (philosophy), 2006
- Court of Appeals (*Oberlandesgericht*) Munich, second state examination (*Zweites Staatsexamen*), 1997
- Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, first state examination (*Erstes Staatsexamen*), 1995
- Universities of Würzburg and Munich: Law, philosophy, modern history

## Memberships

- German Institution of Arbitration (DIS)
- German Bar Association (DAV)
- Association of German Jurists (djt)
- German Insurance Science Association (DVfVW)

## Lecturer

Dr. Thomas Gädtke is a lecturer at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich in the areas of civil procedural law and insurance law.

## INSIGHTS

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Dr. Thomas Gädtke regularly gives presentations on current legal subjects and publishes i.a. in various standard commentaries.

## Publications

### **Global Class Actions Briefing: Major developments in European consumer protection laws: Product safety and consumer class actions in Europe**

15 July 2020

The EU's proposals for a revised EU General Product Safety Directive (the GPSD) and the EU's deal for a Collective Redress Directive (the CRD) point the way to a future of heightened novel risk in Europe of collective redress or, as these claims are popularly known, "class actions".

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Some examples of his publication activity:

- Bruck/Möller, Großkommentar zum VVG, 10th edition 2021, D&O-Versicherung (together with Prof. Dr. Christian Armbrüster, in preparation), AVB D&O
- 'D&O-Streitigkeiten', in: Servatius (ed.), Corporate Litigation, 2nd edition 2021 (in publication);
- 'Konzerninterne Bereicherung bei Absicherung von Prospekthaftungsansprüchen in der E&O-Versicherung?', in: Festschrift zum 100-jährigen Bestehen der versicherungswissenschaftlichen Fakultät der Universität Hamburg;
- 'Brüssel Ia kommt - Neue Regeln für die Zuständigkeit, Anerkennung und Vollstreckung in Zivil- und Handelssachen ab Januar 2015', in: Dispute Resolution Online Magazine, 12/2014.

## NEWS

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### **DLA Piper named Law Firm of the Year for Real Estate and Insurance at the JUVE Awards**

30 October 2020

DLA Piper has been named Law Firm of the Year for Real Estate and Insurance at the JUVE Awards, in a ceremony which took place on Thursday 29 October.

