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Erik Schäfer represents clients before all German district, regional and higher regional courts, the German Federal Patent Court, the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the European Court of First Instance and the European Court of Justice. As a former partner of Cohausz & Florack, he has decades of experience in the field of intellectual property law and all related areas (e.g. licensing, copyright (design), employee inventions, trademark and name law, competition law, research and development projects, IP licensing and project cooperation) as well as distribution and sales organization, both in an advisory capacity and as a party representative. His experience in contract law includes international private and commercial law. In December 2022, he retired from his former law firm due to his age, in order to start working for BODENHEIMER in April 2023. He will thus focus more on dispute resolution, i.e. arbitration, mediation and other DR methods - mainly as arbitrator or mediator. Geographically, he intends to focus more on Spanish-speaking countries than before.

As a former delegate to the Commission on International Arbitration and ADR of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Paris), Erik Schäfer chaired the working groups "IT & Arbitration" and "Expertise Proceedings". He was also active in the working groups "Small Claim Arbitration" and "eDisclosure" as well as "Emergency Arbitrator". He was the founding president of the German-Austrian section of the Club Español de Arbitraje.

Erik Schäfer has participated in training courses in mediation (WIPO, DAA, INTA) and was a member of the IBA working group "Investor State Mediation".

Erik Schäfer advises clients in German, English, Spanish and French. He has also conducted arbitration proceedings as chairman and sole arbitrator in these languages.

After studying law at the University of Freiburg and extended periods of study abroad (France, England, Mexico) and obtaining admission to the German bar, he worked for several years from the end of 1988 as a legal advisor in the Secretariat of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Paris. He then worked on legal matters in a patent department. In 1993, he joined a Hamburg law and patent firm to work in its Dresden office, which was newly opened after German reunification. Since 1994, he has acted as counsel and arbitrator in national and international arbitration proceedings. He joined COHAUSZ & FLORACK in 1997, became a partner in 2002 and left the firm in December 2022. He joined the BODENHEIMER law firm in April 2023.