

Graf & Pitkowitz team break away in Vienna

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Roxanne de Jesus, Nikolaus Pitkowitz, Martin Foerster and Anna Katharina Radschek (left to right)

Nikolaus Pitkowitz and the rest of the 10-strong dispute resolution team at Austrian firm Graf & Pitkowitz are leaving to launch a new law firm.

The new firm, Pitkowitz & Partners, will focus on dispute resolution and real estate law. It will launch on 1 July. The move is part of a three-way de-merger of Graf & Pitkowitz that will create two other law firms, Graf Isola and waechter attorneys.

Pitkowitz & Partners will be based in new premises in Vienna and retain the entire dispute resolution and real estate teams of the legacy firm.

Pitkowitz, who will continue to lead the arbitration practice, co-founded Graf & Pitkowitz in 1994. He is currently vice president of the Vienna International Arbitration Centre and sits as arbitrator in Europe and Asia, alongside his practice as counsel. His several current arbitrator appointments have an aggregate value in excess of €400 million.

Joining him at the new firm are partners **Anna Katharina Radschek** and **Roxanne de Jesus**; and Swiss foreign attorney **Sheila Mangachi**, who joined in 2019 from Konrad & Partners. Partner **Martin Foerster** will lead the real estate and construction practice while also advising on related arbitration and litigation.

The arbitration team is currently acting in a London-seated arbitration over an Eastern European plastics plant against an Italian technology company, working alongside Hogan Lovells and Allen & Overy.

The team is also advising a global engineering company on an arbitration over a Belgium industrial plant; and recently concluded a New York arbitration working with US firms Kirkland & Ellis and Sullivan & Cromwell in a joint venture dispute worth hundreds of millions of dollars over two offshore drillships.

Other clients include Facebook, Yahoo, third party funder Calunius and aerospace and defence corporation General Dynamics.

Pitkowitz & Partners says it will promote its international practice and a “sustainable growth path” by continuing to collaborate with law firms and national and international universities.

The new firm will announce further details in July. It also says it plans to make further additions to the team.