

Dr. Karim Maizar

Start-up and venture capital attorney, Partner

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Karim is a partner in our Zurich office with a passion for start-ups. As co-founder and head of the firm's Startup Desk, he has led the firm's efforts to establish itself as one of the leading Swiss law firms for entrepreneurs and their investors who push the boundaries of technology and drive market-changing innovations.

In his role, Karim works with many of Switzerland's most promising technology and life sciences start-ups at all stages of their growth, from university spin-offs and initial seed rounds to growth financing rounds and exit transactions.

He also has extensive experience in advising VCs, strategic investors (including CVCs) and business angels as part of their engagement with Swiss high-tech startups. Karim is a regular speaker in his field and holds workshops for founders throughout Switzerland. He is a member of the board of directors of the Swiss Entrepreneurs & Startup Association (SWESA), a member of the Legal & Tax Chapter of the Swiss Private Equity and Corporate Finance Association (SECA) and a member of the jury of the annual Swiss Top100 Startup Awards.

His unswerving commitment to start-ups and venture capital transactions and his enthusiasm for the Swiss start-up ecosystem have earned him considerable recognition in the market for his practice. In 2019 he was named one of Switzerland's "Top 100 Digital Shapers" by Bilanz/Handelszeitung/Le Temps. He is also ranked in *Chambers Global* in the field of Corporate/M&A as "a go-to person for startup and growth investments in Switzerland."

Expertise

Company & Corporate Law / M&A

Life Sciences, Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, and Biotechnology

Startup & Venture Capital Desk

Career

- Since 2015
  Partner at Kellerhals Carrard
- 2011–2014
  Senior associate at Kellerhals Attorneys (now Kellerhals Carrard)
- 2007–2011
  Attorney at Bär & Karrer AG, Zurich
- 2010
  Legal counsel at Swiss Re AG, Zurich (secondment)
- 2004–2005
  Trainee attorney at Bär & Karrer AG, Zurich

Memberships

- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Zurich Bar Association (ZAV)
- Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association (SECA)

Education

- 2012
  Dr. iur., University of Zurich,
- 2008–2009
  Visiting Research Fellow Fordham School of Law, New York
- 2006
  Admitted to the bar of Canton Zurich
- 2003
  lic. iur., University of Zurich

Other Activities

- Member of the board of the Swiss Startup Association (SSA)
- Member of the Legal & Tax Chapter of the Swiss Private Equity and Corporate Finance Association (SECA)
- Member of the jury of the annual Swiss Top100 Startup Awards
- Former co-founder and co-publisher of the Swiss Journal for Corporate and Capital Markets Law and Restructuring (GesKR)
- Regular speaker with a particular focus on venture transactions and exits
- Numerous publications in the field of corporate and stock exchange law

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Languages

German, English

Publications & Presentations

Aktionärbindungsverträge: Rechtliche Grundlagen und Umsetzung in der Praxis - Rezension des gleichnamigen Grundlagenwerks von Peter Forstmoser und Marcel Küchler GesKR 2016, S. 93 f., 93 f.	Karim Maizar	2026
Sustainable Finance in Switzerland: Digital Book	Jean-Luc Chenaux, Christophe Rapin, Thomas Bauer, Nicolas Mosimann, Shima Gennari, Roman Aus der Au, Christoph Bauer, Luca Bianchi, Armin Kühne, Daniel Lengauer, Karim Maizar, Sarah Mostafa, Dominik Oberholzer, Ines Pöschel, Isabelle Romy, Lea Ruckstuhl, Reto Schumacher, Jessica Sommer, Cornelia Stengel, Denise Wohlwend, Roman Huber, Manuel Brogli, Gaspare Loderer	2025
Chambers Global Practice Guide 2025: Venture Capital - Trends & Development	Alexandre Gachet Nicolas Mosimann Karim Maizar Nicolai Nuber	2025
Sustainable Finance in Switzerland – Adoption of a New Paradigm through Regulatory Change and Innovation	Roman Aus der Au, Christoph Bauer, Thomas Bauer, Luca Bianchi, Manuel Brogli, Jean-Luc Chenaux, Shima Gennari, Roman Huber, Barbara Fritschi, Armin Kühne, Daniel Lengauer, Gaspare Loderer, Karim Maizar, Nicolas Mosimann, Sarah Mostafa, Dominik Oberholzer, Ines Pöschel, Christophe Rapin, Isabelle Romy, Lea Ruckstuhl, Reto Schumacher, Jessica Sommer, Cornelia Stengel, Denise Wohlwend	2024
Crowdinvesting: ein neues Kapitel im Kapitalmarkt? in: Thomas U. Reutter/Thomas Werlen (Hrsg.), Kapitalmarkttransaktionen X, Zürich 2016, S. 87 ff., 87 ff.	Karim Maizar Armin Kühne	2016

Long-term incentive plans in Swiss public companies: key aspects to consider in connection with accounting, disclosure and "say on pay" GesKR 2014, S. 22 ff., 22 ff.	Karim Maizar Remo Schmid	2014
Kommentierung der Art. 4 und 5 BEG Dieter Zobl/Martin Hess/Ansgar Schott (Hrsg.), Kommentar zum Bucheffektengesetz (BEG), Zürich 2013	Christoph Bauer Karim Maizar	2013
Finale Minder-Verordnung "VegüV" - Erste Übersicht k&b November 2013	Ines Pöschel, Beat Brechbühl, Daniel Lengauer, Florian Baumann, Emanuel Dettwiler, Karim Maizar	2013
Die Willensbildung und Beschlussfassung der Aktionäre in schweizerischen Publikumsgesellschaften: Grundlagen – Analysen – Ansätze einer Reform Dike Verlag, Zürich/St. Gallen 2012	Karim Maizar	2012
Rechtsnatur und Herausgabe von Bucheffekten: Besprechung des Urteils des Bundesgerichts 4A_155/2011 vom 10. Januar 2012 (auszugsweise publiziert in BGE 138 III 137 ff.) GesKR 2012, S. 445 ff., 445 ff.	Karim Maizar	2012
Kommentierung der Art. 727, 727a, 727b, 727c, 728c und 729c OR im Basler Kommentar zum Revisionsaufsichtsgesetz (RAG), 1. Auflage Helbing & Lichtenhahn, Basel/ Genf/München 2011	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2011
Kommentierung der Art. 663bbis, 663c, 727, 727a, 727b, 727c, 728c und 729c sowie Art. 816 und 906 f. OR im Basler Kommentar zum Obligationenrecht II, 3. Auflage Helbing & Lichtenhahn, Basel/Genf/München 2008	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2008
Offenlegung von Vergütungen bei börsenkotierten und nicht börsenkotierten Aktiengesellschaften - Gedanken zu den Art. 697quater - 697sexies gemäss dem Entwurf des Bundesrates vom 21. Dezember 2007 GesKR Sondernummer 2008, S. 104 ff., 104 ff.	Karim Maizar	2008
Structure of executive compensation and conflicts of interests – Legal constraints and practical recommendations under Swiss law in: Luc Thévenoz/Rashid Bahar (eds.), Conflicts of Interest – Corporate Governance & Financial Markets, Kluwer Law International, The Netherlands 2007, p. 31 – 84, 31 - 84	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2007

Aktionärsdemokratie – Über erweiterte Zuständigkeiten der Generalversammlung und Erleichterungen bei der Stimmrechtsausübung in schweizerischen Aktiengesellschaften in: Peter Breitschmid/Wolfgang Portmann/Heinz Rey/Dieter Zobl (Hrsg.), Grundfragen der juristischen Person – Festschrift für Hans Michael Riemer zum 65. Geburtstag, Stämpfli Verlag AG, Bern 2007, S. 403 – 432, 403 - 432	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2007
Offenlegung von Vergütungen und Beteiligungen schweizerischer Publikumsgesellschaften gemäss OR Helbing & Lichtenhahn, Basel 2007, 70 Seiten	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2007
Transparenz der Vergütungen und Beteiligungen von Mitgliedern des Verwaltungsrates und der Geschäftsleitung (Art. 663bbis und 663c Abs.3 OR) – Entstehungsgeschichte, Normzweck sowie erste praktische Anwendungsfragen GesKR 4/2006, S. 349 – 359, 349 - 359	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2006
Konkurrierende Übernahmeangebote in: Rudolf Tschäni (Hrsg.), Mergers & Acquisitions VII, Zürich 2005, S. 1 – 55, 1 - 55	Karim Maizar Rolf Watter	2005
EU-Aufsicht für schweizerische Gesellschaften? in: NZZ vom 14. Oktober 2004, Nr. 240, S. 31, 31	Karim Maizar Thomas U. Reutter	2004

Rankings & Awards

Chambers Europe 2026: Recognition that reflects our clients' trust	March 19, 2026
Chambers Global 2026: Recognition that reflects our clients' trust	February 12, 2026
Committed to Clients, Recognised for Excellence – Chambers Europe 2025	March 20, 2025
Excellence Acknowledged: Kellerhals Carrard in Chambers Global 2025	February 14, 2025
Kellerhals Carrard Earns Top Honors in Chambers Europe 2024	March 14, 2024
Chambers Global 2024 Highlights Kellerhals Carrad's Excellence	February 15, 2024