



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 unwavering 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



Capital markets and listed companies



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

- Zurich Bar Association (ZAV)
 - Swiss Private Equity & Corporate Finance Association (SECA)
 - Swiss Entrepreneurs & Startup Association (SWESA)
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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
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Other Activities

- Member of the board of the Swiss Entrepreneurs & Startup Association (SWESA)
 - 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 at start-up and other events with a particular focus on financing rounds, participation plans and exits
 - Numerous publications in the field of corporate and stock exchange law
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Languages

German, English

Publications

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| Chambers Global Practice Guide 2025: Venture Capital - Trends & Development | Alexandre Gachet Dr. Nicolas Mosimann Dr. Karim Maizar Nicolai Nuber | 2025 |
| Kommentierung der Art. 4 und 5 BEG Dieter Zobl/Martin Hess/Ansgar Schott (Hrsg.), Kommentar zum Bucheffektengesetz (BEG), Zürich 2013 | Prof. Dr. Christoph Bauer Dr. Karim Maizar | 2013 |
| Finale Minder-Verordnung "VegüV" - Erste Übersicht k&b November 2013, Autoren: Ines Pöschel/Beat Brechbühl/Daniel Lengauer/Florian Baumann/Emanuel Dettwiler/Karim Maizar | Dr. Daniel Lengauer, Ines Pöschel, Dr. Beat Brechbühl, Dr. Florian Baumann, Dr. Emanuel Dettwiler, Dr. Karim Maizar | 2013 |

Rankings & Awards

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| 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 Carrard's Excellence | February 15, 2024 |
