



Nicolas Zbinden

Attorney at Law, MLaw, LL.M. (Cantab), Partner

Contact

Lausanne Office

Tel. +41 58 200 33 00

nicolas.zbinden@kellerhals-carrard.ch

Assistance

Rebecca Robert

+41 58 200 33 43

rebecca.robert@kellerhals-carrard.ch

Kellerhals Carrard Lausanne

Place Saint-François 1

P.O. Box

1001 Lausanne

A prominent sports lawyer known for his high-end expertise and strategic insights.

Nicolas Zbinden is co-Head of Kellerhals Carrard's Sports Practice.

Nicolas is a leading lawyer in international sports law. He is one of the most active and respected counsels before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), with particular expertise in anti-doping disputes.

He regularly acts for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), International Federations such as World Athletics and the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), and other sports organisations. Nicolas has represented clients in hundreds of cases before the CAS, including a significant number of Ad Hoc cases in the context of the Olympic Games. He also frequently appears before the Swiss Federal Tribunal and other courts.

Beyond litigation, Nicolas advises sports organisations on governance and regulatory matters. He is a member of the WADA Legal Expert Advisory Group and the IWF Anti-Doping Commission and is recognised by leading directories such as Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500, Lexology Index and Leaders League for his breadth of expertise and high-profile mandates.

Expertise

Sports Law



Arbitration



Dispute Resolution and Litigation



Career

- Since 2022
Partner with Kellerhals Carrard
 - 2015–2021
Attorney with Kellerhals Carrard
 - 2013
Attorney with Des Gouttes & Associés, Geneva
 - 2011–2013
Trainee attorney with Des Gouttes & Associés, Geneva
 - 2008–2009
Legal counsel, Players' Status Department (FIFA), Zurich
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Memberships

- Vaud Bar Association (OAV)
 - Swiss Bar Federation (FSA)
 - Jeune Barreau vaudois
 - Registered in the Cantonal Attorneys' Register (Vaud)
 - ASA
 - Swiss Association for Sports law (ASDS)
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Education

- 2014
LL.M., University of Cambridge, UK
 - 2013
Bar exam, Geneva
 - 2011
MLaw, University of Neuchâtel
 - 2009
BLaw, University of Lausanne
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Languages

French, English, German

Rankings & Awards

Legal 500 2026: A year of work with our clients reflected in the rankings March 30, 2026

Chambers Europe 2026: Recognition that reflects our clients' trust March 19, 2026

Trusted by Clients, Acknowledged for Excellence - Legal500 2025 March 27, 2025

Committed to Clients, Recognised for Excellence - Chambers Europe 2025 March 20, 2025

Kellerhals Carrard Shines in The Legal 500 2024 Rankings March 27, 2024

Kellerhals Carrard Earns Top Honors in Chambers Europe 2024 March 14, 2024

Kellerhals Carrard Ranked as a Top Tier Firm by The Legal 500 2023 April 18, 2023

Kellerhals Carrard recognised in Chambers Europe 2023 March 20, 2023
