

Nicolas Zbinden

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

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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

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)

Education

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

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