

Hausfeld continues European growth with Paris opening

Related Lawyers: **Anthony Maton, Laurent Geelhand, Genevieve Anouck Labbé**

Related Practice Areas: **Competition Disputes**

Leading litigation law firm Hausfeld, today announces the launch of an office in Paris, its fifth in Europe, and tenth worldwide. Hausfeld's French initiatives are led by partner Laurent Geelhand, who is assisted by Of Counsel, Geneviève Labbe and supported by several French lawyers, several of whom are admitted to the Paris Bar.

Laurent joined the firm in 2014 and was previously General Counsel at Michelin for 16 years. At Michelin, Laurent pioneered private enforcement efforts, turning the firm's European legal department into a profit centre by systematically pursuing actions against suppliers and recovering close to EUR 100m from cartel infringements since 2003. Since he joined Hausfeld and opened the Brussels office the firm has seen steady growth in its European projects. The firm now has a range of corporate clients in the automotive, waste collection, water treatment, retail, logistics and transport sectors; including BMW, Deutsche Bahn and PSA Group.

Commenting on the opening Laurent said, "Our French client base has grown exponentially in the last few years. As such, an office in Paris was a natural next step, to meet the demand. The office allows us to better service our French and international clients and provides us with another base as we further grow our European presence.

"More and more we see European corporate clients proactively pursuing private enforcement against cartels. As a former in-house lawyer, I saw first-hand how this adds real value to corporates, with minimum risk. Often regarded as a 'cost' to businesses, private enforcement allows in-house legal teams to redress and retrieve damages, at no or minimal cost to a business.

"One of the reasons I joined Hausfeld, was the firm's experience with litigation funding and alternative financial solutions for its clients. As one of the first firms to utilise third-party funding for corporate entities, our experience and reputation in the market with funders and insurers, means that we can offer clients unique packages."

Managing Partner of Hausfeld in London, Anthony Maton added, "Since we opened the Brussels and German offices we've enjoyed great success in Europe. Our London office has always attracted international lawyers and we already have numerous French-speaking fee-earners who work between Paris and London assisting Laurent. We look forward to growing our French and continental presence and exploring our unlimited opportunities post-Brexit; and following the EU Damages Directive implementation last year, which makes it easier for individuals and businesses that have suffered harm because of anticompetitive conduct, to secure damages."

The announcement follows the recent opening of Hausfeld's second German office in Düsseldorf in June 2017.