

Kris Somers

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Personal Details:

12/10/1976 • Bonheiden • Belgium • Male • Married

Experienced Legal Counsel, Privacy Professional & Communicator



Qualifications

Summary

Results-oriented and analytical legal counsel with over 20 years' experience, both as inhouse and outside counsel, privacy professional, leadership coach and corporate communications director. Adept at providing organisations with pragmatic, hands-on legal advice and developing, implementing and communicating effective corporate and compliance strategies. Keen eye for detail and opportunities for process optimisation. Able to communicate at all levels with ease, fluent in English, Dutch, and French.

- Legal Advice & Training
- Contract Negotiation
- Data Privacy (GDPR)
- Leadership Coaching and Development
- Corporate Communication
- Project Management
- Public Procurement
- Due Diligence
- Strategy Development
- Team Leadership

Career

Experience

Liber.ius Law Firm – Brussels, Belgium

Partner (9/2020 – present)

In many ways the legal profession has become embedded in its archaic, long-established inefficiencies. As founding partner at Liber.ius (2020) I have consciously chosen to allow our lawyers to embrace innovative methods to better protect and serve our clients' commercial and creative freedom (*liber*) and rights (*ius*). We rely on advanced working practices and technologies, paired with efficient use of resources, to improve our services and deliver better results and solutions to our clients, simply by tackling legal issues with more flexibility and creativity. Liber.ius lawyers are entrepreneurial in their understanding of our clients' businesses, and maintain the freedom to prioritize client needs and work closely with our clients to achieve the most efficient solutions. With a very strong commitment to deliver value to your business, Liber.ius lawyers strive not only to meet your expectations, but to surpass them.

As a lawyer, I have extensive experience in drafting, negotiating and concluding commercial agreements of any type, including ICT contracts (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS) and data processing agreements.

As a certified privacy professional (I hold both CIPP/E and CIPM accreditations with the IAPP), I support companies with GDPR compliance and can act as (external) data privacy officer.

Among other projects, I provide various legal services to Belgian biotechnology companies, hospitals and universities on data protection (GDPR) compliance matters. I manage the roll out of its data

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protection policy, awareness trainings, data protection impact analyses and data processing agreements. I also provide ad hoc legal services to Universiteit Hasselt in relation to privacy aspects of various projects.

Independent Legal Communications Expert – JurisCom (5/2019 – present)

With JurisCom, I operate at the crossroads of high quality, pragmatic legal advice and effective corporate communications. I provide training on various legal topics, as well as corporate presentation and media training, coaching for public speaking and leadership development.

Carrier (formerly United Technologies) – Brussels, Belgium

Legal Director (10/2014 – 4/2019) & Corporate and Marketing Communications Director (5/2019 – 5/2020)

As Legal Director, advised company management on legal issues and oversaw various legal affairs. Led and supervised EMEA legal department including four direct reports and two consultants while acting as general counsel. Leveraged interpersonal skills to cultivate strong professional relationships with legal staff, board of directors' members and company executives. Developed and conducted ethics and compliance trainings.

- Negotiated complex and key commercial and ICT contracts with both customers and suppliers.
- Managed litigation and claim settlement.
- Spearheaded structuring of corporate housekeeping to include management of 27 legal entities.
- Coached, motivated and led the legal department to drastically optimise efficiency and enable drastic increase in responsiveness.
- Developed and implemented comprehensive legal training to multiple members of organisation.

As Corporate and Marketing Communications Director, developed, implemented and oversaw business and marketing strategy for Europe, Middle East, and African region (EMEA) including marketing communications and public relations activities both internal and external. Ensured adherence to legal and compliance related aspects of corporate strategy and communication. Presided over EMEA MarCom and Digital Channel Department and acted as Employer Representative in Belgian Works Council. Directed efforts of EMEA Marketing Forum and coordinated strategic and tactical interactions of MarCom with other functions of company.

Senior Legal Interim Manager (9/2013 – 9/2014)

Provided cross-functional team leaders at a major transport production facility (**Bombardier Transportation Belgium**) with legal advice in strategic public procurement files while acting as interim in-house counsel. Identified legal issues within business and provided legal analyses and possible legal solutions. Conducted legal drafting and performed due diligence of contract template database, created terms and conditions and IT license agreements and reviewed business practices for a start-up in the insurance sector (**OOLiba N.V.**).

MasterCard Europe, Waterloo | MasterCard International, Purchase Europe Region Counsel (10/2006 – 6/2013)

- Led a team of two direct reports within the MasterCard Europe legal department.
- Negotiated key contract wins for the Europe Region as lead counsel negotiating with financial institutions and merchant organisations.
- Established and rolled out a comprehensive antitrust compliance program.
- Orchestrated key strategic business transactions and commercial agreements in Benelux and Central Europe before being assigned to corporate HQ in New York. Involved in ‘Durbin’ taskforce which received 2011 CFO award.
- Received the President’s Award (2012) for excellence in legal and compliance work.

Law Firm Van Bael & Bellis – Brussels, Belgium Lawyer (10/2000 – 9/2006)

- Supported key clients in various verticals (energy, pharma, distribution, finance) with hands-on and pragmatic legal advice
- Contributed to various publications on antitrust and Belgian corporate law
- Performed due diligence in key M&A deals in multiple sectors of industry

Hobbies

Blacksmithing
Philosophy & Theology
Leadership Coaching – “Servant Leadership” (Robert K. Greenleaf Institute)
Freelance Journalism

- Conducted interviews and wrote contributions on various societal topics for a weekly newspaper
- Acted as Editor

Education

Mediator (basic certification – 2022) Mediation Instituut Vlaanderen (MEDIV)

MEDIV | MEDIATION INSTITUUT
VLAANDEREN

Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/E) and Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM) (Magna cum laude – 2021) International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)

European Competition Law (2015)

Brussels School of Competition, Brussels

LLM in European Law (Magna Cum Laude – 2000)

College of Europe, Bruges

MA in Law (Magna Cum Laude – 1999)

K.U. Leuven

