

About

Marina specializes in Mergers & Acquisitions, financing transactions and corporate law and co-heads the corporate/M&A practice.

Marina is recognized for her practice in leading legal guides, such as Chambers and Partners, Legal 500, Best Lawyers and Leader's League, and was voted by her peers as Lawyer of the Year in Mergers and Acquisitions in Lausanne in the 2026 Best Lawyers edition. Described as *'driven, talented, hard-working and responsive'*, Marina *'combines in-depth knowledge of the law and razor-sharp analytical skills with sound commercial judgment and pragmatic solution finding'* (Legal 500/2025). Clients praise *'her combination of legal acumen, reliability and human approach'* which *'makes her an invaluable partner and a true pleasure to work with'* (Chambers Europe/2026).

With over 15 years of experience, Marina advises a broad range of clients, including major venture capital and private equity funds, family offices, multinational corporations, startups, SMEs, and seasoned entrepreneurs on various corporate matters, including M&A and distressed M&A, business transfers, venture capital and private equity deals, corporate restructurings, and debt financing. Marina regularly advises on cross-border transactions. Marina also provides legal advice on corporate governance matters, drawing on her extensive professional experience across a wide range of economic sectors.

Before joining id est avocats in 2020, Marina spent over a decade at major Swiss commercial law firms, gaining extensive experience in both advisory and transactional work. She accomplished her legal studies at the Universities of Geneva and Lucerne, and Harvard Law School.

A regular lecturer and published author, Marina contributes to professional publications and has served as the Swiss law expert for several chapters of the World Bank Doing Business Report.

She is licensed to practice before all Swiss courts and works fluently in English, French, and Spanish, with working knowledge of German and Italian.



Practice Areas

Mergers & Acquisitions, Business Transfers
Venture Capital & Private Equity
Corporate Finance
Corporate Governance
Commercial Contracts
Insolvency, Corporate Recovery & Restructuring

Experience & Career

2021 Partner at id est avocats
2020 Senior associate at id est avocats

- 2016 Senior associate at Kellerhals Carrard
- 2015 Associate at Kellerhals Carrard
- 2012 Associate at Lalive
- 2009 Junior associate at Lenz & Staehelin
- 2006 Summer intern at Lenz & Staehelin

Education

- 2009 MLaw, University of Geneva (*valedictorian* and *summa cum laude*)
- 2008 Merit-based academic exchange program at Harvard Law School
- 2009 Certificate of Transnational law, University of Geneva (*summa cum laude*)
- 2007 Academic exchange program at University of Lucerne
- 2007 BLaw, University of Geneva (*magna cum laude*)

Selected Publications & Presentations

Speaker at the conference “Making Business Succession in Switzerland a Success: Expert Perspectives” of May 8, 2025 organized by the Lombard Odier Bank

Lecturer at the HES- SO Valais, as part of the 'Business eXperience' entrepreneurial program, lecture on key legal considerations for young entrepreneurs wishing to set up and launch innovative companies

Co-moderator of the panel discussion on “M&A Transactions with University Spinoffs” at the IBA’s “8th Mergers and Acquisitions in the Technology Sector Conference”, held on March 14, 2025

Speaker at the Economic Forum of the Valais Fair, as part of the conference on Business Transfers of October 3, 2024

Lecturer at the Finix Events seminar of June 4, 2024, lecture on the key liability risks faced by board members of Swiss companies

Lecturer at the Fidial SA seminar of January 24, 2024, lecture on Corporate Financing: Key Issues and Financing Mechanisms – Equity Investments, Convertible Debt, and Intra-group Financing

Panelist at the conference of November 22, 2023 organized by the Business Club of the Chamber of Commerce of Canton Vaud (CVCI) and Brodiance on the theme: *Leadership and Resilience – Navigating a Constantly Changing World*

Panelist at the Petits déj' des PME et start-up event of June 2, 2023, organized by the Canton of Vaud, on the topic of employee equity participation.

Lecturer at the Fidial SA seminar of April 6, 2023, lecture on shareholders' agreements: overview and impact of the new Swiss company law

Speaker at the ExpertSuisse seminar of June 6, 2018, presentation on Investment agreements and convertible loans

Révision et modernisation du droit de la société anonyme suisse, in collaboration with Jean-Luc Chenaux, in *Revue pratique des sociétés – Tijdschrift voor Rechtspersoon en Vennootschap* (TRV-RPS), n. 2017/6 of October 1, 2017, p. 677

Lecturer at the EPFL start-up seminar of June 12, 2016 “Chunhui Cup Competition Introduction Seminar”, presentation on “Financing Rounds: Do’s and Don’ts for First Time Entrepreneurs” publication dated June 12, 2016

World Bank Doing Business Report 2015, local legal expert to the World Bank and primary contributor to the Swiss Chapters on Starting a Business, Protecting Minority Investors and Enforcing Contracts, 12th Edition, December 2015

Switzerland is reviewing its judicial system in relation to mass claims, in: IBA International Litigation News, May 2014, pp. 59-62

Vers une "class action" helvétique?, in Revue de l'avocat 11-12/2013 (SAV/FSA), pp. 487-493

The Protection of Financial Investors: the Road to a Collective Redress Mechanism in Switzerland?, in collaboration with Sandrine Giroud, in Terralex Newsletter of July 2013

Recommendations and Accolades

Marina Castelli-Joos is highly qualified and has extensive experience in M&A. In addition, she has great communication skills and is very efficient. She immediately identified the key elements of the deal and assisted us in completing it to our full satisfaction.' (Legal 500/2024)

'Marina Castelli-Joos is excellent at communicating clearly, always commits to the timeline she outlines and has a very pragmatic, business-oriented approach while focusing on the critical points.' (Legal500/2024)

'Marina Castelli-Joos is crazy smart. She thinks about everything. Truly amazed.' (Legal 500/2023)