



At the frontline of Luxembourg's law

TEXT: NDÉLA FAYE | PHOTOS: JEAN-JACQUES SCHONCKERT

Lawyer at the Luxembourg bar since 1986, Jean-Jacques Schonckert has established himself as one of the most notable lawyers in Luxembourg. His experience, combined with a multidisciplinary and personable approach, allows him to have all bases covered for his clients.

Catering to individuals, as well as small and medium-sized companies, Schonckert's firm provides a wide range of legal services and advice in French, German, English and Luxembourgish. In addition to real estate, social, family, criminal and commercial law, Schonckert is no stranger to media attention and high-profile cases. "Throughout the years, I've been involved in many of the Grand Duchy's biggest court cases such as the much-publicised Franklin Jurado money laundering case in the early 1990s, and more recently Max Schrems' data protection case against Skype and Microsoft, as well as work for French football player Franck Ribéry."

Schonckert believes that what sets him apart from others is the fact that his law firm is independent. "The social circles in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are very small. I operate completely independently, meaning I am not part of any syndicate, political party – or even a golf club," he states. Schonckert also works as a legal consultant on various news programmes – and in his spare time, he volunteers as vice-president for Luxembourg's football federation and is president of the country's Right to Die with Dignity organisation, among other charity ventures. "Doing charity work is close to my heart and my wish to help others extends beyond my work hours," he says.

"With each client, I try to assess what emotions might lie behind their legal case. I believe emotions can be very strong and very raw, and I try to de-block some blockages, a bit like an alchemist," he laughs. With each client, Schonckert aims to look for alternative approaches and angles to their specific case. "Often,

lawyers are solely driven by money, but for me looking after my clients and offering a personal touch is paramount," Schonckert adds.

"My experience spans over three decades, but even after all these years, my work never feels like a chore: I still have the same enthusiasm, level of engagement and sense of duty to my clients as I did when I first started," he concludes.

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