

JOSEF ALKATOUT

COUNSEL
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EXPERTISE

Josef Alkatout heads our Family Law Department. He advises and represents our clients in negotiations and legal proceedings in court.

His expertise encompasses marriage and cohabitation, legal separation and divorce, child protection, family-related criminal proceedings, adoption, and same-sex parentage law.

He also engages in matrimonial planning, notably for the drafting and negotiation of international prenuptial agreements, and assists our clients in emergency separation situations, such as child abductions, parental rights conflicts, sequestration and freezing orders.

EXPERIENCE

- Since 2024: Counsel and Head of Family Law at Borel & Barbey
- Since 2010: Lecturer in Law in Swiss and foreign Universities
- 2020-2024: Head of Family Law at Borel & Barbey
- 2020: Visiting researcher, Harvard University, Boston, United States
- 2020: New York Bar
- 2020: Master of Laws (LL.M.), Columbia University, New York, United States, Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar Prize
- 2017-2019: Associate at a law Firm specialised in family law, Geneva
- 2017: Geneva Bar
- 2015-2017: Trainee lawyer at a law Firm specialised in family law, Geneva
- 2015: Certificate of Advanced Studies in Legal Professions, University of Geneva
- 2014: PhD in Law, University of Göttingen, Germany
- 2010-2014: Legal advisor in a multinational company, London & Geneva
- 2009: Master of Law (MLaw), Universities of Geneva and Helsinki (1 semester)
- 2008: Bachelor in International Relations, University of Geneva

PRACTICE AREAS

Family

marriage & cohabitation · legal separation & divorce · children · family law proceedings in criminal matters · protection of adults

RECOGNITIONS

- Since 2024: Chambers & Partners - Family/Matrimonial
- 2020: Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar Prize, University of Columbia

MEMBERSHIPS

- Geneva Bar Association (ODAGE)
- Swiss Bar Association (FSA)



PUBLICATIONS

2025:

- *Divorce: votre entreprise en danger?*, Entreprise romande, 04.07.2025 (with Julia Henninger, Karim Messali and Steven Kakon)
- *Grands-parents: aucun droit*, echo Magazine, 09.04.2025
- *Un droit de visite pour les grands-parents?*, Tribune de Genève, 19.03.2025
- *Family Laws and Regulations Switzerland 2025*, The International Comparative Legal Guides, 2025

2024:

- *Legal 500: Family Law Comparative Guide*, Legal 500, 2024
- *Le Tribunal fédéral redéfinit le concubinage*, Tribune de Genève, 30.08.2024
- *Moins d'enfants enlevés grâce au TF*, Tribune de Genève, 11.07.2024
- *Médiation plutôt que juge de divorce?*, Tribune de Genève, 07.05.2024

2023:

- *Le Tribunal fédéral défend l'homoparentalité*, Tribune de Genève, 18.10.2023
- *Tribunal fédéral: il n'y a que deux sexes*, Tribune de Genève, 03.10.2023
- *Les frais d'avocat ne sont plus déductibles fiscalement*, Le Temps, 09.01.2023

2022: *Le « mariage pour tous » entre en vigueur: quels changements financiers?*, Le Temps, 01.07.2022

2021:

- *Evolution dans le droit de l'entretien : quelles conséquences ?*, Bilan, Focus Femmes Modernes, 29.09.2021
- *Le contrat de mariage et ses limites*, Le Temps, 06.09.2021
- *Le Tribunal fédéral redéfinit l'homoparentalité*, Le Temps, 29.06.2021
- *Tour de vis sur les contributions d'entretien après divorce*, Le Temps, 29.04.2021
- *Le mariage perd de son importance – même en droit de la famille*, Bilan, Focus droit 2021, 30.03.2021
- *Comment divorcer en tant qu'entrepreneur ?*, Bilan, Focus Business Guide 2021, 23.02.2021
- *Mit einem Vertrag zur besseren Ehe – Neben der Wahl des Güterstands können Ehegatten zahlreiche weitere Abkommen schliessen*, NZZ, 22.02.2021
- *Les contributions d'entretien d'enfant en voie de changement*, Le Temps, 29.01.2021

2020: *Artwork has no « average price » – how Switzerland's Supreme Court evaluates a divorcing couple's collection of paintings*, Art Law Magazine, 12.2020

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

2024:

- *La rentrée scolaire, une période où les enlèvements d'enfants par un parent sont en hausse*, interview, RTS, La Matinale, 13.09.2024