



Dr. Frank Thomas

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Frank Thomas is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. He has extensive experience with domestic and cross-border financing, rail and aircraft finance transactions, infrastructure projects, privatizations, restructurings, public-private partnerships, and leasing, as well as advising public authorities or companies acting for public authorities.

His main focus is on projects and transactions in the following sectors: rail, aviation, technology, energy, and infrastructure, as well as utilities.

Frank advises companies, credit and financial services institutions, private equity funds, infrastructure funds, public transport authorities, state governments, and other public authorities.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Frank joined K&L Gates as a partner in January 2009. Prior to joining the firm, he was a partner in the Frankfurt office of an international law firm. Frank started his career at an international law firm before founding his own law firm.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers Germany* for Transportation: Rail & Aviation Asset Finance in Germany, 2025-2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer for Advice to the Transport Sector in Germany, 2024-2025
- Recognized by *Chambers Europe* for Transportation: Rail & Aviation Asset Finance in Germany, 2014-2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member of the German Lawyers' Association (DAV)
- Bar Association (*Rechtsanwaltskammer*) Frankfurt am Main

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Frank regularly speaks at national and international conferences on finance, transportation, infrastructure, and PPP matters. He is a member of the advisory board of *Privatbahn Magazin* and a representative of K&L Gates in the *Rail Working Group Association* on the implementation of international security over rolling stock.

EDUCATION

- Dr. jur., Frankfurt a.M., 1998 *Doctorate regarding Aircraft Leasing Fund*
- Second Legal State Exam, Higher Regional Court of Munich, 1996
- First Legal State Exam, University of Frankfurt, 1993

LANGUAGES

- English
- German

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- August 2018, Cleared for Landing

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Restructuring and Remediation Proceedings (*Restrukturierung und Sanierungsverfahren*), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA)* 01/2022 January/February, page 78 et seq., together with Dr. Georg Bernsau
- Leasing and Electromobility (*Leasing und Elektromobilität*), in: *BEM – Bundesverband eMobilität Online*, July 2016
- Net West: New Financing Project Continues to Grow (Netz West: Das neue Finanzierungsprojekt gewinnt weiter an Fahrt), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA)* 05/2015 September/October, page 48
- The Reform and Restructuring of the Approval Procedures for Rail Vehicles (*Die Reform und Neustrukturierung des Zulassungsverfahrens für Eisenbahnfahrzeuge*), *K&L Gates Transport Finance Alert*, 30 January 2015
- World champion virtues also in rail transport (*Weltmeisterliche Tugenden auch im Schienenverkehr*), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA) - Im Fokus*, 05/2014 September/October, page 4
- Regional Rail Carriage Financing: Possible Solutions (*SPNV-Fahrzeugfinanzierung: mögliche Lösungsansätze*), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA)* 03/2012 May/June, page 82
- Leasing or forfeiting – which way is the trend going? (*Leasing oder Forfaitierung – wohin geht der Trend?*), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA)* 05/2011 September/October, page 62

- Financing model for regional passenger transport in Switzerland (*Fahrzeugfinanzierungskonzept in der Schweiz*), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA)* 04/2011 July/August, page 76
- Structural deficits in the public transportation sector (*Strukturelle Defizite des SPNV-Marktes*), in: *Privatbahn Magazin (PRIMA)* 04/2011 July/August, page 49

NEWS & EVENTS

- 19 March 2026, K&L Gates Ranked in Chambers Guides Across European Regions
- 2 December 2025, K&L Gates Advises Rock Rail Holdings Limited and Infracapital on Regional Passenger Rail Transport Project Elektronetz Nord Magdeburg (ENORM) in Germany
- 8 October 2025, K&L Gates Advises Rock Rail Holdings Limited on Regional Passenger Rail Project Netz Nördliches Westfalen
- 2 September 2025, K&L Gates Advises Rock Rail Holdings Limited and Infracapital on Next Major Regional Passenger Rail Project in Germany
- 20 March 2025, K&L Gates Ranked in Chambers Guides Across European Regions
- 17 May 2024, K&L Gates Advises Rock Rail Holdings Limited and Infracapital on Next Regional Passenger Rail Project on the Mitteldeutsche S-Bahn Network in Germany
- 14 March 2024, K&L Gates Ranked in 2024 *Chambers Europe Guide*
- 9 January 2024, K&L Gates Advises Rock Rail Holdings Limited and Infracapital on Regional Passenger Rail Project in Germany
- 22 June 2023, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Throughout Europe Recognized in 2024 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 16 March 2023, K&L Gates Recognized in 2023 *Chambers Europe Guide*
- 17 March 2022, K&L Gates Recognized in 2022 Chambers Europe Guide
- 25 March 2021, K&L Gates Recognized in 2021 Chambers Europe Guide
- 6 January 2020, K&L Gates Advises KKR on Sale of European Locomotive Leasing
- 6 June 2016, K&L Gates Advises European Locomotive Leasing on Follow-up Financing with International Bank Consortium
- 26 May 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Earn Honors in Chambers Global, Regional Guides
- 6 May 2015, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers Global Guides

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Aviation Finance

- Construction and Infrastructure
- Construction and Infrastructure Project Funding
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Power
- Rail and Roads
- Rail Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Transportation and Logistics
- Transportation Finance

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advising a financial institution on the financing of 27 Alstom rail vehicles for operation by DB Regio AG on the local rail passenger transport network “S-Bahn Nürnberg.”
- Advising a regional state bank on the financing of 26 rail vehicles produced by the Polish manufacturer PESA for operation by DB Regio AG on the local rail passenger transport network “Dieselnetz Allgäu.”
- Advising private equity investor KKR on the foundation of European Locomotive Leasing (ELL) GmbH & Co. KG and on the syndicated loan financing with an international consortium of banks for 100 locomotives.
- Advising a railway undertaking for the Autozug Sylt Shuttle project.
- Advising a fund house and an infrastructure fund for the purchase and financing of 15 new Bombardier locomotives, 90 previously owned passenger cars, and three ALSTOM multiple units as part of the “Netz-West” tender (Hamburg – Westerland/Sylt line).