PRAGAL
Rechtsanwälte

Wirtschafts
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THE FIRM

Pragal Rechtsanwälte is a nationally recognised law firm based in Hamburg's HafenCity, specialising in criminal law, white-collar crime, internal investigations, compliance, crisis management, preventive criminal law advisory services and the representation of injured parties. Our clients include companies and discerning private individuals, as well as corporate decisionmakers, medical professionals, lawyers, public officials and public authorities.

JUVE, the renowned German trade journal for the commercial legal market, has recommended Dr. Oliver Pragal for many years as an experienced and highly regarded white-collar crime lawyer for individual and corporate defence as well as cross-border proceedings. Furthermore, the F.A.Z. Institut has recognised him as a "Top Lawyer". In addition, the business magazine Capital lists our firm as one of the top addresses in criminal law and white-collar crime. FOCUS-Business also lists us as one of the top law firms in white-collar crime.

Kristina Konrad, Salary Partner (employed), complements the firm with extensive experience in compliance advisory work, particularly in the areas of corporate governance and internal investigations. Furthermore, Maximilian Koch, a criminal defence lawyer with many years of experience, strengthens the firm as a Salary Partner (employed) in white-collar and tax criminal law as well as in the representation of injured parties in criminal proceedings.

We gladly take on the challenges of complex large-scale proceedings or demanding compliance crises. At the same time, one principle applies without exception: there are no "small" mandates.





LAWYERS

Dr. Oliver Pragal has decades of experience in criminal law and white-collar crime, as well as in managing compliance crises and conducting internal investigations. In cross-border investigations, he is supported by the Global Defence Alliance, an international network of colleagues across all jurisdictions that he founded.

Kristina Konrad, Salary Partner (employed), further strengthens the team as an experienced compliance specialist with decades of in-house experience, bringing a distinctly preventive and strategic advisory perspective.

Maximilian Koch brings many years of expertise in white-collar and tax criminal law to the firm. He defends individuals as well as companies in criminal and administrative offence proceedings, advises clients on internal investigations and is active in the representation of injured parties.

Our strong specialisation, combined with both overlapping and complementary experience, ensures an exceptionally high standard of advice, particularly in interdisciplinary crisis situations.

Our team is united by a genuine dedication to the profession and a shared understanding of its core values: a passionate commitment to our clients' interests and the highest level of precision in handling mandates, combined with uncompromising integrity.

DR. OLIVER PRAGAL, LL.M. (CAPE TOWN)

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Dr. Oliver Pragal has been admitted as a lawyer since 2007 and has been a certified specialist in criminal law since 2012. His practice focuses primarily on criminal law, white-collar and medical criminal law, as well as compliance advisory work. He represents individuals and regularly also advises and defends companies, particularly in compliance crises.

JUVE Verlag has recommended Dr. Pragal for many years as “technically outstanding, competent and prudent”.

Dr. Pragal is a certified compliance officer (C.H.Beck) and co-author of the handbook “Richtiges Verhalten in der Compliance-Krise” (Proper Conduct in a Compliance Crisis), edited by Dr. Philipp Engelhoven. Since 2013, he has been a member of the Criminal Law Committee of the Hanseatic Bar Association in Hamburg and now serves as its Chair.

He is also a member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and, since 2026, an Officer of the IBA Criminal Law Committee. Through the Global Defence Alliance, he has access to a worldwide network across all relevant jurisdictions.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Admitted as a lawyer since 2007
- Certified Specialist in Criminal Law since 2012
- Certified Compliance Officer (C.H.Beck)
- Member of the International Bar Association (IBA) since 2019; Officer of the Criminal Law Committee since 2026
- Founder of the criminal defence firm Pragal Rechtsanwälte (since 2026)
- Co-founder and Managing Partner of a renowned criminal defence firm (2024–2026)
- Co-founder and Managing Partner of a renowned criminal defence firm (2010–2023)
- Member since 2013 and now Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the Hanseatic Bar Association in Hamburg
- Master’s programme with a focus on criminal law at the University of Cape Town (South Africa)
- Research Assistant and doctoral candidate at Bucerius Law School, Hamburg (2002–2005); doctoral thesis on bribery and corruption in commercial practice
- Law studies at Christian-Albrechts-Universität in Kiel (1997–2001)



KRISTINA KONRAD

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Kristina Konrad is a lawyer and a certified compliance officer (University) as well as a certified AI compliance officer (Bitkom). She has many years of in-house experience in legal, compliance and corporate governance departments of both large corporations and medium-sized companies.

Her advisory work focuses on the development, implementation and enhancement of compliance management systems and corporate governance structures, as well as on conducting internal investigations, implementing anti-corruption measures and providing strategic advice to, among others, regulated companies (for example in the energy sector).

Ms Konrad has served as head and coordinator of the compliance network of companies affiliated with the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and as head of the Northern Regional Group of the German Association of Compliance Managers (Berufsverband der Compliance Manager e.V., BCM). She is well connected within relevant professional associations.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Certified AI Compliance Officer, Bitkom (2025)
- Admitted as a lawyer since 2025
- Certified Compliance Officer, Univ. (2014)
- 2014–2025: Compliance Officer and Unbundling Officer (German Energy Industry Act – EnWG) at Hamburger Energienetze GmbH
- 2007–2014: Senior Legal Counsel and Deputy Compliance Officer at Senvion SE
- 2003–2004: Junior Lawyer at Janssen Foreign Law Office and Research Assistant at Ochanomizu Law and Patent Office, Tokyo
- Law studies at the Universities of Münster, Trier and Osaka, as well as specialised foreign language training in Japanese law (FFA)
- Secretary General of the German-Japanese Lawyers' Association (Deutsch-Japanische Juristenvereinigung e.V.)



MAXIMILIAN KOCH

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Maximilian Koch has been practising as a lawyer in white-collar and tax criminal law since 2018 and represents both individuals and companies in demanding criminal proceedings as well as in administrative offence proceedings.

His legal practice focuses, among other things, on proceedings concerning fraud, breach of trust and corruption offences, as well as insolvency and employment criminal law. He also handles complex corporate-related criminal law matters.

Furthermore, Maximilian Koch represents injured parties in criminal proceedings (for example in the form of criminal complaints, joint-plaintiff representation and so-called “adhesion proceedings”) and advises companies on selected compliance and risk matters, particularly in connection with the prevention of money laundering, anti-corruption and criminal law risks in corporate transactions.

Prior to joining Pragal Rechtsanwälte, Maximilian Koch worked as a lawyer for eight years at a renowned boutique firm for white-collar and tax criminal law.

VITA

- Salary Partner (employed) at Pragal Rechtsanwälte (since 2026)
- Lawyer at a renowned boutique firm for white-collar and tax criminal law (2018–2026)
- Second State Examination (2018)
- Legal traineeship at the Hanseatic Higher Regional Court (2015–2018)
- Research Assistant at an international law firm (2015)
- First State Examination (2015)
- Law studies at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg and Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (2009–2015)



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EXPERTISE

Our core expertise lies in the defence and advisory of individuals and companies in white-collar and tax criminal law, in complex administrative offence proceedings, as well as in cross-border investigations. Where foreign authorities are involved, the firm is supported by the Global Defence Alliance, providing access to a worldwide network of highly regarded colleagues across all key jurisdictions. In addition, we take on the representation of injured parties in legal proceedings to effectively enforce claims for damages.

We also provide comprehensive advice to companies in the areas of compliance and corporate governance. A particular focus lies on the structuring and review of compliance management systems, as well as on the integration of regulatory requirements, for example in connection with ESG matters or the use of artificial intelligence.

A further key area of our work is the design and conduct of internal investigations, as well as the execution of criminal due diligence to assess criminal law risks, particularly in the context of transactions or suspected misconduct.

In the area of crisis management, we support companies in the strategic handling of compliance and criminal law crises, including coordination with authorities and the development and management of crisis communication.

CRIMINAL DEFENCE & CRIMINAL LAW

- White-collar criminal law
- Tax criminal law
- Individual defence
- Corporate defence
- Medical criminal law
- Cross-border defence
- Representation of injured parties
- Global Defence Alliance
- Representation of witnesses in criminal or civil proceedings
- Representation in parliamentary committees of inquiry

COMPLIANCE

- Compliance management systems
- Compliance audits and training
- Preparation for regulatory inspections and dawn raids
- Whistleblowing systems
- Corporate governance
- Compliance in regulated industries
- ESG and AI compliance
- External compliance officer

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

- Conduct of internal investigations
- Criminal due diligence

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- Strategic management of compliance crises



CRIMINAL DEFENCE AND CRIMINAL LAW

We practise criminal defence with a firm commitment to the rule of law and a deep sense of professional dedication.

Our practice covers all areas of criminal law and administrative offence law, with a particular focus on white-collar and tax criminal law. We defend individuals and companies in both investigative and trial proceedings as well as in regulatory and judicial fine proceedings, often involving complex economic or international aspects. These include, by way of example, cases concerning allegations of fraud, breach of trust, corruption, tax evasion, violations of foreign trade regulations or breaches of compliance and organisational duties.

We also advise and represent doctors, hospitals, medical care centres and other healthcare providers in medical criminal law matters. In cross-border proceedings – such as extradition matters or investigations conducted by European authorities – we have extensive experience and work closely with a well-established international network.

Beyond traditional defence work, we assist injured companies and private individuals in criminal proceedings. We handle the representation of witnesses and support injured parties in enforcing their rights, ranging from filing criminal complaints and joint-plaintiff representation to asserting claims, for example in adhesion proceedings.

COMPLIANCE

Compliance is not a status, but a strategy with attitude.

Our core advisory areas in compliance range from the implementation of compliance management systems (IDW PS 980, ISO 37301) and corporate governance structures to strategic advice for companies (including regulated companies, e.g. in the energy sector) as well as in connection with artificial intelligence.

We advise companies as well as corporate bodies and executives comprehensively on all relevant compliance matters. A particular focus lies on the establishment and further development of compliance structures – particularly in the field of tax compliance and the prevention of corporate fines –, support in compliance crises and internal investigations, as well as the assessment of criminal law risks in corporate decision-making processes (criminal due diligence).

Our aim is to create legally sound, effective and practical structures that enable companies to identify risks at an early stage and manage them responsibly.





INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Careful fact-finding and strategic oversight

Companies today face increasing compliance requirements and regulatory obligations. Allegations of legal violations, white-collar crime or internal irregularities can have significant financial, reputational and criminal consequences and must therefore be properly investigated.

A carefully planned and professionally conducted internal investigation is essential in order to establish and assess the underlying facts, implement legally sound measures and improve the compliance management system.

We have many years of experience in the design, conduct and legal oversight of internal investigations. In situations of crisis, we support you in the thorough and, where necessary, legally robust investigation of suspected misconduct. Beyond the investigation itself, we support you in legal proceedings and the enforcement of claims for damages. Our aim always remains to protect you and your company and to preserve your ability to act.
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CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Effective crisis management requires swift action and a clear overview.

In today's business environment, compliance crises pose a serious risk to companies. Compliance breaches can quickly escalate and spread within an organisation, while also damaging relationships with employees, clients and shareholders.

To avoid serious consequences, it is essential for companies to respond to compliance breaches promptly and appropriately, while maintaining a measured approach. This includes a careful analysis of the underlying issues, a precise assessment of likely scenarios, cooperation with authorities where necessary, a review of the compliance management system and internal governance structures, and, not least, a considered communication strategy aimed at limiting damage.

Our firm has many years of experience in guiding companies through compliance crises and has successfully supported numerous organisations in critical situations. With our strategic approach to crisis management and our comprehensive legal expertise, we act as a reliable partner, ensuring that you remain able to act effectively, even in complex crisis situations.





GLOBAL DEFENCE ALLIANCE

For many years, we have been advising and representing clients in cross-border investigations, for example in proceedings involving foreign prosecuting authorities, including the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Typical matters include defence against extradition requests, European Arrest Warrants (EAW), international arrest warrants and Interpol Red Notices, as well as European Investigation Orders and the assertion of the principle of ne bis in idem.

In such cross-border proceedings, our clients regularly benefit from the Global Defence Alliance, our global network of highly regarded colleagues across all key jurisdictions. The Global Defence Alliance was founded by Dr. Oliver Pragal, who has for many years been a member of the International Bar Association (IBA), an Officer of the IBA Criminal Law Committee and a member of the European Criminal Bar Association (ECBA).

The purpose of the Global Defence Alliance is to provide our clients, where required and without delay, with access to a network of carefully selected, highly qualified lawyers worldwide, most of whom we know personally and with many of whom we have previously worked.

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