

# KOČIÁN ŠOLC BALAŠTIK Profile

PRAGUE KARLOVY VARY OSTRAVA

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ŠOLC  
BALAŠTIK  
ADVOKÁTNÍ KANCELÁŘ

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## Who we are

Law firm Kočian Šolc Baláštík, also known as KSB, was established in 1990. Since then, KSB has evolved from a small, traditional partnership into a large, modern law firm advising both domestic and foreign clients, ranging from small entrepreneurs to large multinational corporations. Without KSB's ability to understand and respond to the particular needs of each client's sphere of business, neither this transformation nor the firm's on-going growth would be possible.

KSB is recognised as one of the largest law firms in the Czech Republic. With more than sixty lawyers and tax advisers, KSB forms an integrated team providing legal services covering all sectors vital to business. The cooperation and close support of its members strengthens the firm's image as a group of knowledgeable and experienced individuals. Our professional experience in a wide spectrum of legal areas allows us to offer sound strategic advice. We provide advice not only in Czech, but also in major European languages.

The majority of KSB's advisers work at its main office in Prague, but KSB also offers legal services through its branches in Karlovy Vary (since 1990) and in Ostrava (since 2009), which satisfy local business needs. KSB was the first Czech law firm to operate a branch in Brussels, which satisfied the needs of our clients relating to the Czech Republic's accession to the European Union and helped to make their first years in this integrated market easier.

In the period of its existence, KSB and its attorneys were recognised by way of important international and domestic awards. The most important of these awards is the repeated title of Czech law firm of the year.

## What we offer

Our law firm aims to provide complex professional advice fully appreciative of the client's differentiated needs and which is specific to the client's particular business. Our priority is understanding the client's goals. Rather than spend time enumerating potential obstacles, we try to suggest and help to implement the best way of achieving what the client wants.

We prefer innovation to tradition, practical application to theory, common sense and flexibility to rigid formalism. We do not deal with details out of context but try to grasp the broader picture. The fact that many KSB advocates also have qualifications in different fields (e.g. economics and the natural sciences) strengthens this approach.

A modern approach to clients' business interests goes hand in hand with practicing established values in the legal profession. We consider professional ethics to be the most reliable basis for building long-term and sound relationships with our clients.

For us, advocacy is not just work. It is the cornerstone of a legal state. We are active in public life and help to organise the legal profession and play a pro-active part in international professional organisations.

We wish to be perceived by clients and colleagues as friendly, loyal, intuitive and communicative, as well as professional.

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## We are not alone

KSB's clients – both domestic and foreign – often transact cross-border projects. We have therefore fostered good working relationships with lawyers and tax advisers world-wide. This web of professional and personal relations creates a natural basis for mutual assistance and the exchange of information and experience in many areas.

KSB places particular emphasis on its close relationships with major European law firms, which allow us to offer coordinated legal services at the international level, in particular in the Central European region.

KSB has formalised its co-operation with many prominent law firms in other countries. KSB is a founding member of the World Services Group, the worldwide network of law firms and other professionals. We are also active in other international organisations and alliances.

KSB and its advisers are ever more active participants in international professional organisations of attorneys and tax advisers. Our participation in senior management positions of the International Bar Association provides an example of the respect accorded to our attorneys' long-term involvement in international activities.

## European dimension

Our experience gained through our former branch in Brussels, as well as the experiences which many of us have gained studying Community law abroad or on secondment to EU Institutions, enhance our ability to advise on matters arising out of Community law.

We understand that the concept of closed, truly national laws must be left behind and that this must be reflected in our various specialisations. Community law is no longer a matter reserved to a limited circle of specialists, but forms an intrinsic part of our knowledge and practice.

Our efforts in this respect are particularly useful due to the fact that our clients' real needs have expanded to a broader, more European dimension. We are always ready to provide analysis and legal opinions on questions related to Community law. We also keep our clients up to date in respect of legislation under preparation and important European Union decisions underway, while simultaneously identifying the resulting business impact. We are able to represent our clients' interests before EU bodies as well in proceedings at European court institutions.

Our offer of services extends to municipalities, regions and other entities wishing to draw upon European Funds.

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## Everything for the client

We seek to shield our clients from unnecessary risks and protect them from mistakes. To maintain the high quality of our services, we never cease in our quest to improve our skills and the application of the law. We have an internal system of regular continuing education and play an active role at professional conferences and seminars. Several of our attorneys lecture at universities and publish specialist articles.

We understand the importance of making the right decision at the right time. It is our policy to monitor proposed legal provisions before they become law. We even contribute to the drafting of new laws and take part in the legislative process. In addition, we have a presence on the Government's Legislative Council.

The client always comes first. Professional care on our part is complemented by comprehensive protective measures. We rely on internal systems to establish and avoid conflicts of interest and facilitate quality control. Our clients can also rest assured that we are covered by quality professional indemnity insurance.

## How we work

Our aim is the speedy and sophisticated provision of legal and tax services to our clients. A fundamental part of achieving this goal is the way in which we work and the efficiency of that work.

The search for quality must be imbued with an overriding awareness of the time and financial costs of any given solution. We believe that teamwork is the most effective tool in this regard. Teams facilitate effective and flexible control of individual tasks, monitoring the quality of our performance and the competitiveness of the price.

Each client matter is handled by teams comprising lawyers with the requisite skills and experience in the particular area of law (such as company law, M&A, capital markets, litigation and arbitration and competition law) and other experts from the firm. Relevant specialists and tax advisers work closely with core teams to achieve the best solutions to the given issues.

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- > company and commercial law
- > M&A
- > securities and capital markets
- > financial law and law of financial institutions
- > due diligence
- > competition law
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- > finance from European funds
- > tax law (all direct and indirect taxes)
- > customs law
- > social and health insurance matters

## Our clients

Our clients come from extremely varied business backgrounds. To illustrate KSB's breadth and depth of experience in advising the business community, below are just some of the industrial sectors in which KSB has acted:

- > advertising and marketing
- > automotive industry
- > banking and financial services
- > building substances and materials
- > chemicals
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- > energy
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- > glass
- > insurance
- > IT
- > media and film
- > mineral extraction and processing
- > pharmaceuticals
- > telecommunications
- > transport and aviation

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## Profile

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- > IT
- > media and film
- > mineral extraction and processing
- > pharmaceuticals
- > telecommunications
- > transport and aviation



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