

MARIA OBERLIN-CHIRIAEVA
PARTNER

FRENCH, ENGLISH, RUSSIAN

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EXPERTISE —————

Maria Oberlin-Chiriaeva, Partner at Borel & Barbey, advises private and institutional clients in banking and financial law, with a particular focus on regulatory and contractual aspects related to financial services and products.

With extensive experience in financial sanctions and anti-money laundering, she guides our clients in managing compliance-related risks and within internal investigations.

Maria Oberlin-Chiriaeva's expertise also encompasses insurance and fintech, as well as transactional operations in the financial sector and corporate governance issues.

Fluent in Russian, she advises Russian-speaking clients on banking, investments, relocation, and cross-border matters, helping them navigate legal and regulatory requirements across different countries.

She also regularly participates in banking conferences as a speaker or moderator and provides in-house training to financial institutions.

PRACTICE AREAS —————

Banking & Finance

Financial Institutions · FINMA Authorisations · Financial Services Regulation · FINMA Enforcement · Corporate Financing · Fintech Law · Banking Investigations

Corporate Law & M&A

Private Equity & Venture Capital · Mergers & Acquisitions

Litigation & Arbitration

White-Collar Crime

EXPERIENCES —————

- Since 2024: Partner at Borel & Barbey
- 2021 - 2023: Associate at Borel & Barbey
- 2012 - 2021: Associate at a law Firm in Geneva
- 2015: Foreign Associate at Slaughter and May, London, United Kingdom

EDUCATION —————

- 2023: Certificate in Mastering Board Governance, International Institute for Management Development



(IMD)

- 2012: Geneva Bar
- 2009: Certificate in Transnational Law, University of Geneva
- 2009: Master in Commercial Law, University of Geneva
- 2008: Bachelor of Law (BLaw), University of Geneva

MEMBERSHIPS _____

- Geneva Bar Association (ODAGE)
- Swiss Bar Association (FSA)
- Association genevoise du droit des affaires (AGDA)

PUBLICATIONS _____

2026:

- “FINMA has published Guidance 01/2026 on the custody of crypto-based assets”, 13 January 2026 (with Marc Freymond and Julien Dayer)

2025:

- “The Swiss Federal Council launches a consultation aiming at advancing Swiss crypto and stablecoin regulation”, 27 October 2025 (with Marc Freymond and Julien Dayer)
- “The Swiss Federal Administrative Court has annulled FINMA’s Decision on Credit Suisse AT1 Bonds (B-2334/2023)”, 14 October 2025 (with Nicolas Piérard and Julien Dayer)
- “Swiss Parliament adopts motion on dividend and executive pay rules at systemically important banks”, 14 October 2025 (with Julien Dayer)
- “Stablecoins: the BIS Flags Risks, the U.S. Seize Opportunity by passing the GENIUS Act – Where Does Switzerland Stand?”, August 2025 (with Marc Freymond)
- “Swiss Supreme Court Clarifies Self-Incrimination Protection in FINMA Proceedings”, August 2025 (with Julien Dayer)
- “International Administrative Assistance between Regulators – SFAC Confirms FINMA Practice”, June 2025 (with Julien Dayer)

2022:

- “Finanzmarktrechtliche Amtshilfen”, *Interne Untersuchungen : eine umfassende Darstellung der rechtlichen und praktischen Aspekte, inklusive Amts- und Rechtshilfe und Kooperation mit Behörden*, 1 éd., Basel, Helbing Lichtenhahn, 2022, § 19, 687- 711
- “Les Limited Qualified Investors Funds (« L – QIFs »)”, *Bilan, Focus Droit*, May 2022

2021:

- “Private, Banking & Wealth Management 2021” – Switzerland, *Getting the Deal Through*, August 2021, p. 52 – 62 (with du Pasquier S., Poskriakov F.)
- “The Banking Regulation Review 2021 – Switzerland”, *The Law Reviews* 12th edition, April 2021, p. 562 – 582 (with du Pasquier S., Hünerwadel P., Tranchet M. and Menoud V.)
- “Public Investment Funds 2021 – Switzerland”, in : *International Comparative Legal Guide*, April 2021, p. 99- 106 (with du Pasquier S.)

2020:



- “Cryptocurrency compliance and risks : A European KYC/AML perspective”, Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Regulation 2021, Global Legal Insight, 3rd edition, October 2020 (with Poskriakov F. et Cavin C.)
- “The Asset Management Review 2020 – Switzerland”, The Law Reviews 9th edition, September 2020, p. 326 – 338 (with du Pasquier S.)
- “The Banking Regulation Review 2020 – Switzerland”, The Law Reviews 11th edition, June 2020 (with du Pasquier S., Hünerwadel P., Tranchet M. et Menoud V.)
- “The Private Equity Review 2020 – Fundraising – Switzerland”, The Law Reviews 9th edition, May 2020, p. 205- 216 (with Poskriakov F. et Sakkal I.)
- “Public Investment Funds 2020 – Switzerland”, The International Comparative Legal Guide, April 2020, p. 104- 112 (with du Pasquier S.)

2019:

- “Private Banking & Wealth Management 2020 – Switzerland”, Getting the Deal Through, October 2019, p. 74 – 84 (with du Pasquier S., Breitenstein S. et Poskriakov F.)
- “The Private Equity Review 2019 – Fundraising – Switzerland”, The Law Reviews 8th edition, June 2019, p. 222- 232 (with Poskriakov F. et Sakkal I.)
- “Public Investment Funds 2019 – Switzerland”, The International Comparative Legal Guide, April 2019, p. 107 – 112 (with du Pasquier S.)
- “Private Equity 2019 (Fund Formation) – Switzerland”, Getting the Deal Through, March 2019, p. 135- 141 (with du Pasquier S.)
- “Banking Regulation 2019 – Switzerland”, Getting the Deal Through, March 2019, p. 107 – 116 (with Hünerwadel P., du Pasquier S., Tranchet M. et Sakkal I.)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS —————

2026:

- “Banking outsourcing in the digital age: managing risks and regulatory challenges”, Geneva International Legal Week, Geneva, 10 March 2026

2025:

- “Money Laundering and Regulatory Compliance in the philanthropic sector”, DAS – Strategic and Operational Philanthropy, University of Geneva, 1 November 2025 (with Anne Laure Bandle)
- “Banking and Finance: Practical Legal Insights from Industry Experts”, Geneva International Legal Week, Geneva, 11 March 2025 (moderator)

2024:

- “Violation de l’obligation de communiquer selon l’art. 37 LBA – Point de situation et réflexions à la lumière de la jurisprudence récente”, Corporate & Banking Lunch, Borel & Barbey, 7 & 28 May 2024

2023:

- “Devoirs de diligence dans les transactions d’art”, Art Lunch, Borel & Barbey, 18 April 2023

2021:

- “Identification and verification of the beneficial owner”, Academy & Finance, Geneva, 24 November 2021



2019:

- “FinSA 2020 – Fundamental changes for the cross-border provision of financial services and fund distribution”, AIMA Global Policy and Regulatory Forum, New York

2018:

- “Switzerland – Private placement in the digital age – key regulatory developments”, AIMA Global Policy and Regulatory Forum, Dublin