

Independent lawyer in Zurich and Basel.

Jonas Hertner

Disputes. Governance. Law & AI.

For boards, owners and legal teams. For families, foundations and individuals.

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NOTES Law & AI

27 July 2026

AI can widen legal review

All notes · jonashertner.com/notes/

27 July 2026

Public by law

27 July 2026

A separate view of a dispute

WORK

Advice, review & representation.

Legal work before conflict

Advice to boards, owners and legal teams before a decision becomes difficult to reverse. The work clarifies what the law permits or requires, where a dispute could arise, what to document and who has authority to decide. For recurring questions, it establishes a process the organisation can use again.

Disputes and investigations

Advice and representation in Swiss and cross-border civil and criminal matters, including shareholder disputes, financial disputes and corporate criminal liability. The work covers investigations, negotiation, mediation and proceedings before Swiss courts and authorities.

Families, foundations and individuals

Advice on ownership, governance, business and asset transactions, and succession; representation in shareholder and financial disputes and investigations. The work takes account of the people, relationships and interests behind the legal structure.

AI for legal work and governance

Define the task and sources before choosing or building an AI system. Establish who may decide, what must be checked, how exceptions are handled and what must be recorded. The organisation retains its knowledge, controls the process and can explain its decisions. Legal agents inside the organisation sets out the operating model. More at Rule & Reason.

Independent review of major disputes

An independent assessment for boards, owners and family offices facing a major dispute: what the case turns on, what the evidence supports, the possible recovery or liability, and the cost of each option. The review informs the decision to proceed, fund or settle.

Constitutional law and fundamental rights

Advice and representation in Swiss proceedings involving state action and protected rights, including questions arising from the environment and emerging technology, with counsel abroad where needed.

METHOD

Purpose before process.

Four questions guide the work. They help resolve the immediate issue and shape any process the organisation will need to use again.

Purpose	What must be achieved, decided or protected?
Evidence	What is known, uncertain or disputed?
Law	What does the law permit, require or restrict? What is at risk?
Course	What is the simplest sound response: legal advice or action, a change in practice, a tool or no intervention?

Independent legal judgment

A reasoned answer

The advice explains what the evidence supports, where assumptions remain, how the law applies and how the available options compare. The lawyer remains responsible for that advice.

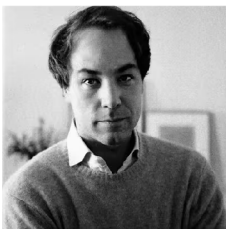
Organisational capability

A reliable method

The organisation can return to the sources, apply the same checks and understand why earlier decisions were made. Tools perform defined tasks; people retain authority and responsibility.

PROFILE

Experience & perspective.



Jonas Hertner is an independent Swiss lawyer. For more than a decade, he has worked on Swiss and cross-border matters. He advises directly, provides independent review and works alongside existing counsel. Rule & Reason brings together legal advice, AI implementation and organisational knowledge.

Public benefit practice

Alongside the independent practice, head lawyer at Regenerative Law.

Private practice

Helped establish the Swiss office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan.

Earlier work

Non-profit organisations, the Directorate of International Law of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Court of Appeal of Basel-Stadt.

Education

Law degrees from the Universities of Lucerne and Geneva (with distinction).

Public work

Built OpenCaseLaw and wrote The Good Board.

Languages

English, German and French.

PUBLIC WORK

Work in the open.

These projects and [notes](#) make legal sources, practical guidance and working methods available for others to use and examine.

Open legal infrastructure
opencaselaw.ch

OpenCaseLaw

An open, machine-readable corpus of Swiss court decisions and legislation, built for source-linked research.

Corporate governance
thegoodboard.ch

The Good Board

A practical guide to Swiss corporate governance, organised around the decisions boards face. Jonas Hertner also helps board members develop and use AI tools tailored to their research and decision-making.

Framework
/ 2026-08-27
/agents

Legal agents inside the organisation

A framework for keeping legal knowledge inside the organisation, giving AI agents defined tasks and retaining human responsibility for decisions.

Supporting note: [Legal work that stays useful](#) (jonashertner.com/pivot/). How sources, checks and decision records can serve the next matter.

Contact

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In your first email, name the people and entities involved so that conflicts of interest can be checked. Put any deadline at the start, but do not rely on sending an email to meet it. Send confidential information only through an agreed secure channel.

Automated systems Human confirmation is required before sending a message or acting for anyone.

Independent practice / Revised 2026-09-14

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