

Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General



Christophe Bernasconi joined the Permanent Bureau in September 1997 as Secretary. He became First Secretary in May 2000 (first in rank in December 2001), Deputy Secretary General in July 2011, and Secretary General on 1 July 2013.

He holds a law degree from Fribourg University in Switzerland (*magna cum laude*; bilingual German and French), an LL.M. degree from McGill University in Montreal (Canada) in comparative law (with a Master's Thesis on Oligopolies in unfair competition law), and a doctoral degree from Fribourg University (*summa cum laude*). He was awarded various prizes for his doctoral thesis on the characterisation process in private international law (incl. the *Peter Jaeggi* Prize for the best doctoral thesis in private law of the academic year).

At the Permanent Bureau, he has primary responsibility for all work relating to the legal and administrative cooperation Conventions (Apostille, Service, Evidence, Access to Justice) and the finance law Convention (Securities). In that capacity, he has been responsible for various Special Commission, Experts and Working Group meetings. He also administers the broad range of post-Convention services provided by the Permanent Bureau in these fields and is the designer and principal administrator of the electronic Apostille Program (e-APP). He has also been closely following and/or actively involved in work relating to other Hague Conventions, in particular in the fields of child protection and jurisdiction/judgments.

In addition to carrying out a broad range of legal work at the Permanent Bureau, he is also actively involved in the administrative planning and operation of the Permanent Bureau and the Organisation in general.

Before joining the Permanent Bureau, he was assistant to Professor Paul Volken at the University of Fribourg, where he taught extensively in private international law. He also worked as Legal Expert at the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, and as Scientific Collaborator at the Federal Office of Justice in Switzerland.

He speaks excellent French, English and German (mother tongue), and has good passive and basic active Dutch.

Christophe Bernasconi was a Member of the Model Notary Act Revision Committee (USA), which produced the Model Notary Act 2010, published by the National Notary Association (NNA). He was a Member of the International Bar Association Capital Markets Forum Subcommittee on Legal Certainty for Intermediated Securities (now dissolved). He also was *Co-Rapporteur* of the International Law Association's former Committee on Transnational Enforcement of Environmental law. He is Honorary Fellow of the Australian New Zealand College of Notaries (ANZCN), and an Inaugural Member of the Editorial Board of a proposed journal on international notarial practice. He taught at the Hague Academy of International Law (Seminars in 2000, full course on Hague Securities Convention in 2004).