

THIS ISSUE

[News](#) ▶

[Deals](#) ▶

[Features](#) ▶

[Comment](#) ▶

[Surveys](#) ▶

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News - International News

[◀ back](#)

CC Pünder employment team quits

25/2/2002

Catrin Griffiths

A top employment team from Clifford Chance Pünder's Düsseldorf office has resigned from the firm, citing client conflict as an increasing frustration

The group, led by Michael Kliemt, is launching a national labour law practice - Kliemt & Vollstadt - to target work from major German corporates. The firm will be based in Düsseldorf, but Kliemt plans to open other offices in the major commercial centres of Germany, with Berlin high on the list.

Kliemt, who joined the firm from Wessing's Düsseldorf office in 1997, is also understood to have been frustrated by Clifford Chance Pünder's chargeout structure, which did not sit well with his client base.

This is not the first time that conflicts have hindered the growth of non-core practice areas in Germany. A telecoms team led by Thomas Heymann - another former Wessing lawyer - left for the same reasons to join Wilkie Farr & Gallagher (The Lawyer, 3 July 2000)

[◀ back](#)

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