

Europe

Maverick boutique opens in Amsterdam

Tom Webb • Thursday, 5 September 2013 (2 weeks ago)

The Netherlands' first competition and regulatory boutique Maverick Advocaten has opened in Amsterdam.



Founding partners Martijn Van de Hel, Diederik Schrijvershof and Bas Braeken.

Maverick is the first boutique to exclusively focus on competition law, economic regulation and consumer law. Its founding partners are Bas Braeken, Diederik Schrijvershof and Martijn Van de Hel. 36 year-old Van de Hel, voted the Netherlands' best young competition lawyer in 2007, has left Boekel De Nerée to set up the firm.

Schrijvershof, 35, was a senior associate at Van Doorne, and 37 year-old Braeken was a senior associate at Stibbe.

Van de Hel says: "To support clients successfully, it is essential for lawyers with complementary skills and expertise to pool their strengths."

He points to the varied work its founders have taken on. Braeken recently assisted on the [Motorhuis failure to notify case](#), and has extensive experience on regulated markets. Van de Hel has acted for clients under investigation by Dutch and European competition authorities, as well as advising on joint ventures, distribution and franchise agreements.

Schrijvershof specialises in health care and pharmaceuticals, and was seconded to Shell's in-house antitrust department. All three have broad experience in Dutch and European competition law.

"Our lawyers are all experienced in competition law but have different specialisations and backgrounds," says Van de Hel. "We complement one another perfectly and can make a difference to our clients."

Braeken says: "This is a very exciting time, and we've been working hard to build the firm. We noticed that clients became more cost-sensitive after the crisis, but still want high quality work. There has also been a trend for new boutiques developing on the Dutch market, but we found that they didn't focus on competition law. We think that we can add value to the market."

"We plan to grow," he adds, "but we don't aim to be a big, full-service firm. We want to maintain our focus."

Schrijvershof emphasises the boutique's unique position. "There is a growing need for high-quality support at lower rates than those charged by the majority of firms," he says. "Since the [Authority for Consumers & Markets](#) was formed through the amalgamation of the Netherlands Competition Authority, the Independent Post and Telecommunications Authority and the Netherlands Consumer Authority, many changes have been taking place in the nature of regulation."

Frederieke Leeflang, partner at Boekel De Nerée in Amsterdam, says: "With the setting up of one authority in the Netherlands for consumer rights and competition law, there seems to be a clear demand in the market for niche players focusing on consumer rights and competition law work. Maverick jumps in that space."

Christof Swaak of Stibbe in Amsterdam says: "We see this as a logical and positive step in Bas [Braeken]'s career. We wish him and his friends at Maverick all the best."

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