Düsseldorf, 31 March 2016

New Law Firm: Life Sciences Boutique starts in Düsseldorf

_Düsseldorf, Germany._ On 1 April 2016, Maria Heil (39), Christian Hübner (35), Dr. Alexander Natz (43) and Marc Oeben (37) start the new boutique law firm NOVACOS in Düsseldorf. NOVACOS will fully focus on business law advice in the life sciences and healthcare sector.

The new law firm combines many years of experience as lawyers in the healthcare sector with corresponding in-house experience, work in trade associations and corporate law expertise. Both Heil and Hübner come from Clifford Chance, where they, together with Oeben, had many years been part of the renowned healthcare practice, Hübner additionally also in the Corporate/M&A-group. Since the end of 2014, Oeben supervised the healthcare division of Linde AG in Munich. Former Straeter-attorney Natz, director general of an international association of medium-sized pharmaceutical companies based in Brussels, has worked in his own practice since 2013.

The founding partners of NOVACOS in particular advice national and global pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies in relation to all facets of health law. In addition to regulatory advice in drug and medical device law, the offering of NOVACOS also includes advice in the areas of drug advertising law, product liability and product safety, data privacy and "e-Health". In the person of Natz, NOVACOS also has expertise in the areas of reimbursement and market access. The same applies to the area of compliance in the healthcare sector, which will be a further focus of NOVACOS due to Heil’s and Oeben’s many years of experience in this field.

In addition, drafting and negotiating sector-specific contracts and advising on M&A transactions in the healthcare sector will be a focus of the new law firm. These areas are the main focus of Hübner who has extensive experience in organizing, negotiating and implementing M&A transactions. Likewise, Heil and Oeben advised on numerous transactions from a regulatory perspective, Heil in particular involving hospitals, nursing homes and medical care centers. All three were for example part of the team which advised Bayer on the acquisition of Steigerwald. Primarily in the fields of healthcare M&A and contract drafting, the offering of NOVACOS is also directed at financial investors and other law firms without a corresponding regulatory team.

With ever increasing demand for advice in the highly regulated life sciences and healthcare sector and increasingly cost-sensitive industrial companies, the founding partners of NOVACOS see a significant market potential. "Our goal is to support healthcare companies with our experience long term in a
custom-fit and efficient manner and at the highest standards. As entrepreneurially minded consultants, we want to create added value for our clients ", so the founding partners.

About the founding partners

**Maria Heil** since 2004 advises on pharmaceutical and medical device law, compliance matters in the healthcare sector and questions of reimbursement and data protection. In addition, Heil supports companies with drafting complex regulatory agreements and also has extensive experience in advising strategic clients, financial investors and financial institutions in national and international M&A projects with respect to the sector-specific characteristics of such transactions. Her particular focus in this field is on medical institutions. She inter alia advised HgCapital on the sale of Casa Reha-group and Korian on the acquisition of Curanum AG.

**Christian Hübner** since 2010 primarily advises on M&A transactions and cooperations in the healthcare sector. He was inter alia part of the teams of Clifford Chance which recently advised the Japanese chemical conglomerate DENKA on the acquisition of the German biotech company ICON Genetics and Pfizer on the sale of a biosimilar development product to Sandoz. A further focus area of Hübner is the drafting and negotiating of contracts in the life sciences and healthcare sector as well as advice on sector-specific marketing and distribution matters, including the law on advertising in the healthcare sector. Prior to joining Clifford Chance, Hübner already gained M&A experience at a German mid-cap investment holding.

**Dr. Alexander Natz**, attorney since 2004, advises innovative companies of the life sciences and healthcare industry, primarily start-ups from the pharmaceutical, medical device and biotech sector. He has particular expertise with the European legal framework with a view to the lifecycle management, distribution as well as the market authorization of and clinical trials for pharmaceuticals. A main focus of his practice are market access and reimbursement matters in Germany such as the early-benefit-assessment, rebate agreements, the DRG-system, NUB-applications and assessment procedures of the G-BA for medical devices.

**Marc Oeben** since 2008 advises with a focus on the area of compliance in the healthcare sector, including the establishment and implementation of compliance-management-systems. He also gained particular expertise over many years in advising in relation to product safety-topics, including the judicial and extrajudicial representation of clients in product liability cases as well as strategic advice concerning product recalls. Moreover, he advises on all questions of pharmaceutical and medical device law. He advised on numerous M&A transactions regarding the sector-specific characteristics of such transactions in the healthcare sector, including inter alia AMGEN on its acquisition of Micromet and Montagu on the sale of BSN Medical.

For further information: www.novacos-law.com

Contact:

NOVACOS Rechtsanwälte Partnerschaft mbB
Attorney-at-Law Maria Heil, M.C.L.
Jägerhofstr. 31
D-40479 Düsseldorf
Phone: +49 211-909936-65
Mobile: + 49 151-1254 2571
maria.heil@novacos-law.com