



Universität Zürich
Rechtswissenschaftliches Institut

Prof. Dr. Kern Alexander
Rämistrasse 74/22
8001 Zürich

Block Seminar HS 2010

Bank Corporate Governance

Leader: Prof. Dr. Kern Alexander

lst.alexander@rwi.uzh.ch

Numbers: 30 students (maximum) (prerequisites: any commercial, corporate or financial law course)

Objectives: The global financial crisis of 2007-2008 exposed serious weaknesses in the corporate governance of banks and financial institutions. This seminar will analyse the legal and regulatory issues arising from the corporate governance of banks and financial institutions with specific focus on recent developments in financial markets and the lessons learned from the crisis.

Students: Bachelor and Master's students

Credits: 6 credits for Bachelors/Masters. For thesis, contact me.

Date/Time: 8-10 November 2010

Place: Zürich (to be announced)

The essay should be 20-30 pages long (excluding references) and 3 copies (one per email/ two hardcopies) should be submitted by **22nd October 2010**. Concerning the hardcopies, it is the date stamped by the post office on the document, which will be looked at.

Seminar work for Bank Corporate Governance

The readings will focus on the theory of corporate governance as it relates to banks and financial service firms and the practical applications of the theory with case studies of specific financial institutions, including UBS and Lehmans Brothers.

Possible essay topics:

1. Shareholder rights in bank corporations and prudential regulatory Objectives
2. Theory of transaction costs and social costs in bank corporate governance
3. Basel II and bank corporate governance –
 - a. Impact of Pillar II/Basel II on corporate governance (overall structure of bank governance – role of the board, senior management and risk officers)
 - b. Impact of Pillar I/Basel II on corporate governance (measuring credit, market or operational risk)
4. Analysis of the principal-agent problem in banks and bank holding companies
5. How to reconcile the objectives of corporate governance with financial regulation? Is transparency and disclosure adequate in financial corporate governance.
6. External framework of corporate governance in financial markets –
The role of capital markets
7. Swiss bank corporate governance issues
 - a. role of auditors in performing regulatory functions
8. Third party gatekeepers – papers analysing the role of rating agencies, auditors/accountants, lawyers or other third party intermediaries.
9. Alternative financial institutions – hedge funds and private equity
10. Stock market regulation of disclosure for banks/ financial institutions