

Presentation German Notarial Institute (Deutsches Notarinstitut)

(updated: 31st July 2005)

Functions of the German Notarial Institute

The DNotI (Deutsches Notarinstitut - German Notarial Institute) is a **scientific institution of the German Chamber of Notaries** and is situated in Würzburg. It was founded in 1993 with the aim to improve the quality of the notaries' services. The services of the DNotI are focused on the **practical work of the notaries**. It furnishes expert opinions on legal questions which come up in practice. The notaries have the possibility to ask for an expert opinion by completing a form and sending it to the DNotI. Then, they receive an answer from the DNotI within a time limit of two weeks, but also earlier in urgent cases. The opinions furnished by the DNotI cover all the areas of notarial practice (real property law, company law, tax law, family and succession law, reunification law, private international law and foreign law) except the questions concerning the Federal Public Notaries Ordinance and the law concerning notarial costs. These are reserved to the Chambers of Notaries. Meanwhile, the rate of inquiries has stepped up from 440 in the first year to 9.000 in the year 2004. 5.211 inquiries have been referred to the DNotI from 1st January 2005 to 31st July 2005.

The notaries can evaluate the opinion by giving points from 1 to 6 (1 is the best, 6 the worst, etc.). In 2005 the average evaluation was 1,190 for the quality and 1,189 for the time needed for furnishing an opinion. This shows that the notaries are greatly satisfied with the work of the DNotI.

Publications

Twice a month the DNotI releases the **DNotI-Report**, which is sent to the notaries free of charge. The DNotI-Report consists of 8 to 12 pages and contains updated information relevant for the notarial practice (e. g. jurisprudence, studies). It is also available on the Internet: (<http://dnoti.de/Archive/rerarch.htm>).

Information is also available on the DNotI homepage (www.dnoti.de), which contains a data base on jurisprudence relevant for the notarial practice. Moreover, the notaries can find links on foreign law on this page.

The notaries also can use the fax service of the DNotI, i. e. they can order bills and studies which aren't published in the DNotI-Report.

Only notaries can access the website "**DNotI-Online-plus**". This site enables the notaries to access a data base on expert opinions concerning the private international law.

Moreover, the DNotI promotes various publications, which are relevant for notarial practice. The DNotI is especially the publisher of the journal *Notarius International*, which is edited by the UINL. This journal covers international issues in the notarial practice.

Organisation

Currently, the DNotI employs 15 jurists (2 part-time), 13 employees (4 part-time) and approx. 15 students as part-time employees. The workforce is divided into five departments (1 real property law, 2 company law, commercial law and tax law, 3 private international law and foreign law, 4 reunification law, 5 family and succession law).

Library and data base

The DNotI owns a library covering approximately 27.000 books. The employees have the possibility to consult 225 journals. The important articles of the journals are adverted in the DNotI-Report.

The expert opinions furnished on the requests are collected in a data base.

Contacts with scientific and academic institutions

The DNotI refers to notaries who are experts in certain legal areas in cases which are especially complex. These notaries furnish expert opinions on approximately 10 inquiries per month. In this way the DNotI can control its work.

In 1996 a “Scientific Board” has been found to support the DNotI. This board consists of several working groups covering different legal areas and consists of professors, colleagues of ministries, judges and notaries public.