

What the centre of law brings to the financial centre

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Geneva as a centre of law brings several essential elements to Geneva as a financial centre.

The first is legal certainty. A client who entrusts assets to Geneva, a trader who establishes a head office there, an investor who structures shareholdings there, all know that disputes can be decided according to predictable rules, by competent courts and arbitrators, within reasonable time, and that the decisions will be enforced. This certainty has been one of the foundations of the financial centre since the medieval fairs.

The second is neutrality. A seat of arbitration in Geneva offers foreign parties a guarantee of impartiality that continues the tradition of the *Alabama*. This neutrality also applies to the negotiations and mediations held in the city.

The third is expertise. The concentration of lawyers, arbitrators, experts, judges and academics specialising in international business law, banking law, trading law and arbitration is a resource on which the financial centre and the trading sector draw daily.

The fourth is economic activity. Arbitration, litigation and international legal advice generate fees, visits, jobs and tax revenue. They form part of the ecosystem described in Part E.

This relationship carries a requirement. Geneva's reputation as a centre of law rests on the quality of its courts, the independence of its arbitrators and the integrity of its practitioners. The cases in which Geneva lawyers lent their assistance to questionable structures, revealed by international data leaks, damage that reputation. The revision of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, which subjects certain advisory activities of lawyers to its obligations, is aimed precisely at preserving the credibility of the centre of law.¹

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1 Notes

1. “Blanchiment d’argent en Suisse : nouvelles obligations du conseiller” (Money laundering in Switzerland: new obligations for advisers), Croce & Associés, 20 October 2025. ↩

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