



## BENEFITS OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP



### Benefits of Dual Citizenship for Germany and the United States

- **Cost issue:** The cost to renew a U.S. Green Card is \$540, payable every 10 years. By comparison, renewing the U.S. passport every 10 years costs only around \$110.
- Dual citizens can choose the domicile with the **more favourable tax implications**. Please consult your tax accountant.
- Dual citizens have **free movement** within the economic regions and job markets, and have access to much more affordable higher education in the European Union and in the U.S.; they also enjoy the benefits provided by the USMCA (formerly NAFTA agreement with the USA, Canada and Mexico).
- **Higher exemptions** for estate transfers; in particular an unlimited marital deduction.
- Dual citizens are **able to apply for jobs** both in the U.S. and in Germany and the EU.
- **Significantly more favorable credit terms** for U.S. citizens applying for a bank loan in the U.S., e.g. towards the purchase of real estate or financing a business expansion.

- **Release from detention** by posting a bail bond in the U.S.: release from detention in the U.S., (e.g. following a DUI-incident), is possible for U.S. citizens by posting a bail bond. This, however, becomes difficult, and is more often impossible, for foreigners and even Green Card holders; if a release is at all possible, it will be subject to a very high bail bond deposit.
- Dual citizens enjoy **better legal protection** abroad. In case of being imprisoned abroad, German and American diplomatic representations are obligated to take care of detainees and procure legal counsel.

#### Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first news-letter edition from our law offices. For the year ahead, we wish you all the best and much success.

More importantly, we hope you stay in good health during the Corona crisis while we all eagerly await a return to normality, hopefully soon.

Very truly yours,

**Stephan W. Schenk, Esq.\***



- **No extradition:** Under this provision, German and U.S. citizens are guaranteed the right not to be extradited to a foreign country. Green Card holders, however, are always at risk to be extradited from the U.S. for violations of the law, which also means losing the Green Card.
- While traveling, **freedom to move** is easier and there is no limit for border-crossing entries and exits: if, for example, a Green Card holder stays outside the U.S. for more than six months, a "U.S. Reentry Permit" has to be applied for; this is not required for U.S. citizens. Additionally, Green Card holders have to fulfill residency requirements (i.e. physical presence in the U.S.); there is no such requirement for U.S. citizens.
- **Unlimited travel** between the two countries in times of global crisis, e.g. during the COVID pandemic.
- **Equality of identity status:** Cultural identity and social standing are strengthened. This is particularly true when family members are already dual citizens.
- **Voting right and political engagement:** It is possible to vote and run for political office in both countries.
- German citizens enjoy the **legal rights of all EU states**, such as freedom to travel, freedom to establish domicile, freedom to conduct business, freedom of occupation within the EU area – important reasons for retaining German citizenship.
- **Existential security:** During times of political crises, dual citizens have the option to establish alternative residency on two continents.
- **Right to run for public office** in Germany and the U.S.: If qualified, every German citizen has the right to apply for a public office. The same holds true for U.S. citizens in the U.S.
- Retention of German citizenship makes **access to the much sought-after public and private health and social insurance system in Germany** possible.
- Dual citizens can claim **social security benefits** from both countries. (Social Security Agreement between Germany and the U.S.).
- Dual citizens have **access to much more affordable educational systems** in Germany and other EU countries. Studying in the U.S. is significantly more expensive.
- Within both countries, **family reunion** with the foreign spouse/partner, as well as with minor children **is simpler**, and a residency permit is easier to obtain. Also, naturalization of foreign spouses/partners and children is possible under less stringent conditions.
- Significantly eased requirements towards applications for adoption.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Write to [sws@msworldlaw.com](mailto:sws@msworldlaw.com) or call at (001) 305 – 341 3100

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#### Source References

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