

Dr Roland Grossenbacher

Dr Grossenbacher was born in 1950 in Zürich, where he was raised in a French-speaking household. After leaving school he studied law at Zürich University. In 1977 he was awarded a doctorate (for a thesis on copyright), and in 1979 he qualified as a lawyer.

After forensic practice he joined the Swiss IP office, rising to become its head in 1989. He played a major role in a far-reaching revision of copyright and trademark law (completed in 1992) and in drawing up governmental policy on the patenting of organisms in the context of the voters' rejection (in 1998) of the genetic engineering initiative. He set in train the process which transformed the former federal office into an operationally independent IP institute. He has been head of that institute since 1996, and as such also the Swiss government's senior adviser on all IP issues.

Between 1980 and 1990 he also taught at the universities of Fribourg, St. Gallen and Zürich, and since 2002 he has been a member of the Swiss Academy of Science.

From 2000 to early 2009, Dr Grossenbacher chaired the EPO Administrative Council, which made him its honorary chairman when he stood down.
