



**Tees**

# **French Law**

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# Another country...

**...another legal system. French law is very different to that of the UK and has complexities that may baffle – even if you consider yourself well-versed in legal matters. When you need support with any aspect of French law, Tees can help.**

House buying and selling in France... French wills and inheritance matters... employment and business legislation... we have years of practical experience and expertise, as well as the rare resource of our very own avocat: Hervé Blatry who is a member of the Paris Bar, registered with the Law Society and, of course, fully bilingual.

Hervé and his team are committed to finding the solution that's right for you and to providing clear explanations at every step of the process. Our main areas of specialism in French law are detailed on the following pages, along with how to get in touch for a no-obligation chat.

**À bientôt**





## French contract law

**If you're living, working or doing business in France, you'll encounter contract laws that are very different to those we're accustomed to in the UK. Legal advice is a must, and it follows that the clearest, best-informed advice would come from a French lawyer.**

Our avocat Hervé Blatry had extensive experience in the French courts before joining us at Tees. He can advise on both contentious and non-contentious issues involving a wide range of contract types, including:

### **for property:**

- sale and purchase
- leases
- construction
- mortgages (contentious only)

### **for business:**

- sale of goods and of services
- distribution agreements
- corporate matters
- sales of shares
- miscellaneous commercial contracts

Hervé and his team will explain any initial actions you need to take to get things moving. You'll then be guided through every stage of the process, from drafting and negotiating new contracts to agreement and signing.

Every meeting and every communication will be in English, ensuring that nothing is ever lost in translation and giving you the confidence to make the decisions that are right for you.

## French property

**Buying a house in France is many people's dream and the excitement of making it happen shouldn't be ruined by legal complications.**

Our French law team will do all they can to keep your transaction on track and keep you well informed along the way.

At Tees we understand that every property is unique, so whether you're buying old or new – or even bare land to build on – we have the experience to make it happen smoothly, having advised on sales of every kind of property in France for over 20 years.

French property laws and processes are notoriously hard to navigate but rest assured, Hervé and his team will ensure you avoid tricky situations and costly mistakes.

Our prices are straightforward with no hidden extras: we'll start with an initial chat, with no obligation, to get a picture of your circumstances before we start the buying or selling process.

# French dispute resolution

**Whether it's the result of two languages and two cultures being involved or not, we all know that relationships, both professional and personal, can go wrong.**

That's where Tees can help. With Hervé Blatry and his team, we have the expertise and solid practical experience to guide you through a wide range of disputes and litigation in France.

Typical cases include:

- construction disputes
- property purchases and leases
- disputes with banks regarding mortgages
- commercial contract disputes

After listening carefully to all the facts of your particular matter and establishing the situation, Hervé will work out whether an amicable solution can be reached and, if so, draw up a settlement agreement. If both parties are happy, the agreement will be signed and the case resolved.

If not, Hervé will work with a correspondent lawyer in France to bring the action to the French courts. You'll be kept informed at every stage, with explanations of all relevant documents. We'll also keep you updated with costs, outlining all fees and charges and explaining the legal process to you.



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**My wife and I bought a house in France with little grasp of the language and certainly no experience of the complications of buying a house there. There were several issues which Tees handled expertly and what especially impressed me was the willingness of everyone to help when needed.**

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# French wills and inheritance

**If you have French assets, the inheritance rules that prevail in France may come as a surprise: they're very specific and very different to the UK's system.**


The assets may be subject to French law or to English law, depending on residency. UK wills may need adjusting with regard to French assets, as applying English law blindly could have adverse consequences in relation to tax, trusts, choice of executors and scope of the will.

Relax – Hervé and his team are on the case! Not only will they guide you through the complexities of the French system, they will also ease the practical arrangements for your family at an obviously difficult time. They can also help in arranging lifetime gifts and writing fixed-fee French wills.

If you're named as beneficiary of an estate that includes French assets, other complexities come into play. Certain circumstances must be dealt with by a Notaire: in this case our team will take the pressure off you, liaising, translating and handling every stage on your behalf.







**“Our clients are often faced with emotional decisions or situations. We provide understanding and a sympathetic ear coupled with an objective approach to guide them through these challenges.”**

### **Your French connection**

I've been a French-qualified avocat since 1991. I've worked in the UK, with Tees, for over 18 years and, as well as my Paris Bar qualification, I hold a BA in English Law from the University of Kent and I am a registered Foreign Lawyer with The Law Society of England and Wales.

I help clients across a range of private and business deals, as well as litigation in France, with particular experience in French real estate transactions of all kinds, French wills and estate planning. I also work on cross-border transactions with colleagues at Tees.

### **Delivering what you really need**

The law in France is very different to that in the UK – so if you're looking to buy or sell property in France or do business there, it's important you understand all the implications. My dual qualifications mean I understand what you might be expecting and how the actual position may be different to these expectations. I can help you understand the real picture and navigate you through every stage of the process to help you achieve your goals.

Recent work has included helping clients facing litigation in France with banks and management companies in 'leaseback' schemes, advising UK companies with French contracts, including shareholders' agreements, non-disclosure agreements, sale of a hotel (business and walls), in addition to everyday matters relating to property transactions and cross-border successions.



**Hervé Blatry**

Avocat – French Law

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