



JEFFREY A. THINNES

Experience Pre-JTI Inc. (1984-1999)

Jeff began his career as a lawyer representing German and other foreign investors in the US from 1984-1989. During this period he also taught courses on European Integration at the Thunderbird America Graduate School of International Management. In 1989-1990 he obtained a Master of Public Administration (focus International Relations) at Harvard University. Thereafter, he joined The Aspen Institute, a values-based leadership and policy institute, serving as Deputy Director in Berlin, Germany (1990-1993) and as Vice President in Aspen, Colorado (1993-1995). While with The Aspen Institute he designed, raised funding for, and moderated high-level policy programs and corporate executive leadership seminars covering a wide range of topics.

In 1996 Jeff accepted the newly-created position of Vice President, Trade & Investment for Daimler-Benz in Washington, D.C. (Daimler Group Executive Level 2). He worked closely with Government and Public Affairs, Corporate Strategy, and Communications in Daimler's Germany headquarters to maximize the value of Daimler's D.C. and U.S. presence for its North American and global business interests.

Experience with JTI Inc. (1999-2019)

Following Daimler's merger with Chrysler, Jeff founded JTI in 1999. In the early years he assisted German companies with the design and execution of US market entry strategies and political engineering plans focused on protecting and expanding their US and global business interests. He also supported US companies in assessing their business operations in Europe. Clients ranged from DAX 30 companies Daimler and Infineon to smaller technology companies establishing operations in the US market.

From 2002-2004, based in Munich, Germany, he served as interim Managing Director and successfully executed a turnaround strategy he had designed for the Central Europe subsidiary of a US publicly traded company. From 2004-2006 he served as Co-Managing Partner of a Germany-based professional services firm with offices around the world. There he designed a comprehensive restructuring plan approved by over 80% of the partners.

In 2006 Jeff was asked to help Siemens assess and re-build their compliance program in the wake of a major corruption scandal. Since that time, in addition to his business strategy counseling, he has advised some of Germany and Europe's largest companies on their ethics and compliance programs. Jeff has personally trained over 3000 managers in sensitive ethics and compliance matters and has individually coached over 120 board members and senior executives on Values-Based Leadership in East and West Europe, Asia, North and South America, the Middle East, and Africa.

Each year Jeff organizes two off-the-record JTI Peer Best Practice forums – one for the global heads of Ethics & Compliance, and the other for the global heads of Internal Communications. Participants represent Fortune 500 companies headquartered in North and South America and across Europe. Jeff has also published numerous articles and provided commentary for television, radio and print media on a number of issues related to anti-corruption.

Boards & Memberships

Georgetown Univ. BMW Center for German and European Studies

Chairman of the Advisory Board

Rotary Club of Great Falls, Virginia

Founder & Chairman of the Board

Founded largest new Rotary Club worldwide in preceding 5 years

Breakthrough Art Organization

Founder & President

Project with former East German dissident artists in 5 US cities to address issues of art and basic freedoms

Spirit of HOPE - Humanitarian Olympians for Peace

Co-Founder & Board member

Engaging former Olympians worldwide in humanitarian projects

American Council on Germany | Member

and Young Leader

Atlantik Brücke | Member

Bosch Fellowship

Awarded in 1990 (declined due to Aspen Institute offer)

Select TV & Print Media

Aspen Institute Germany – Europe-US

Topics | ZDF, Sat.1, Bayerischer Rundfunk, CNN, NBC, ABC, Int'l Herald Tribune (now Int'l NYT)

JTI – Anti-Corruption Topics | CNN, ABC

News, BBC Sport, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, LA Times, Foreign Policy

Guest Professorships

Indiana Univ. Maurer School of Law

Business, Law, Ethics & Compliance

Thunderbird American Graduate School of International Management

European Integration

Georgetown University

International Marketing

Indiana Univ. Kelley School of Business

Values-Based Leadership (2020)

Studies

Studies in Europe

Innsbruck (1976-77)

Freiburg (1979-80 Rotary Fellowship)

Kiel (1982-83 DAAD Fellowship)

Saarbrücken (1984-85 DAAD Fellowship–LL.M European Union Law)

Studies in USA

Harvard University (Master of Public Administration)

Indiana University (Juris Doctor)

University of Notre Dame (Bachelor of Arts–Political Science)

Jeff is married to Fionnuala Gallet (Dublin, Ireland) who he met in Saarbrücken, Germany and has four children: Aoibheann, Murtagh, Fionntan and Declan.

Contact

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