

EUROPE WOMEN RISING STARS 2025

MAY 8, 2025

LEONIE HESSE

Leonie Hesse, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr—Berlin

- **Position:** Counsel since 2025
- **Practice Area:** Antitrust and Competition; Public Policy and Legislative Affairs
- **Key Clients:** Deutsche Bahn AG, Airbnb Ireland Ltd., Meta Platforms Ireland Limited, Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Single Resolution Board



European regulation contains multitudes, and so should a lawyer specializing in the field. Leonie Hesse of Wilmer has made her mark by handling a wide range of complex matters, from advising Airbnb on the new EU Digital Services Act to representing Deutsche Bahn in litigation over the multibillion-euro Stuttgart 21 urban development project. “Working in this field of law gives me the chance to deep-dive into legal questions (after all, I am a real law nerd) while learning about the mechanisms behind pressing societal challenges and witnessing the political impact of my work,” she says. Since the birth of her son two years ago, she has been working part-time but nonetheless continues to attract interesting and challenging matters and make meaningful progress in her career. A former competitive swimmer, these days she goes into the pool once a week: “a perfect mix of workout and meditation.”