



1. FUNDAMENTALS OF U.S. LAW

Fundamentals of U.S. Law

- The U.S. legal system belongs to the **common law family** (with the exception of the state of Louisiana).
- The legal system is highly **federalized**.
- The sources of law at the federal and state levels are the respective constitutions, statutes, regulations, and case law.
- To bridge these differences, **uniform laws** exist for many areas of law.
- The most widely adopted is the **Uniform Commercial Code (UCC)**, which applies in all states.



2. U.S. CORPORATE LAW

Reasons for Starting a Business in the United States

- The size of the population, the purchasing power, and the Americans' well-known enthusiasm for spending offer great opportunities.
- If a company has its own sales structures in the U.S., this provides a better guarantee of establishing a foothold in the U.S. market than exporting through an independent importer or sales agent.
- Having a corporate headquarters in the U.S. signals to local customers and business partners the stability of the company's operations.
- Establishing a company strengthens the foundation of trust and enhances the image of the products and services.



Fundamentals of U.S. Corporate Law

- There is no uniform federal corporate law.
- There is no strict distinction between partnerships and corporations.
- From a German perspective, however, it is still possible to classify entities referred to as “partnerships” as Personengesellschaften and those referred to as “corporations” as Körperschaften.

Types of Business Entities in the United States

Personengesellschaften →

- General Partnership
- Limited Partnership

Kapitalgesellschaften →

- Public Corporation
- Close Corporation

Hybride Gesellschaftsform →

- Limited Liability Company (LLC)