

Lawyer

Born on 19 December 1968; Protestant.

Obtained *Abitur* (higher-education entrance qualification) at Albert Einstein comprehensive school in Laatzen in 1988; alternative service in the St John rescue and emergency service from 1988 to 1996; passed first state examination in law at the University of Hanover in 1993; supplementary post-graduate course at the German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer in 1996; passed second state examination in law in 1997.

Licensed to practise as a lawyer since July 1997; earned a doctorate in the field of constitutional law and legal history at the University of Hanover in 1999; has worked as a lawyer for criminal law since 2000; appeared as a speaker and expert before the agricultural committee of the European Parliament and served as a substitute member of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of the German Bundestag.

Member of the German Society for Nature Conservation (NABU), the National Association for Workers' Welfare (AWO) and the YMCA.

Member of Laatzen town council since 1991; chairman of the SPD group in the council from 1995 to 2005; deputy chairman of the Hannover-Land local branch of the SPD from 2000 to 2004; deputy chairman of the Region Hannover branch of the SPD from 2005 to 2009; chairman of the Region Hannover subdistrict branch of the SPD since 2009; member of the presidium of the *Land* branch of the SPD since June 2008; member of the SPD party executive since 2013; deputy chairman of the Bundestag group of SPD parliamentarians from Lower Saxony and Bremen.

Spokesman on the environment, nature conservation, building and nuclear safety for the SPD parliamentary group since 2009; spokesman on sustainable development for the SPD parliamentary group from 2005 to 2009; member of the Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Committee for the Election of Judges; substitute member of the Committee on Legal Affairs, the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the Council of Elders' Commission on the Legal Status of Members.

Member of the German Bundestag since 2005.

Membership of Bundestag bodies and parliamentary posts

Member

- Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Substitute member

- Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Committee on Food and Agriculture

Membership of other bodies**Substitute member**

- Joint Committee