



ARBITRATION POWERLIST 2020
CIS AND CAUCASUS

ARBITRATION
POWERLIST 2020 |
CIS AND CAUCASUS

LEGALEASE LTD

For 33 years, The Legal 500 has been analysing the capabilities of law firms and sets across the world. In the research team, we constantly track which sections are used most by clients, and this often matches up with an increase in that section from submissions, client referees, requests for interviews and feedback – all of which make up the research process. The international arbitration rankings are consistently one of our most used and read editorial sections and one of the most competitive areas for law firms, sets, lawyers and barristers. This very much chimes with what we constantly hear anecdotally in the market, with international arbitration frequently cited as the preferred form of dispute resolution.

The *Arbitration Powerlist: CIS & Caucasus* showcases the leading practitioners working in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Moldova. It is a region unfamiliar to many outsiders, and we hope the following guide will provide an insight into an often opaque disputes market.

There is certainly a lot to take in. The region's largest legal market, Russia, has seen a period of rapid change. Firstly, the retreat of several international firms from the market has left a vacuum to be filled by new domestic boutiques and expanded disputes offerings among full-service firms. Internationals like King & Spalding and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer have seen headcounts drop in the Russian market, while Jones Day and others have closed their doors entirely. But major international firms are still hunting for large clients in these waters, and the region

continues to produce high-calibre disputes. This alone makes it an exciting time to survey the market.

Just as significantly, new Russian legislation has transformed the arbitration landscape by restricting the number of licenced arbitral institutions that can operate in the country. Prior to these reforms no one knew how many institutions existed, though estimates range from 400 to over one thousand. Now, that list is reduced to five: the International Commercial Arbitration Court (ICAC) and Maritime Arbitration Commission (MAC) at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation; the Arbitration Centre at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; the Russian Arbitration Centre (RAC) at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration; and, most recently, the Sports Arbitration Chamber. The Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the Vienna International Arbitration Centre have since been granted permission to administer Russian-seated arbitrations. A further consequence of these laws has been to render ad hoc arbitration almost completely absent from Russia.

As with any publication of this nature, we were faced with the dilemma of including as many worthy candidates as possible without diluting the significance of their listing. After lengthy discussions across the editorial team, we decided that a larger selection was necessary to provide sufficient nuance and balance across so many different markets. We hope that by expanding the selection we have managed to include some surprises.



James Wood

Global head of
international research

To collate the list of leading practitioners we have of course drawn on our research team's expertise. We have also approached leading arbitrators, arbitral institutions and general counsel active in the market to help create a definitive list of the leading arbitration counsel in the CIS and Caucasus market today. As such, we think the listing reflect those practitioners that are deemed the gold standard by business.

Timur Abushakhmanov	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Sergiy Gryshko	Redcliffe Partners
Dimitry Afanasiev	Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners	Ali Gursel	Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle
Timur Aitkulov	Clifford Chance	Nick Gvinadze	Gvinadze & Partners
Oleg Alyoshin	Vasil Kisil & Partners	Anton S.Imennov	Pen & Paper Attorneys
Dmitry Andreev	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners	Vladimir Iurkovski	Schoenherr
Alexey Anischenko	Sorainen	Dmitry Ivanov	Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
Lasha Arveladze	COCAZ Legal	Mikhail Ivanov	Dentons
Alan Bayramkulov	PB Legal	Anar Janmammadov	MGB Law Offices
Diana Bayzakova	Merritz Law Firm	Artashes Kakoyan	Investment Law Group
Oleh Beketov	Eterna	Yan Kalish	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Roman Bevzenko	Pepeliaev Group	Zhibek Karamanova	Keremet Holding
Maxim Bezruchenkov	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Stanislav Karandasov	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Zaza Bibilashvili	BGI Legal	Fuad Karimov	Kermur
Eugene Blinov	Eterna Law	Yulia Karpova	Infralex
Pavlo Byelousov	Aequo	Dmitry Kaysin	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Ion Capatina	Vernon David	Aigoul Kenjebayeva	Dentons
Octavian Cazac	Turcan Cazac	Aleksandre Khrapoutski	Lex Torre
Dmitriy Chepurenko	Liniya Prava	Alexander Khrenov	Khrenov & Partners
Svitlana Chepurna	Asters	Vladimir Khvalei	Baker McKenzie
Yuliya Chernykh	Arbitrade	Violetta M.Kim	Aequitas
Egor Chilikov	Petrol Chilikov Law Offices	Yaroslav Klimov	Norton Rose Fulbright
Mergen Doraev	EMPP	Markiyan Kliuchkovskiy	Asters
Olexander Droug	Sayenko Kharenko	Oleg Kolotilov	Kulkov Kolotilov & Partners
Alexei Dudko	Hogan Lovells	Andrei Kolupaev	Lexwell & Partners
Dmitry Dyakin	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Dmitry Konovalov	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners
Elnur Eyvazov	Capital Legal Services	Anastasia Konstantinova	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Dr.Viktor Gerbutov	Noerr	Irakli Kordzakhia	Grata International
Roger Gladei	Gladei & Partners	Alexander Korobeinikov	Baker McKenzie
Olga Glazkova	Andrey, Gorodissky & Partners	Sergey Korolev	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners
Alexander Goretsky	Revera Consulting Group	Anna Kostina	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners
Andrey Gorlenko	Ivanyan and Partners LLP	Sergey Kovalev	Kovalev Tugushi & Partners
Anna Grishchenkova	KIAP (Korelskiy, Ischuk, Astafiev and Partners)	Azamat Kuatbekov	Baker McKenzie
		Maxim Kulkov	Kulkov Kolotilov & Partners

CIS AND CAUCASUS POWERLIST

Alexander Lazarev	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Nurbek Sabirov	Kalikova & Associates
Ekaterina Lebedeva	Pepeliaev Group	Irina Selezneva	Borenus
Kostiantyn Likarchuk	Kinstellar	Dmitry Semashko	Stepanovski, Papakul and Partners
Yuri Makhonin	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Valikhan Shaikenov	Aequitas
Markian Malskyy	Arzinger	Kirill Shmotov	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners
Roman Marchenko	Ilyashev & Partners Offices	Ihor Siusel	Baker McKenzie
Dmytro Marchukov	Integrites	Alexander Solopov	Arzinger & Partners
Elena Mashonskaya	Arzinger & Partners	Nikolay Stroeve	PB Legal
Ivan Meleshenko	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Serhii Sviriba	Asters Law
Vladimir Melnikov	Linklaters	Timour Sysouev	SBH Law Offices
Andrey Mikoni	S&K Vertical	Vsevolod Taraskin	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Ruslan Mirzayev	Adrem Attorneys	Ekaterina Tilling	Eversheds Sutherland
Alexander Muranov	Muranov, Chernyakov and Partners	Kirill Trukhanov	Trubor Law Firm
Gayane Nadzharova	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Elena Trusova	Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Irina Nazarova	Engarde	Catherine Tumanov	KR&P Law Firm
Ilya Nikiforov	Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners	Dennis Turovets	Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners
Olga Nikolaeva	VMP Vlasova Mikhel & Partners	Kirill Udovichenko	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners
Lasha Noida	Nodia, Urumashvili & Partners	Alexander Vaneev	BGP Litigation
DrAram Orbelyan	Concern Dialog	Baiju Vasani	Ivanyan and Partners LLP
Irina Paliashvili	RULG-Ukrainian Legal Group	Igor Verkhovodko	Verkhovodko
Alexei Panich	Herbert Smith Freehills	Olga Vorozhbyt	DLA Piper
Alexander Panin	PB Legal	Varvara Voynova	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Olena Perepelynska	Integrites	Vadim Vunukainen	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners
Vladimir Pestrikov	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Feodor Vyacheslavov	Vlawyers
Sergey Petrachkov	Alrud	Volodymyr Yaremko	Sayenko Kharenko
Maria Petrenko	Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners	Mukhit Yeleuov	Kinstellar
Ilia Rachkov	Nektorov, Saveliev & Partners	Nodir Yulsashev	Grata International
Evgeny Rashevsky	Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners	Julia Zagonek	White & Case
Ilya M.Rybalkin	Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners	Andrey Zelenin	Lidings
		Daria Zhdan-Pushkina	Redstone Chambers
		Artur Zurabyan	Art De Lex
		Roman Zykov	Mansors

30

TEAM PROFILE

Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners (MZS)



6 Ruslan Mirzayev

7 Pavlo Byelousov

8 Yuliya Chernykh

9

Markian Malskyy

Serhii Sviriba

10

Elena Mashonskaya

11

Zaza Bibilashvili

Lasha Arveladze

12

Elnur Eyvazov

Dr Aram Orbelyan

14

Mikhail Ivanov

Evgeny Raschevsky

15

Dennis Turovets

Oleh Beketov

Eugene Blinov

16 Nick Gvinadze

17

Ekaterina Tilling

Roger Gladei

Alexei Panich

18

Alexei Dudko

Yulia Karpova



Olga Vorozhbyt

19

Roman Marchenko
Dmytro Marchukov

20

Artashes Kakoyan
Olena Perepelynska

21 Andrey Gorlenko

22 Baiju Vasani

TEAM PROFILE

40

PB Legal

24

Zhibek Karamanova
Nurbek Sabirov
Konstantyn Likarchuk

25

Mukhit Yeleuov

26

Alexander Khrenov
Sergey Kovalev

27

Maxim Kulkov
Aleksandre Khrapoutski

28

Andrei Kolupaev
Andrey Zelenin

29

Vladimir Melnikov
Roman Zykov
Diana Bayzakova

38

Dmitry Ivanov
Lasha Noida
Dr. Viktor Gerbutov

39

Yaroslav Klimov
Ekaterina Lebedeva

44 Egor Chilikov

TEAM PROFILE

46

Rybalkin, Gortsunyan
& Partners

58



Alexey Anischenko

45

Sergiy Gryshko
Volodymyr Yaremko

56

Olexander Droug
Timour Sysouev

57

Dmitry Semashko
Oleg Alyoshin

59

Kirill Trukhanov
Julia Zagonek

Ruslan Mirzayev

Adrem Attorneys

Job title: Managing partner

Location: Azerbaijan

Number of years in practice: 14

Admissions: New York Bar, Republic of Azerbaijan

Main sectors covered: Commercial, investment protection, financial services, construction

Geographical areas of focus: CIS, Turkey

Languages: Azerbaijani, English, Russian, Turkish

As one of the only Azerbaijan-based lawyers to specialise in international arbitration, Ruslan Mirzayev stands out in the legal market. He is further distinguished by his time working at law firms outside Azerbaijan and the unusually complex nature of the matters he typically handles.

Mirzayev is experienced in representing clients both as a local counsel and lead counsel in international investment and commercial arbitration cases. He has advised and represented parties in international investment and commercial arbitration cases, both as a member of teams led by international law firms and during his time as counsel at a US law firm in London.

Commenting on his approach to arbitration, Mirzayev says, *'I work with a very limited number of clients at a time, which allows me to personally deal with all the matters related to international arbitration. As a firm Adrem Attorneys tries to provide clients with zealous, tailored, client-oriented and specialised legal services with a personal touch.'*

He has represented clients as a lead counsel in international commercial arbitration cases in different jurisdictions, including under UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. In addition to his practical law experience, he has been engaged under EU projects to advise on arbitration and dispute resolution reforms.



In conversation with...

'Azerbaijan has one of the least developed arbitration practices in the region. While the legislation includes many progressive and pro-arbitration provisions, there are many inconsistencies in the legislation and its application. As a result, people are generally not very inclined to refer their disputes to arbitration. In addition, there are not many lawyers specialising in arbitration. Indeed, most lawyers in Azerbaijan are not even aware of arbitration and its benefits. While formally there are some centres offering arbitration services, they have not been able to build any significant presence or consistent activities.

The biggest problem I face when taking over certain arbitration cases is dealing with issues caused by previous actions of the clients during the arbitration. As a result, quite often it becomes more difficult to deal with certain issues when the clients have already taken certain steps in the arbitration. Therefore, I would strongly recommend companies and anyone involved in an international case to consult lawyers specialised in arbitration as soon as possible – every detail might matter later.

My focus on arbitration combined with my regional experience [is distinctive in the legal market]. I have specialised in arbitration through my practice, supplemented by research and teaching of arbitration for over 12 years. In addition, as a person working with public and private entities in the region I have some relevant experience that allows me to understand the realities, systems and legal thought processes in many post-Soviet countries.' ■

Pavlo Byelousov

Aequo

Job title: Partner, Head of International Arbitration and Cross-Border Litigation

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 14

Number of years as an arbitrator: Five

Current appointments as arbitrator: Five (two as sole arbitrator)

Admissions: Ukraine (admitted since 2008) - Kyiv Region Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Agriculture, financial institutions and insurance, energy and natural resources, consumer and retail, telecommunications and media

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Asia, CIS

Languages: English, Russian, Swedish, Ukrainian

Pavlo Byelousov is a head of the Aequo's international arbitration and cross-border litigation practices. He started his career in international arbitration in 2006 and has since been involved in over 50 commercial and investment arbitration proceedings in Ukraine and abroad as counsel, and in over 20 arbitration-related litigations representing clients before Ukrainian courts, including the Supreme Court. In addition, for the past five years he has acted as a party- and institution-appointed arbitrator in over 15 intentional arbitration proceedings.

Byelousov is in the list of arbitrators recommended by the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICAC Ukraine), as well as Riga International Commercial Arbitration Court (RICAC) and Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA).

In conversation with...

'Most of those become private jokes that are kept only between a counsel and a client, which is understandable given the confidentiality of international arbitration and the high respect paid to arbitrators, experts and an opposing counsel. However, there is a story when an opposing counsel's vigorous desire to beat us did him a bad turn. Once, when representing a client before a Ukrainian court on recognition and enforcement of a foreign arbitral award, we were confronted by an opposing Ukrainian attorney who used any and all opportunities, many of which were inappropriate, to make the enforcement either impossible or significantly delayed. After debates on the merits, the opposing counsel tried to challenge our legal cost submission by, among other things, invoking a flawed argument that the fees and costs were too high and unreasonable. It was allegedly supported by the fact that I act as arbitrator and often speak at conferences on arbitration-related matters. So, in support of his statements the opposing counsel referred specifically to the recommended list of the ICAC Ukraine arbitrators (on which I am included), and to a then recent international arbitration conference I was invited to as a speaker. In response, the judge said: "Counsel, I am totally confused by your argument. What exactly are you trying to prove with it here? Are you saying that your opponent attorney Mr Byelousov is highly qualified on the issues in arbitration? If so, this perhaps justifies his hourly rate and legal costs incurred by the claimant in this proceeding". To cut a long story short, the judge ruled to reimburse our legal fees and costs in full amount. And the one who greatly assisted us in proving we were worth it was none other than the opposing counsel!' ■

Yuliya Chernykh

Arbitrade

Job title: Of Counsel, Chartered Arbitrator

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 15

Number of years as an arbitrator: Ten

Current appointments as arbitrator: Eight (one as sole arbitrator)

Admissions: Ukrainian Bar, Norwegian Bar (admitted as foreign counsel to practice Ukrainian law and private international law)

Sectors covered: Aviation, banking, construction, distributorship, energy, infrastructure projects, IP (licensing, technology transfer), IT, international sale, insurance, investments, joint venture, maritime transportation, public-private partnership, and sports

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, CIS, Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Denmark), Baltic (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia), Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, Poland and others)

Languages: English, Norwegian, Russian, Ukrainian (full professional capacity); French, Polish (basic)

Yuliya Chernykh is of counsel with Arbitrade and a doctoral research fellow at the University of Oslo, where she completed her PhD thesis on contractual interpretation in international investment arbitration. She has overseen more than 50 awards rendered at the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Ukraine and frequently acts as a party-appointed arbitrator, sole arbitrator or a chair under the rules of leading arbitration institutions.

As counsel, she has advised on disputes under a variety of applicable substantive laws, including the United Nations Convention on International Sales of Goods (CISG), the laws of Austria, England and Wales, Germany, France, India, Poland, Russia, Romania, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine and others. She has also acted as an expert on Ukrainian law in under ICSID, LCIA, and PCA rules and before the UK courts.

A fan of Norwegian literature, she has translated works into Ukrainian and Russian.

In conversation with...

‘An innocent final question may ruin the credibility of a witness. During the cross-examination at an LCIA arbitration, an opposing counsel thanked his own witness and, in a concluding question, asked how he felt. Rather unexpectedly, the witness who just ten minutes ago had demonstrated a very good memory in relation to events taking place 10-15 years ago said: “Thank you for asking me. Things are not well. My wife divorced me and my kids are suing me. I use antidepressants and have difficulties in remembering anything”. ■

Markian Malskyy

Arzinger

Job title: Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 14

Number of years as an arbitrator: Six

Admissions: Ukraine

Principal sectors covered: Corporate and M&A, real estate and construction, International sale of goods and services, energy, oil and gas, natural resources, FMCG, agroindustrial sector, IT

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, CIS

Languages: English, German, Russian, Polish

Markian Malskyy is head of Arzinger's Lviv office and head of the firm's international disputes resolution and arbitration practice. A specialist in investment projects, he has represented the government of Ukraine in a number of ICSID cases, including a prominent investment dispute under the Netherlands-Ukraine BIT. He has also represented international companies against Ukrainian state bodies under UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

Malskyy is a recommended arbitrator at ten arbitral institutions, including the International Commercial Arbitration Court at Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICAC at UCC), China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), Arbitration Center of Mexico (CAM) and Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC).

In parallel to his work as a lawyer, Malskyy has pursued a career in politics. In 2019, he was appointed head of the Lviv Regional State Administration by the President of Ukraine – a position he held until December of that year – and was rated as the country's fifth most successful governor by a prominent national newspaper. He has previously served as the Honorary Consul of Austria to Lviv.

Malskyy was one of the first Ukrainians to study international arbitration at Stockholm University and was the first Ukrainian citizen to work in the Paris office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. He has published four books on international dispute resolution, authored over 100 papers on the subject, defended a PhD in international arbitration and is currently completing a habilitation thesis on international dispute resolution.

Serhii Sviriba

Asters Law

Job title: Co-managing Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 25

Admissions: Ukraine

Main sectors covered: Oil and gas, energy and natural resources, real estate and construction, media and technology

Languages: English, Ukrainian, Russian

Serhii Sviriba is, 'a lawyer with insatiable passion for his work who likely dreams of arbitration', says one source. His career trajectory bears this out. In 1997, just two years after graduating from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, he co-founded Magisters law firm (the plan to establish a law firm had in fact been devised while he was still a student). In 2002, he took temporary leave from the firm to serve as deputy chief of the Trade & Economic Mission to the Embassy of Ukraine in the USA, returning as Magisters' co-managing partner in 2004. A year later he was elected as a permanent representative of Ukraine to the International Court of Arbitration in Paris. In 2011, Magisters, which had now grown to over 100 lawyers, merged with the Ukrainian office of regional powerhouse Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners. Following the merger, Sviriba was named managing partner. In 2018 he joined Asters, the largest law firm Ukraine as co-managing partner.

His current practice focuses on international arbitration and cross-border litigation and typically sees him representing clients in courts and arbitrations both in Ukraine – where he has represented national and foreign companies in the Ukrainian Supreme Court, the Supreme Commercial Court of Ukraine and the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce – and abroad (for example, he has advised clients on pre-arbitration and arbitration procedures in Ukraine, EU and the US).

Elena Mashonskaya

Arzinger & Partners

Job title: Partner

Location: Belarus

Number of years in practice: 15

Number of years as an arbitrator: Five

Current appointments as arbitrator: One

Admissions: Minsk City Bar Association

Areas of focus: Trade, foreign trade, supply, real estate, construction

Geographical areas of focus: Germany, China, Poland, Russia, Austria

Languages: Russian, Slovak, English

Elena Mashonskaya focuses her practice on a wide range of issues in the construction and infrastructure sectors, including matters arising from construction, design and survey contracts and supply contracts, as well as matters relating to recognition of invalid transactions (including bankruptcy proceedings) and subsidiary liability. She is a recommended arbitrator at the International Arbitration Court of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI) and is regularly called as counsel and arbitrator in domestic cases. She has been a partner and lawyer with Arzinger's Belarus office since it launched in 2006. Before joining Arzinger she worked in a range of state and supranational bodies, including the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus and the Economic Court of the CIS. She also has a wide experience working in engineering and manufacturing companies.

In conversation with...

'While preparing for an arbitration hearing one morning I was so distracted revising the arguments in my head that I accidentally poured boiling water onto my hand. I was unable to drive with the pain so I grabbed some Panthenol and persuaded my husband to drive me to the hearing. I spent the hearing pouring Panthenol on my hand, though the tribunal was very compassionate toward me. Fortunately, we ended up winning a very complicated case that day.' ■



Zaza Bibilashvili

BGI Legal

Job title: Founder

Location: Georgia

Number of years in practice: 22

Number of years as an arbitrator: 15

Admissions: Georgian Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Corporate, construction, infrastructure, trade, transport and cargo

Geographical areas of focus: Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, US, UK EU

Languages: English, Georgian, Russian, French, Spanish



Zaza Bibilashvili is a founder of BGI Advisory Services Georgia and senior partner at BGI Legal. BGI was formed in 2005 when Ernst & Young (EY) decided to exit legal services. At that time, Bibilashvili was director of EY's legal services arm, EY Law Georgia, as well as the director of its predecessor, GCG Law Office, which was affiliated with Andersen Legal – both dominant players on the Georgian legal services market at the time. He is a founding board member of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) and the Association of Georgian Law Firms (ALFG), and a founder of the ALFG's pro bono initiative. He is currently serving his third term on the board of ICC Georgia, the National Committee of International Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business organisation, where he used to chair the Arbitration Commission. He has served on the boards of JSC Poti Seaport Corporation (Georgia's largest port, 2008), JSC Teliani Valley (Georgia's largest winemaker, 2010-2011), Foundation for Democracy and Development (2008), United National Movement (2013-2018), American Friends of Georgia, Inc. (Georgian Advisory Board), and the Georgian Vine Foundation (since 2012). Before entering private practice, he worked with the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations in New York.

Lasha Arveladze

COCAZ Legal

Job title: Partner

Location: Georgia

Number of years in practice: 20

Admissions: Georgian Bar

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Central Asia, Africa, Caucasus, CIS

Languages: English, Russian, Georgian

A founding partner of COCAZ LEGAL (formerly AMK Law) with a broad range of public and private law experience on a domestic and international matters, Lasha Arveladze advises clients on corporate matters, international and domestic business transactions, project finance and energy transactions and specialises in alternative dispute resolutions. He has represented the State of Georgia in various investment disputes arising out from bilateral investment treaty, energy charter treaty and national law jurisdiction-based claims. He has also represented state-owned and associated entities in several international commercial arbitral proceedings. He has served as arbitrator in various national arbitration tribunals and is a listed arbitrator at the Georgian International Arbitration Center and Dispute Resolution Centre. He is a registered lecturer at the Georgian Bar Association and an ADR expert at the United Nations Development Programme.

Elnur Eyvazov

Capital Legal Services

Job title: Senior Legal Advisor

Location: Azerbaijan

Number of years in practice: 12

Main sectors covered: Technology, energy, construction, financial services

Elnur Eyvazov is a senior associate at Capital Legal Services (CLS). He has an extensive academic and professional background in advising both international, regional and Azeri companies, as well as individuals. Eyvazov is a US and UK trained lawyer, widely published in the areas of arbitration/IDS, international commercial, corporate and financial law.

As counsel, he has acted on a number of high-profile arbitrations, including: representing Mitaki international on its international arbitration issues in Germany; advising a group of foreign corporates on a debt recovery and potential arbitration and litigation matters, including in the Azerbaijani and Russian courts, and representing and advising leading international banks on arbitrations arising from several multi-million high-scale loan transactions to a major oil and gas company in the construction of a petrochemical complex in Azerbaijan, backed by a state guarantee.

Before joining CLS, he worked for various leading companies and organisations both in the UK, US and Azerbaijan. He has participated in numerous international and local projects where he demonstrated his high professional and personal skills. Eyvazov has received a number of awards for his outstanding teaching, legal work and contributions to diversity and inclusion projects in the legal and consultancy sectors, both in Azerbaijan and internationally. He has also received media coverage for his achievements as a person with disability. Eyvazov is a member of the editorial board of some leading regional and international law journals.



Dr Aram Orbelyan

Concern Dialog

Job title: Senior Partner

Location: Armenia

Number of years in practice: 12

Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven

Languages: Armenian, English, Russian and German

Aram Orbelyan has led the litigation and arbitration practice at Concern Dialog since 2014. His work as arbitration counsel typically involves representing government or other public authorities, including the City of Yerevan and the Project Implementation Units within various ministries, both in investor-state and commercial arbitrations. He is a Member of the Chamber of Advocates of Armenia and has been a listed arbitrator in various national and international centres. Between 2011 and 2014, he was deputy minister of Armenia, responsible for the reform of the civil and civil procedure legislation (including co-authoring the civil procedure code and major amendments to the law of arbitration), e-justice implementation as well as ADR (including arbitration) reforms. He now serves as president of the Arbitrators' Association of the Republic of Armenia, an NGO that seeks to promote arbitration but does not act as an arbitration centre. In addition to his practice, Orbelyan lectures at the French University of Armenia (UFAR), the School of Advocates and Justice Academy, and is a consulting member of international organisations and state agencies on reform issues (mostly around human rights and good governance issues). His PhD thesis in Public International Law has been used by the Russian Federation to develop its position in international arbitration cases.

Olga Vorozhbyt

DLA Piper

Job title: Head of Litigation and Regulatory practice (Kiev)

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 21

Admissions: Ukraine

Languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English

Olga Vorozhbyt heads the litigation and regulatory practice at DLA Piper Ukraine. She focuses her practice on international arbitration, litigation, compliance and global investigations. She has 20 years of experience in complex domestic and cross-border litigation and international arbitration proceedings. Her clients include Fortune 500 companies across a broad range of sectors, from commercial banks, financial services, telecom and agriculture, through to construction, aircraft manufacturing, and shipping.

Her standout matters include advising an agency of the United States of America on matters related to enforceability of arbitration clauses to be included into multiple contracts constituting an over \$500m cross-border financing transaction, and representing a Turkish engineering and construction company in a significant arbitration dispute under the Rules of the ICAC of Moscow, which arose in relation to the construction of a football stadium in Ukraine.

She is a board member of the Ukrainian Arbitration Association, and a member of the American Chamber of Commerce and the European Business Association.



Mikhail Ivanov

Dentons

Job title: Head of Russian Litigation and Arbitration Practice

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 20

Admissions: Admitted in Russia

Geographical areas of focus: Russia, CIS, Europe, China

Languages: Russian, English, German

Mikhail Ivanov is a partner in Dentons' St Petersburg office and head of the firm's Russian litigation and arbitration practice. He specialises in the resolution of disputes between foreign investors and major Russian companies, representing clients in international commercial arbitrations under a variety of Rules and in the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards in Russia. In 2020, he was appointed to the Board of the Russian Arbitration Center at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration.

Evgeny Raschevsky

Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners

Job title: Head of International Arbitration and Litigation

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 21

Number of years as an arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Moscow City Bar; Courts of Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Oil and gas, energy, product sharing/concession agreements, supply of natural gas, transportation of natural gas, LNG, production and supply of electricity, grid transmission, construction

Geographical areas of focus: Continental Europe, Northern Europe, Eurasia, CIS, Middle East, India, North Africa

Languages: Russian, English

Evgeny Raschevsky is partner, head of the international arbitration and litigation and pharmaceuticals and healthcare practice groups at Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev and Partners (EPAM). He specialises in international arbitration and litigation, international public law, insolvency procedures and dispute resolution in the energy sector and is experienced in international arbitration proceedings under ICAC of CCI of Russia (MKAS), ICC, LCIA, SCC and Swiss Rules, as well as coordination of litigation cases in the UK, the USA, Germany, Turkey and other countries. His many standout matters include successfully representing the Russian Federation in its defence against a claim filed by Georgia at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Raschevsky is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and International Counsel for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), and holds a position with the Arbitrators Nominating Committee of the Russian Arbitration Association (RAA). He also sits as a member of the SIAC Users Council's Russia Committee, a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Task Force on Arbitration of Climate Change Related Disputes.

He is the author of a number of well-respected publications dealing with the international civil procedure, international arbitration, and legal issues related to gas supply and transmission. Outside his busy practice, he is a lecturer on the Moscow State University's insolvency law master program. He graduated from the Law School of Volgograd State University in 1999 and received a master's degree from the Russian School of Private Law in 2001 before completing his PhD in Law in 2004.

Dennis Turovets

Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners

Job title: Managing Partner (Minsk)

Location: Belarus

Admissions: Minsk Bar, International Bar Association (IBA), IBA European forum council, Belarusian Republican Union of Lawyers

Main areas of practice: International arbitration and litigation, dispute resolution, banking and finance, capital markets, real estate and construction, IP/TMT, tax and international trade & customs
Languages: English, Russian and Belarusian

Dennis Turovets is managing partner of Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev and Partners' Minsk office and head of the firm's international arbitration and litigation practice. Clients refer to him as a *'highly professional lawyer with exceptional legal experience, outstanding communication skills, and a deep knowledge of the market'*, and have praised his contribution to EPA&P's world-class arbitration practice. Although Turovets focuses on banking and finance matters – in which capacity he has acted on many of the largest financing facilities in Belarus – he has also worked on some of the region's largest and most complex arbitration matters, including: advising on the first ever investment arbitration against the Republic of Belarus, a matter which also opened protection of Russian investments within the Eurasian Economic Union and represented the first time the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union (2014) was implemented for protection of Russian investors in the Member States, and advising the Belarusian subsidiary of Russian and global energy company Gazprom to recover millions of dollars' worth of debts, the first sizable dispute between Russia and Belarus and one which attracted significant media coverage in both countries.

Oleh Beketov

Eterna

Job title: Partner, Head of International Litigation Department

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 16

Admissions: Ukraine

Main sectors covered: Post M&A and shareholders disputes, international trade disputes, construction disputes, banking disputes

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, Russia, CIS

Languages: Ukrainian, English, Russian, Polish

Oleh Beketov is senior partner and head of international litigation at Eterna Law, a European full-service law firm possessing strong expertise in the CIS region. He has 16 years of experience advising on both the pre-litigation and litigation stages of debt collection matters and substantial expertise in international commercial arbitration, including resolving corporate and post-M&A disputes before LCIA and ICC arbitral tribunals. He typically represents shareholders of significant businesses, state-owned and private banks, IT, construction and trading companies. Prior to joining Eterna Law, Beketov worked in Magisters, one of the major Ukrainian law firms at the time, and interned for US law firm Alston & Bird. He also worked as an assistant to the Chair of the Committee of Parliament of Ukraine on Legal Policy. In 2010, he was elected as co-chair of New York State Bar Association in Ukraine.

Eugene Blinov

Eterna Law

Job title: Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 14

Number of years as an arbitrator: Six

Admissions: Ukraine National Bar

Main sectors covered: International trade, commodities, maritime law

Geographical areas of focus: CIS countries (esp. Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan)

Languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English

Eugene Blinov has deep experience in international arbitration and has successfully represented companies at various international arbitration forums ranging from the ICC, LCIA and SCC to the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA), the Federation of Oils, Seeds & Fats Associations (FOSFA), and the London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA) and London Metal Exchange (LME) arbitral panel. He has also managed multiple disputes submitted to courts in numerous jurisdictions.

Before entering private practice he served as general counsel and public policy expert at Ukrainian Academy of European Integration, and before that was a consultant to the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's Parliament. Apart from being a devoted arbitration practitioner, he is an avid collector of modern arts and antiques.

Nick Gvinadze

Gvinadze & Partners

Job title: Managing Partner

Location: Georgia

Number of years in practice: 25

Admissions: Georgian Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Energy, infrastructure, tax, dispute resolution

Geographical areas of focus: Georgia, Western Europe

Languages: English, Georgian, French

'The leading arbitration practitioner in Georgia by far', according to a senior Paris-based arbitration counsel, Nick Gvinadze has 25 years' experience in of both Georgian and cross-border commercial law, with particular focus on energy, infrastructure, tax and dispute resolution. Now managing partner of leading Georgian firm Gvinadze & Partners, he has advised on a number of key foreign investment projects in Georgia, including major oil and gas transportation projects in the Caspian region, and has acted in a number of higher profile proceedings in the Georgian Courts as well as in international arbitration.

Before re-launching Gvinadze & Partners in 2010, he was a partner at DLA Piper Gvinadze & Partners, headed Ernst & Young's legal practice in Georgia, was a partner at GCG Law Office (a leading Georgian law firm in the 1990s), served as an attorney to the Financial Department of the Georgian Parliament, and acted as local counsel to an international law firm in the UK.

Outside of his busy practice, Gvinadze is perhaps most famous for his work with the International Court of Arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). He has been litigating with the ICC Courts in Paris for many years, and has since been closely involved in ongoing work to establish Georgia as a regional centre of arbitration.

Gvinadze is a recent former member of the ICC Court and continues to sit on the ICC members' committee in Paris. He currently chairs the Arbitration Commission at the Georgian National Committee of the ICC, and is a Belt & Road Ambassador of the Court, one of the few regional commissions to deal with Belt and Road Initiative projects. These projects could prove significant for Georgia. The Anaklia Deep Sea Port and Special Economic Zone (Anaklia SEZ), a \$2.5bn deepwater port on Georgia's Black Sea Coast has already attracted Chinese investment. Gvinadze, who has worked on a number of transformational infrastructure projects, including as lead lawyer to a Caspian pipeline project involving BP, is well-placed to comment. *'Georgia has been promoting itself on BRI, and with any new cross-border project comes the potential for international arbitration. I feel the best-placed forum for these disputes is the ICC, and if such disputes arise I want to channel them into the ICC courts.'*

Gvinadze has also helped shape Georgia's arbitration scene more directly as former Chairman of the Arbitration Court of the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he authored the Court's Arbitration Rules. Since then Georgia has seen the launch of the Georgian International Arbitration Centre (GIAC), its first non-profit arbitration institution. Gvinadze, who describes himself as *'very much a supporter of GIAC'*, believes the next logical step would be for Georgia to host a representative office of the ICC, a move that would help to cement the country's place as a bridge between Europe and Asia. *'With initiatives like BRI Georgia finds itself in a unique place to act as a credible, independent jurisdiction for disputes. The ICC has a phenomenally high reputation among the legal community and any moves to take out a formal presence here would be welcomed by both businesses and investors.'*

Gvinadze co-chairs the British-Georgian Law Association (BGLA), and sits on the Boards of



the EU-Georgia Business Council (EUGBC) and Georgian-Swiss Business Association (GSBA). He is a founding member of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) as well as Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA, a lead Georgian NGO), and is also a member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). He has previously sat on the Board of Transparency International Georgia, Grants Commission of the Open Society Georgia Foundation, as well as on the Investment Support Council at the Georgian Parliament. Over the years, he has lectured extensively on various aspects of Georgian and International Business Law at various leading educational institutions in Georgia.

Ekaterina Tilling

Eversheds Sutherland

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Moscow Region Bar

Main sectors covered: Intellectual property (inc. pharma, TMT, FMCG, IT and others)

Languages: Russian, English

Ekaterina Tilling is the head of Eversheds Sutherland's Russian intellectual property practice and is recognised for her experience in this area. She specialises in arbitration and litigation, with a particular focus on IP issues and has significant experience in handling complex investment projects involving different IP assets, as well as in negotiating and advising on various IT transactions (including software development, franchising, and IP assignment and licensing. She is highly skilled in solving IP disputes in Russian courts of all levels, including the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, as well as in forums such as the Chamber of Patent Disputes of Rospatent, antimonopoly bodies and the prosecutor's offices.

Tilling is an active member of the IP Committee of ICC Russia as well as a member of several working groups of the global ICC Commission of Intellectual Property. She is the author of many IP publications in Russia and abroad including commentaries on Russia's key legislative acts. She is also active in shaping Russia's IP landscape as a senior teacher at the National Research University's Higher School of Economics. She has also developed several programs on IP rights issues for master's students at the International Laboratory for Information Technology and Intellectual Property of the Theory and History of Law department. She is included in the United Register of recommended arbiters of the Arbitration Center of the Institute of Modern Arbitrazh and is also qualified as a Mediator of International and Community Conflicts by the Conflict Resolution, Research and Resource Institute.

Roger Gladei

Gladei & Partners

Job title: Managing Partner

Location: Moldova

Number of years in practice: 25

Admissions: Moldovan Bar

Geographical areas of focus: Moldova and CIS

Languages: Romanian, English, Russian

Over a 25-year legal career, Roger Gladei has acted on some of Moldova's most high-profile disputes. He began his legal career by spending ten years in-house at a prominent domestic bank, eventually holding concurrent roles as head of legal, corporate secretary, and head of AML. Since then he has been practicing as independent legal counsel, initially as partner with a Moldovan law firm and subsequently as co-founder and managing partner of Gladei & Partners.

He is the first and current President of Chisinau Court of International Commercial Arbitration (CACIC) under the American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova (AmCham). Set up in 2017, AmCham CACIC is the first significant ADR forum catering to businesses disputes arising in Moldova and/or in connection with Moldovan parties. Together with his peers from the CACIC Steering Committee and the CACIC Secretariat, Gladei has, *'established the organisational and procedural framework of CACIC, making it a reputable ADR forum, where business have been addressing not only for arbitration, but also for conciliation and mediation.'*

Alexei Panich

Herbert Smith Freehills

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 21

Admissions: Moscow Bar

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS

Languages: Russian, English, French

Alexei Panich is a partner in the dispute resolution practice of Herbert Smith Freehills in Moscow, specialist in litigation and arbitration. For more than 20 years he has been representing clients in complex corporate, commercial, construction and banking disputes, cross-border debt recovery as well as in bankruptcy proceedings. He has extensive experience in advising on complex Russian and international litigation and arbitration matters affecting the activities of both foreign investors and national Russian companies. His representations as arbitration counsel include acting for: a Russian high net worth individual in a settlement of a dispute related to recovery of over \$1bn damages being considered by the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA); Royal Bank of Scotland and the syndicate of other banks in a US\$300m LCIA arbitration against Kazakhstan companies, operating in Russia and Kazakhstan, and a Gazprom subsidiary in a US\$125 million dispute aimed at the cancellation of an award of the International Commercial Arbitration Court. He has also represented three Russian biathletes in Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) proceedings relating to doping allegations.

Alexei Dudko

Hogan Lovells

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 22

Number of years as an arbitrator: Five

Current appointments as arbitrator: Two
Admissions: Moscow City Bar; all Russian courts

Main sectors covered: Energy and natural resources, telecommunications, real estate, construction, financial services, international trade, life sciences

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS

Languages: Russian, English, German

Heading the Russian dispute resolution practice of Hogan Lovells, Alexei Dudko offers clients the benefit of over two decades' experience as an accomplished litigator and advisor. He has a strong record of winning complex cases in both commercial and general courts in Russia and in international arbitrations and is a recognised authority on Russian and international fraud and asset tracing litigation. He has served as counsel in numerous international arbitrations, involving commercial and investment disputes in the energy and natural resources, sports, telecommunications, real estate and financial services sectors. As arbitration counsel, he focuses on Russia- and CIS- related disputes. He has arbitration experience under the rules of all major arbitration centres in Europe, Russia, and South East Asia and is a registered arbitrator of the Russian Arbitration Centre at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration, the Arbitration Centre at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs the Russian Arbitration Association, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), Harbin Arbitration Commission, Kazakhstan International Arbitration Court and Tashkent International Arbitration Centre. He also has extensive experience of conducting corporate internal investigations for major corporations, as well as their senior management and top executives, and advising on all aspects of bribery, corruption, and fraudulent activities.

Yulia Karpova

Infralex

Job title: Partner, Head of Disputes

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 11

Admissions: Moscow Bar

Main sectors covered: Investment, real estate, corporate disputes

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS

Languages: English, Russian

Yulia Karpova is partner and head of dispute resolution at Infralex. She has more than 10 years of experience in dispute resolution, insolvency law (bankruptcy), corporate law, investment projects, private international law, M&A and transaction support. Karpova specialises in the settlement of commercial disputes in Russian state arbitration courts, including the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Supreme Arbitration Court of the Russian Federation (before its unification with the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation). She has represented parties in major disputes related to various industries, including disputes involving investment activities, real estate and complex corporate conflicts. She is also skilled in carrying out a comprehensive examination of claim and claim work, as well as evaluating prospects of current court disputes. Among her key clients, whose interests were successfully protected in court, are some of the largest banks, resource producing and manufacturing enterprises, railway transport enterprises, federal government bodies and their subordinate institutions.



Roman Marchenko

Ilyashev & Partners Offices

Job title: Senior Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 23

Number of years as an arbitrator: 19

Admissions: Ukraine

Main sectors covered: Energy and resources, transport (aviation, shipping), property and real estate, construction and infrastructure

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, Russia, UK, US

Languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English

With a strong background in both dispute resolution and international arbitration work, co-founder of Ilyashev & Partners Roman Marchenko is regarded as one of the strongest practitioners in the international dispute resolution field in Ukraine. Each year he supervises over 500 of the firm's disputes in Ukraine and abroad.

As counsel, he has many years of experience in international commercial arbitrations under to all major arbitration rules and has acted in a number of prominent and high value investor-state and commercial arbitrations. Marchenko was the first to successfully have recognised in Ukraine an order issued by the English Courts according to the principle of reciprocity.

Since 2001, he has acted as an arbitrator in international arbitration proceedings on a regular basis. He was appointed as an arbitrator for LCIA, ICC, LMAA, SCC, a number of ad hoc arbitrations, including arbitral panels in Ukraine. He is currently vice president of the Ukrainian Law Firms Association.

Dmytro Marchukov

Integrites

Job title: Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 15

Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven

Admissions: Ukrainian bar (admitted to all courts of Ukraine)

Main sectors: Oil & gas, energy, banking & finance, military & defence, media & telecommunications

Geographical areas of focus: CIS, offshore

Languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian

Dmytro Marchukov is partner and head of cross-border litigation at Integrites. He has represented international and local clients in practically every kind of dispute, including national and cross-border litigation, transnational insolvency and receivership, asset tracing and recovery, fraud investigation, enforcement of mortgages and pledges (including pledges against shareholdings in Ukrainian companies), commercial and investment arbitration under the major institutional and ad hoc rules, as well as recognition and enforcement of foreign judicial and arbitral awards. He also occasionally receives appointments as an arbitrator and acts as the Ukrainian law expert in the foreign proceedings in Great Britain, Switzerland and on Cyprus.

In conversation with...

'In my first appointment as arbitrator, the defendant paid out the entire amount claimed before my co-arbitrator and I had even appointed the chairman. The institution (one of the leading arbitral institutions globally) then asked the parties whether they had reached any agreement on allocation of costs, which the claimant had by then incurred. The parties did not care to respond and the case was "forgotten". At some point, I asked my co-arbitrator (who was more experienced) whether we should remind everyone that the arbitration was still hanging in the air. She told me not to bother. The institution's case management team remembered the existence of this arbitration only years later, at which point it asked the parties about the allocation of costs again. This time the parties told everyone not to bother, after which the case was officially closed. Thus, formally my first arbitration, on which I was an arbitrator, was running (or, perhaps, crawling) for some three years... like a full-blown BIT dispute!' ■

Olena Perepelynska

Integrites

Job title: Partner and Head of the CIS Arbitration Practice

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 17

Number of years as an arbitrator: Ten

Current appointments as arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Ukraine National Bar

Main sectors covered: Commercial law, private international law, international trade, banking & finance, corporate law, construction, agriculture

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, CIS

Languages: Russian, Ukrainian, English, Spanish, German, French

Olena Perepelynska is a recognised legal expert in international commercial arbitration, dispute resolution and international trade with 17 years of professional experience in these fields. Since 2003, she has participated in about 90 arbitral proceedings in more than ten jurisdictions under a variety of arbitral rules and in matters relating to project financing, maritime law and international trade as well as issues arising from the economic activities of leading companies in a number of sectors. She has acted as an arbitrator in more than 30 arbitrations seated in London, Stockholm, Kyiv and Minsk. She is president of the Ukrainian Arbitration Association (UAA), board member of the Russian Arbitration Association, president of the Polish-Ukrainian chapter of the Spanish Arbitration Club and member of the global steering committee of the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge.

Artashes Kakoyan

Investment Law Group

Job title: Managing Partner

Location: Armenia

Number of years in practice: 41

Admissions: Georgia

Main sectors covered: Commercial transactions, corporate relations, mining, energy, water, telecommunications

Geographical areas of focus:

Languages: Armenian, English, France

Artashes Kakoyan is the founder and managing partner of Investment Law Group. He began his legal career as project manager and unit director of the Agricultural Wholesale Market, a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) project before joining the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (a US government agency) as legal adviser. In 1999 he established Investment Law Group. He now provides legal assistance to

well-known local and foreign clients in various sectors and is a prominent figure in the development of arbitration in Armenia. For example, he led the team of lawyers responsible for drafting the new Mining Code of Armenia, provided technical assistance to the Public Services Regulatory Commission in its development of a regulatory framework for the telecommunications sector of Armenia, and led the liberalisation of the Armenian telecommunications sector, drafting the new Telecommunications Act and overseeing the legal aspects of initial privatisation schemes.



Andrey Gorlenko

Ivanyan and Partners LLP

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 14

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS, International

Languages: Russian, English, German

Andrey Gorlenko is a leading expert in the field of arbitration in Russia, with vast experience in international disputes. For over a decade he has specialised in complex commercial and corporate disputes in Russia and abroad – representing clients in domestic litigation and arbitration and international arbitration – and also advised in connection with disputes in foreign jurisdictions.

He began his career at Reznik, Gagarin and Partners, one of Russia's oldest law bureaus, where he dealt with complex disputes, Russian litigation, cross-border disputes, and both domestic and international arbitration matters. The matters on which he worked typically spanned many jurisdictions and involved asset tracing, insolvency, enforcement and annulment proceedings. In many of these matters, Gorlenko worked closely with Debevoise & Plimpton's London and Moscow offices. In 2015, he moved to join Debevoise's Moscow office, where he was part of the team that represented global steel producer NLMK in its successful defence in the English High Court against an application to enforce a Russian arbitral award that had been set aside by the Russian courts (Nikolay Viktorovich Maximov vs Novolipsetsky Metallurgicheskyy Kombinat).

In the same year that Gorlenko joined Debevoise, The Russian Federation's Code of Administrative Procedure (the Administrative Procedure Code) entered into force. As a member of the special committee that was officially assisting the Russian Ministry of Justice to articulate and shape these new arbitration laws, Gorlenko played no small part in shaping these laws.

One consequence of Russia's arbitration reform was to significantly reduce the number of arbitral

institutions permitted to operate in the country, with more than one thousand previously existing centres reduced to just five approved institutions: the International Commercial Arbitration Court (ICAC) and Maritime Arbitration Commission (MAC) at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation; the Arbitration Centre at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; the Russian Arbitration Centre (RAC) at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration; and, most recently, the Sports Arbitration Chamber. The Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the Vienna International Arbitration Centre have since been granted permission to administer Russian-seated arbitrations.

One of these five licenced centres, RAC, owes its existence to Gorlenko. *'My involvement in the special committee gave me a great interest not only in how arbitration should work in Russia, but in how it would be administered', says Gorlenko. 'As soon as the laws were adopted I had the idea to start a new centre. What was important to me is that this would be an absolutely greenfield project with no restrictions arising from history or tradition. It was an opportunity to create something truly new and world-class in Russia.'*

The demands of this new project meant that Gorlenko had to leave Debevoise, and for the next three and a half years he occupied himself solely with building RIMA into a major competitor to Russia's more established institutions. It has since developed one of the best sets of arbitration rules in the world, attracting more than 350 of the best Russian and foreign arbitrators. Its international board is composed of figures such as The Right Honourable Dame Elizabeth Gloster, Debevoise partner David Rivkin, and the much esteemed Neil Kaplan. It has also expanded from its base in Moscow to open three regional offices.

Gorlenko remains President of the Board at RAC. He joined Ivanyan & Partners on 1 December 2019 to work on building up its arbitration practice alongside Baiju Vasani.



In conversation with...

'I like challenging projects. The offer of moving to Ivanyan & Partners to build an arbitration practice was exactly the sort of role I wanted. It gives me the chance to build an entirely new type of Russian law firm that will compete with international firms in the global market. Uniquely, we have teams in both Moscow and London that are working together to provide market-leading service. For now, we are involved heavily in investor-state cases, but the scope of our work will grow to support international clients in all commercial arbitration matters.

The Russian Arbitration Centre (RAC) at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration has already made a great impact on international arbitration, but its true legacy will not be the disputes it handles, but the new generation of lawyers it educates and inspires. We are investing in the future. In ten years' time, we will see Russian qualified lawyers competing with international firms.' ■

Baiju Vasani

Ivanyan and Partners LLP

Location: Russia/London

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: District of Columbia (2008), England & Wales (Solicitor) (2004), Texas (2003, now inactive), Bar of England and Wales (Barrister) (1999, now inactive)

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS, Africa, US, India, International

Baiju Vasani joined Ivanyan & Partners as head of international arbitration in November 2019. He arrived from the London and Washington, DC offices of Jones Day, where he had been a hugely respected partner and was consistently ranked among the leading arbitration lawyers in the US and UK. This slightly unconventional move has seen Vasani offered an opportunity few arbitration counsel will ever see in their lives – leading the representation of the Russian Federation in a number of high-profile investor-state cases related to Crimea.

It all began in early 2019 when Khristofor Ivanyan, a specialist in cross-border commercial disputes who has a fearsome reputation as a litigator in Russia, was looking for someone to lead the firm's representation of the Russian Federation in several investment treaty arbitrations brought by Ukrainian investors over the alleged expropriation of their assets in Crimea.

That year, the Russian Federation had decided to reverse its position and fight the bilateral investment treaty claims, even though it did not formally recognise the tribunals' jurisdiction. Vasani was appointed to help lead one of the most closely watched sagas in international arbitration and public international law today.

'I saw this as a chance to do something completely different', says Vasani. 'It was an amazing opportunity to lead the defence of the Russian Federation in a set of cases that are hugely consequential for both that country and for international arbitration and public international law as a whole. In the first few weeks I had met with the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and my legal co-counsel several times to scope out

how we would respond to these claims. Clearly, the opportunity was too good to turn down.'

Moving to Ivanyan & partners also presented Vasani with the opportunity to create a firm in his own vision by handpicking an entirely new team. He has since hired associates from the London offices of Jones Day and Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, and hired a partner from Clifford Chance as part of a new ten-lawyer team that is set to grow further in the coming months. This multinational and multilingual team of lawyers hailing from the UK, USA, India, France, Hungary, Lebanon, and Russia all now coordinating their efforts with the Russian offices of Ivanyan & Partners. The firm's UK entity, Ivanyan & Partners LLP, is currently awaiting SRA approval before setting up in London, a move which will make it the first Russian law firm to take out a significant operational presence in the UK market. In the immediate future the team will handle work for clients in Russia and the CIS, but is set to ultimately serve international clients in disputes with no connection to those markets. *'Effectively', says Vasani, 'it is an elite-level team operating under alternative fee arrangements within a flexible boutique structure. We will be handling a full gamut of cases, from English litigation to investor-state and commercial arbitration and public international law.'*

Vasani is also assisting in the defence of Russia before the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, and other pure public international law matters, as well as acting as co-lead counsel to the Russian Federation in its ISDS matters. He is also sitting as claimants-appointed arbitrator in Canadian nationals' ICSID arbitration against Serbia in relation to the country's agricultural sector, and in a number of international commercial arbitrations.

Prior to joining Ivanyan & Partners Vasani spent nearly two decades in US "Big Law" where he maintained a sizable practice in relation to Central Asia in particular. Among the many standout matters he oversaw during this period was the decision in *World Wide Minerals v. Republic of Kazakhstan*, an UNCITRAL case that saw him secure an unlikely victory for a Canadian client. *'Worldwide Minerals had invested in Kazakhstan in the 1990s and was subsequently expropriated',* Vasani explains. *'One of my colleagues in Toronto came to*



me with an idea to bring a claim under the Canada/USSR BIT. This was in 2009, and no one had researched whether Kazakhstan might be a legal successor to a treaty signed by Canada with the USSR in 1989. We fought a phenomenal case and won on jurisdiction before bringing the merits claim to secure an award of over \$50m. For a company that was expropriated in the 1990s to get that amount today is a real vindication for them and their decades long battle for justice.'

Another highlight from this time is *Vladislav Kim and others v. Uzbekistan*, in which Vasani represented 12 Kazakh investors in the Uzbekistani cement industry. The opposing counsel in this matter, White & Case, ran a corruption defence that had previously proved successful in all cases it had brought on behalf of Uzbekistan. Vasani and his team not only defeated that defence but won sanctions against their opponents.

At Jones Day he maintained a solid practice in commercial arbitration, representing multinationals such as Boeing, IBM, and North American Coal. Vasani has also sat as an arbitrator in a number of high-profile cases and is currently tribunal chair in a SIAC arbitration under Indian law in relation to the healthcare sector.

He was appointed to the New York Convention Task Force for Somalia in 2016, a position which he still holds, and in the same year was elected a member of the Drafting Committee for the Somali Arbitration Bill. Since 2015 he has been Head of the Program Committee for the Somali International Arbitration Summit (SIAS) and Head of the Legal Task Force for the creation of the East African Arbitration Center, a joint effort between the Djibouti Chamber of Commerce (CCD) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In conversation with...

‘The Russian Federation’s ongoing investment treaty cases against Ukraine are subject to the vagaries of how different actors view the geopolitics of Crimea. One narrative is that Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, which is an integral part of the territory of Ukraine. The other view is that the Crimean people made a decision for themselves that must be respected. Indeed, the result of the public referendum, in which the overwhelming number of Crimeans voted to reunify, bears this out. Layer on to this the fact that there was a coup to overthrow a democratically elected government in Kyiv that prompted the referendum in the first place and you have a state of affairs that is far more complicated than that allowed by the conventional Western media narrative. No matter how one looks at it, there was and is overwhelming support – and independent observers confirm this – among citizens of Crimea for joining Russia that persists to this day.

As part of that reunification, there were businesses established by two categories of entities – both Ukrainian government-owned entities and those owned by, for want of a better word, Ukrainian oligarchs, that were lost. All of the claimants losing these assets had the opportunity to bring their actions in the courts, which they chose not to do. They have instead chosen to use the Ukraine-Russia bilateral investment treaty (Treaty).

But there is no jurisdiction to do so. As a threshold matter, in order for a Ukrainian claimant to bring a

claim against Russia under this Treaty the tribunal has to first establish that Crimea is Russian territory for the purposes of the Treaty. Without knowing whether Crimea is Russian or Ukrainian territory under the Treaty, a tribunal cannot know which State’s investors are protected there, whose legislation applies, and whether a protected investment has been made. However, no Treaty tribunal can address such a question. A tribunal only has jurisdiction over a State to the extent it has expressly consented thereto, and within the limits of that consent.

First, neither Russia nor Ukraine has consented to an investment tribunal determining their respective territorial limits or the reach of their sovereign powers, as set out in the Treaty, in respect of Crimea and in relation to which Russia and Ukraine hold divergent views. Since this question requires prior determination in order to adjudicate any claim, but is one over which investment tribunals lack jurisdiction, they cannot adjudicate these claims.

Second, a determination on Crimea’s territorial status fundamentally affects Ukraine’s legal interests because Ukraine fundamentally rejects both Russian sovereignty over Crimea but also Russia’s ability to exercise the rights and powers contained in the Treaty in respect of Crimea. As the two are indissoluble, a determination on the territorial status of Crimea is a determination also on the sovereign powers the territorial state is able to exercise on that territory. Since Ukraine is neither a party to these claims, nor has consented to such a determination, the Monetary Gold principle precludes an investment tribunal from exercising jurisdiction.

Third, the treaty only applies to Russia and Ukraine’s respective sovereignty territories, and exclusive economic zones and continental shelves. The territory of a state has a clear and well-established meaning in international law as the sovereign territory of a state. The express wording of the Treaty, its context, object and purpose, the travaux préparatoires and state practice all confirm beyond doubt that this was the meaning adopted by Russia and Ukraine in the Treaty. Therefore, since no investment tribunal can make determinations on sovereignty, and territory here can only mean sovereign territory, such tribunals have no jurisdiction to determine these claims.

Even setting aside these fundamental, and in our view insurmountable issues, there are many other challenges to the prevailing narrative which we hope to fight in these cases. For example, both states pledged to reciprocally protect the investments of the other in return for the encouragement of cross-border investment between the two states. However, since Ukraine disregards its own treaty obligations in respect of Crimea, and does not accept that Crimea is Russian sovereign territory, Russia cannot unilaterally have obligations under a bilateral treaty. It’s not a one-way street. Moreover, at the time these parties invested they were Ukrainian individuals and companies investing domestically in Ukraine. None of them made a foreign investment, none of them intended to do so, and none of them expected protection under this Treaty. As such, these claimants cannot and should not now comprise protected investors with protected investments under a bilateral treaty between two states designed to protect foreign investors and investments simply due to some bizarre theory of “passive transition” of the investment across borders. Furthermore, a number of claimants in these cases are seeking investment protection for assets and infrastructure that was constructed during the Soviet era. The Treaty temporally limits investment protection to cross-border investments made after 1 January 1992.

We consider the above arguments to be unassailable. The jurisdictional decisions that were made by prior tribunals before the Russian Federation defended these arbitrations, though without precedential value, are nevertheless deeply unfortunate. The analyses in those cases are superficial and flawed, and no reliance can be placed them at all. By way of example, what the awards say about the territorial scope of the Treaty is entirely defective (and in the most negative sense of the term) teleological. I hope they will be exposed for public scrutiny in due course. Indeed, that kind of jurisprudence should not be allowed to stay immune from scrutiny. Fortunately, none of those prior tribunals heard the new arguments the Russian Federation is now raising. As a result, we don’t expect the tribunals currently hearing jurisdiction to follow their example.’ ■

Nurbek Sabirov

Kalikova & Associates

Job title: Partner

Location: Kyrgyz Republic

Number of years in practice: 17

Number of years as an arbitrator: 14

Admissions: Kyrgyz Republic (covering all administrative and court proceedings in the Kyrgyz Republic)

Principal matters covered: Credit and loans, sale and purchase, lease agreements, unjust enrichment

Geographical areas of focus: CIS

Languages: English, Russian, Kyrgyz

'In my view, to be an arbitrator is not a power, it is a huge responsibility', says Nurbek Sabirov, partner and the leader the litigation and arbitration practice group of Kalikova & Associates. 'Parties authorise and trust the arbitrators to consider a dispute and arbitrators must be worthy of that trust. Trust is a cornerstone of the arbitration as institution.'

As an arbitrator, Sabirov has considered 30 cases, including more than 15 as sole arbitrator appointed by the International Court of Arbitration under the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic. He has also served as a member of tribunal considered a case in accordance with UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, and as a member of tribunal of international commercial arbitration considered a case in accordance with ICC Arbitration Rules and foreign applicable law. He is an arbitrator of Qinzhou Arbitration Commission (China), Riga International Commercial Arbitration Court (Latvia), Georgian International Arbitration Center, and of the International Court of Arbitration of the KR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Sabirov also has significant experience in commercial and civil litigation cases and has previously acted as a legal expert to the Secretariat of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Zhibek Karamanova

Keremet Holding

Job title: Founder and Managing Partner

Location: Kazakhstan

Number of years in practice: 16

Number of years as an arbitrator: 11

Current appointments as arbitrator: Three (as sole arbitrator)

Admissions: Republic of Kazakhstan

Main sectors covered: Energy, investments, corporate law, securities, IP law

Geographical areas of focus: CIS, US, Europe, Asia, Middle East

Languages: Kazakh, Russian, English

Zhibek Karamanova is founder and managing partner of Keremet Holding, a firm offering business consulting and legal support on international transactions and representing clients' in litigation and arbitration matters, both directly and alongside international law firms. Prior to setting up Keremet Holding in 2016, Karamanova spent a number of years at prominent Kazakh and international firms such as Hogan Lovells and Herbert Smith Freehills. She has represented various large companies in ICSID arbitrations, and on a number of commercial cases at LCIA and at arbitration institutes in Russia, Hong Kong, Dubai and Kazakhstan. She sits as an arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Art (Netherlands), IUS International Arbitration (Kazakhstan), Russian Arbitration Center (Russia), Arbitration Center of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs Atameken (Kazakhstan). She is also the member of the Listing Committee of the Astana International Exchange and an art dealer advising on the international art market.

Kostiantyn Likarchuk

Kinstellar

Job title: Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 22

Admissions: Ukraine

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Southeast Asia

Languages: Russian, Ukrainian, English

Kostiantyn Likarchuk represents local and international corporate clients, banks and other financial institutions as well as high-net-worth individuals in a variety of disputes arising out of their business and investment activity, with a particular focus on shareholder disputes.

Likarchuk began his career as a corporate lawyer. During the financial crisis of 2008 he began to work more frequently on contentious matters and has gone on to become one of the leading lawyers for post-M&A, shareholder and joint venture disputes and one of the most respected figures in the Central and Eastern European and Central Asian disputes market. Likarchuk characterises his practice as follows: *'I see myself as a litigator practicing international commercial arbitration on cases coming out of countries where such matters would customarily be addressed by way of criminal prosecution rather than international commercial arbitration. As such, much of my work involves uncovering crimes in arbitration, which is exciting and challenging.'*

He now oversees a practice that handles dozens of English-law governed, London-seated arbitrations as well as a significant number of cases at centres such as the ICC in Paris and the SCC in Stockholm. He also periodically handles domestic-seated arbitrations at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICAC).

Recently, he was involved in a significant post-M&A arbitration against a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oman's sovereign wealth fund. In this ICC Rules arbitration, valued at approximately £450m, Likarchuk and the Kinstellar team acted alone to successfully defend around 20 claims brought by a large Ukrainian agricultural group against a former shareholder. He is now acting on a significant shareholder dispute involving allegations of conspiracy and embezzlement of assets, this time held under LCIA Rules in London.

Mukhit Yeleuov

Kinstellar

Location: Kazakhstan

Number of years in practice: 16

Number of years as an arbitrator: Four

Current appointments as arbitrator: One

Admissions: Admitted in Kazakhstan since 1999

Main sectors covered: Oil and gas, energy, construction, mining and metals

Areas of practice: International Arbitration, International Litigation, Complex Commercial Litigation

Geographical areas of focus: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan

Languages: English, Kazakh, Russian, Turkish

Mukhit Yeleuov heads the dispute resolution practice of Kinstellar in Kazakhstan and is among the CIS region's regarded arbitration counsel. He specialises in high-value complex disputes and has been involved in many of the most important disputes related to Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries. He also regularly sits as an arbitrator and appears as an expert on Kazakh law before arbitral tribunals.

Significant recent disputes on which he has led include: acting for a major construction company in its arbitration against a subcontractor related to a multimillion-dollar dispute under a construction contract for a major project in Nur-Sultan; acting for a development, investment and management company in its arbitration against a building contractor related to a multimillion-dollar dispute under a design and build contract for a major project, advising an oil and gas company on a potential arbitration with its contractor.

Mr. Yeleuov is a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) and has taught law in the US, at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and Kazakhstan, at the Law School of KIMEP University (Kazakhstan). He has written extensively on arbitration, civil procedure, and other issues.



He is a member of both the Kazakhstan Bar Association Management Board and Committee on Courts and Arbitration. He also sits on the global advisory board at Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

For a number of years, Mukhit has been consistently recognised by the leading international legal directories and other benchmark publications as a leading lawyer in his field. Clients remark that Mukhit is an "unbelievable trilingual litigator"; that working with him is "always a great pleasure" adding that "he is very strong in the logical structuring of a case."

Alexander Khrenov

Khrenov & Partners

Job title: Founder and Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 23

Admissions: Moscow City Bar Association

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS

Languages: Russian, English

Original founder and partner of Khrenov & Partners Alexander Khrenov is co-head of the firm's dispute and litigation practice. He has significant experience representing clients' interests before judicial, administrative and other authorities, particularly in the fields of arbitration, energy, transport and corporate law, as well as antitrust law and troubled assets recovery. He also represents domestic and international clients across a wide range of corporate transactions and on regulatory issues. Before establishing Khrenov & Partners (originally Yukov Khrenov & Partners) in 2003, he worked at the Inter-Republic Bar Association and the Law Office for International Affairs. He has also served as chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the Russian Association of Lawyers and a member of International Bar Association.

Sergey Kovalev

Kovalev Tugushi & Partners

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 28

Number of years as an arbitrator: 11

Current appointments as arbitrator: Ten

Admissions: Moscow Bar Association

Areas of expertise: Aviation, banking and finance, commercial, construction, energy, insurance, investment, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, sports, transport

Geographical areas of focus: Russia, CIS, China

Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian

With 28 years of dispute resolution, arbitration, bankruptcy and automotive industry experience, Sergey Kovalev is a recognised practitioner in Russia and the CIS. He has advised on over 1,000 successful cases before Russian courts of all instances and has extensive experience arguing high-profile cases before the Supreme Courts of Russia. He has also participated in foreign litigations and arbitrations at institutions including the ICAC, the High Court of Justice in England, LCIA, CAS, Civil and Criminal Swiss courts, and the Dutch courts.

He typically represents large and medium business, significant investors and high-net-worth individuals from the Forbes list, and has expertise in a range of areas, including real estate and construction, banking and finance, investment, insurance, energy, logistic and transport, automotive industry, and pharmaceuticals. He also has significant experience at the Sports Arbitration Court, and says the parallels between international arbitration and sporting contests are clear: '[In one case], my friends from the Boxing Federation of Russia said, "Why are we going at a distance all the time and haven't hit anyone even once? We have to act in the following way: jump, hit and step aside."' Before starting his own law firm in 1995, Kovalev held the position of head of legal with several well-known Russian companies, including Modern Business Technologies (SBT), Development Business Systems (RBS), KolEnergo, TRINFIKO Investment Group, and LEFKO Insurance Company. From 2001 to 2011, he again served as managing partner of his own law firm, which was a key partner to the State Corporation Credit Institutions Restructuring Agency and Deposit Insurance Agency. From 2011 to 2017, he headed the litigation and bankruptcy practice of Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners, managing a team of 60 lawyers. In April 2017, he took the lead at Kovalev Tugushi & Partners law office. He is the author of more than 150 articles and commentaries. He is also a speaker for Russian-language business daily Vedomosti and for broadcasting channel RBK (RosBiznesConsulting, as well as a regular speaker at international conferences including the St. Petersburg International Legal Forum, Adam Smith Conferences, International Bar Association, C5 and the CBonds congress. Since 2018, he has been an arbitrator in the Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (SHIAC).

Maxim Kulkov

Kulkov Kolotilov & Partners

Job title: Managing Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 25

Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven years

Current appointments as arbitrator: One (as sole arbitrator)

Admissions: Moscow Bar

Principal areas covered: Commercial, insolvency, shareholder, investment, construction disputes, disputes related to international trade, conflict of laws and jurisdictional disputes

Languages: Russian, English

Once, after sitting as arbitrator in a dispute between an Italian manufacturer and a Russian company affiliated with Gazprom, Maxim Kulkov heard an unusual argument from a Russian judge. In refusing to enforce the award, the judge argued that the second arbitrator *'was under the influence of Mr Kulkov, who is recognised and respected internationally.'* It is no surprise that one English QC describes him as *'a legend of the international arbitration circuit.'*

Maxim Kulkov has extensive experience in leading teams of international and local advisors in multi-jurisdictional disputes and acting as a legal expert in foreign litigation and arbitration matters. He represents clients in Russian state courts at all levels (including the Supreme Court, Supreme Commercial Court and the Constitutional Court) and in international arbitration centres.

A member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, the ICC Russia Arbitration Committee and the Russian Arbitration Association, he regularly serves as an arbitrator at the Arbitration Centre of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia (RSPP). He is a listed arbitrator at the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA). He has acted as co or sole arbitrator at a number of forums, and provided expert opinion in some of the most high profile arbitrations of the past decade.

As counsel, he has acted on a wide range of international arbitrations, including advising and representing one of Russia's largest banks as a co-counsel together with an international law firm's London office in an LCIA arbitration, acting on an SCC copyright infringement case in connection with the construction of the Federation Tower in Moscow City, and advising and representing world-famous architect Erick van Egeraat in a dispute arising out of several agreements made with a Russian oligarch.

Before establishing KK&P, he headed the Russian dispute resolution practices at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Goltsblat BLP and Pepelyaev, Goltsblat and Partners. In his free time, he directs films.

Aleksandre Khrapoutski

Lex Torre

Job title: Head of International Arbitration Practice

Location: Belarus

Number of years in practice: 25

Admissions: Minsk Bar Association

Main sectors covered: International commercial and investment arbitration, energy and infrastructure, contract law, commercial law, construction, banking and finance.

Languages: Belarusian, Russian, English

Alexandre Khrapoutski has been involved in international commercial arbitration since 2000. He has participated in more than 50 arbitral proceedings as chairman of tribunal, sole arbitrator, party-appointed arbitrator and counsel under the arbitration rules of ICC, SCC, VIAC, LCIA, the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is founder and organising committee co-chairman of the Eastern European Dispute Resolution Forum (EEDRF, Minsk, Belarus) and coordinator of the working group on drafting of Rules on the Efficient Conduct of Proceedings in International Arbitration (Prague Rules).

Andrei Kolupaev

Lexwell & Partners

Job title: Managing partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 15

Andriy Kolupayev is co-founder and managing partner at Lexwell & Partners whose core practices are litigation (including tax disputes) and arbitration. He has participated as a lead or co-adviser in great number of complex national and international litigations and arbitrations with a total amount exceeding tens of billions of US dollars. Among his clients are a number of Fortunes 500-listed entities and other leading multinational and Ukrainian companies. He has also advised the Government and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in highly complex disputes. Kolupayev was previously an adviser the Office of the President of Ukraine, where he worked on reforms to the national judicial system before co-founding Lexwell & Partners in 2005.

Andrey Zelenin

Lidings

Job title: Managing Partner, Head of Dispute Resolution and Intellectual Property

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 16

Number of years as an arbitrator: Three

Admissions: Moscow Bar

Main sectors: Automotive, aviation, financial institutions, FMCG, IT and electronics, media and telecoms, pharmaceuticals and healthcare

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS (inc. global businesses entering Russian and CIS markets)

Languages: Russian, English

Andrey Zelenin is managing partner and head of the dispute resolution and intellectual property practices at Lidings. He has substantial expertise in litigation before Russian courts and in international arbitration, particularly in disputes involving financial institutions, companies from FMCG, energy and pharmaceutical sectors and cases involving non-Russian parties or elements.

As counsel, he has represented clients in a number of precedent-setting cases in Russia, including: representing Exxon Mobil in the ICAC; representing DuPont Corporation in the ICAC in a debt collection dispute with a major Russian chemical producer, and representing Tetra Pak in the Russian arbitration courts.

He has a wide experience in conducting trials in accordance with the rules of ICC, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, and ICAC with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, as well as other Russian and international arbitration institutions. Zelenin is also active as an arbitrator and is currently appointed as arbitrator of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) Court, arbitrator of the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association and arbitrator of the Russian Arbitration Center at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration.

He is a member of the Russia-China Law Society, the British Russian Law Association Committee, the organisation committee of the Arbitration Debates project of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) and Expanded Social Council at the Ministry for Development of the Far East of Russia. He is the author of multiple articles and legal reviews published in Russia and abroad.

Vladimir Melnikov

Linklaters

Job title: Partner
Location: Russia

Vladimir Melnikov is head of dispute resolution at Linklaters' Moscow office. He has extensive experience in arbitration, complex litigation, and regulatory investigations in a variety of industrial and financial sectors. For more than a decade he has been advising on arbitrations across all major arbitral rules and representing Russian and international private and state-owned banks and corporates in corporate, commercial, construction, regulatory and insurance cases as well as asset recovery matters. Vladimir is also highly experienced in cross-border insolvency matters. His recent work includes advising Gazprom on a complex multi-jurisdictional arbitration against Ukraine in relation to the imposition of a \$6bn fine, and representing a major bank in connection with an LCIA arbitration brought against it for the recovery of more than \$600m in damages. He also acted in connection with a \$1.75bn claim filed before the Russian courts in the proceedings of the Antipinsky Refinery, one of the largest bankruptcy cases in the Russian oil and gas sector.

Roman Zykov

Mansors

Job title: Partner
Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 17
Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven
Current appointments as arbitrator: Four (one as sole arbitrator)
Admissions: Russia
Main sectors covered: Construction (gas, nuclear and coal power plants, stadiums, hotels, gas pipes); Sale of goods (chemicals, life stock, industrial and construction machinery, mass market goods); Service agreements (oil refinery, dredging, financial)
Geographical areas of focus: Russia and CIS, EU, South East Asia, Middle East, North America
Languages: Russian, English, Swedish

Roman Zykov specialises in international arbitration with a particular emphasis on the M&A, shareholders' disputes, construction, mining, oil & gas and international trade-related disputes. He is on the roster of arbitrators at a number of arbitral institutions and is regularly appointed as an arbitrator and legal expert under the ICC, SCC, VIAC, and ICAC Arbitration Rules. In addition to his work as arbitrator and arbitration counsel, he regularly advises on international litigation matters across the globe, including Russia and CIS, EU, US, Canada, BVI and others. Before joining Mansors in 2017 Zykov was head of international dispute resolution at listed gold mining company Mangazeya Mining. He has also been a member of the dispute resolution groups at leading law firms in the Netherlands and Scandinavia. He has served as Secretary General of the Russian Arbitration Association since 2013. In March 2020, he was appointed to the inaugural pool of arbitrators of the Court of Arbitration for Art (CAfA), a joint initiative of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute and Authentication in Art that seeks to resolve disputes in the wider art community through mediation and arbitration.

Diana Bayzakova

Merritz Law Firm

Job title: Partner
Location: Uzbekistan

Number of years in practice: 11
Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven
Admissions: Uzbekistan
Main sectors covered: Construction, real estate, general commercial, telecoms
Geographical areas of focus: CIS and MENA regions
Languages: English, Farsi, Russian, Uzbek, German, Arabic

Diana Bayzakova is an independent arbitrator and a dispute resolution expert whose practice focuses on complex cross-border matters pertaining to the CIS and MENA region in the construction, real estate, telecoms and natural resources sectors. She has acted on disputes around the world with an aggregate value of several billion dollars under a variety of arbitration rules (DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, ICC, SCC, ADCCAC and others).

She was one of the leading actors in the project to set up the Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC) at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan, of which she is currently director. The TIAC was established under a Decree of the President of Uzbekistan in 2018 and has since grown tremendously in terms of its caseload while launching a number of important initiatives, including the first-of-a-kind International Tech Moot Court Competition and TIAC's dispute avoidance services. Bayzakova also acts as a consultant to the Government of Uzbekistan on the legislative reforms and the adoption of the new law on international arbitration.

Her first appointment at the age of 27 makes her one of the youngest international arbitrator in international arbitral proceedings under the DIAC Rules of Arbitration, which, in the words of her students, *'reminds young practitioners and young female practitioners that everything is possible with hard work and dedication'*. She is fluent in English, Farsi and Russian and has the working knowledge of Uzbek and German and conversational Arabic.

Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners (MZS)



Business message

Formed in 1991 and based in Moscow, MZS has an almost unequalled track record and reputation across a diverse range of practice areas and industries – representing some of the world’s largest companies and individual clients in litigation before Russian courts of all levels as well as commercial and investment arbitration proceedings.

The foundation of much of our success is based on our long term investment in people and resources. Our knowledge of, and contribution to, doctrinal work has consistently enabled our lawyers to provide winning arguments based on proven academic authority – with a strong heritage in dispute resolution and the courtroom. MZS is also infused with a dynamic personality and a dedication to specialisation traditionally associated with the best “boutique” firms.

Speed of thought and action are essential for success, and through our flexible approach, we regularly find new and innovative ways of responding to new and old issues to solve our clients’ concerns.

Most importantly, this experience has provided a solid foundation for expertise and growth that feeds into virtually every part of the MZS service portfolio – in products ranging from Taxation through to Employment and Antitrust and across sectors from Energy & Metals to Retail.

As a result, MZS is now one of the leading independent Russian law firms with strong links to the legal establishment.





Dmitry Andreev

Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners

Job title: Advocate

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: Ten

Admissions: Russian Federation, New York, England & Wales

Main sectors covered: Disputes, Investment Arbitration, Financial Services, Telecommunications

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Russia and CIS

Languages: Russian, English, and Spanish

Dmitry Andreev is an advocate at MZS specialising in disputes. He has hands-on experience representing clients in commercial and investment arbitrations under the rules of LCIA, SCC, ICC, ICAC and UNCITRAL. His recent highlights include obtaining an SCC emergency arbitrator award and a number of partial awards in favour of a Russian state corporation, as well as the successful representation of a real estate developer in a matrix of over twenty LCIA and ICAC arbitrations and related court proceedings in England, Cyprus and Russia.

He graduated from MGIMO University and Pepperdine University. In 2016 he was seconded as a visiting foreign lawyer to WilmerHale's international arbitration Group. Andreev has written many articles in Russian and English about arbitrating disputes in Russia and the role of national courts in arbitration. He is a co-author of Dispute Resolution in Russia: The Essentials and Arbitration World: Russia Chapter. He regularly sits as arbitrator at the Russian Arbitration Centre and is the Co-Chair of the Young Institute of Modern Arbitration (Young IMA).



Dmitry Konovalov

Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners

Job title: Associate

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: Two

Admissions: Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Bankruptcy, financial services, litigation, arbitration

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Russia and CIS

Languages: Russian, English, Spanish, French

Dmitry Konovalov is an associate at MZS. His areas of interest and expertise include bankruptcy, corporate litigation, and arbitration. He has extensive experience advising clients in litigation and international arbitration and has acted for corporations and individuals across a range of industry sectors in such areas as banking and finance law, bankruptcy and antitrust law. He has also acted on several of the largest high-profile disputes before Russian state courts. Konovalov graduated from MGIMO University (Moscow) and is admitted to practice in Russia. He continues his studies as a postgraduate student at MGIMO University (Moscow).



Sergey Korolev
Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners

Job title: Senior Associate

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: Ten

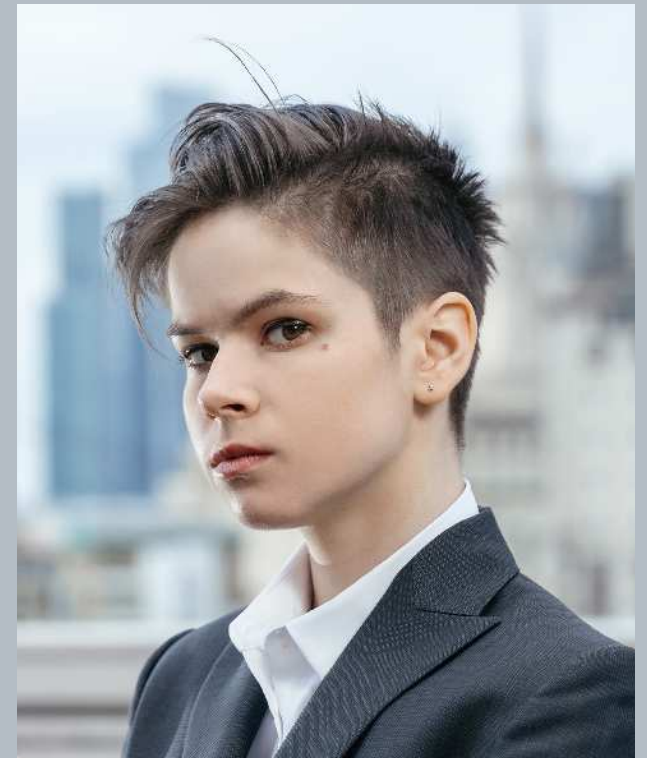
Admissions: Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Bankruptcy, company law, financial markets

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Russia and CIS

Languages: Russian, English, German

Sergey Korolev is an advocate at MZS. His areas of interest and expertise include cross-border litigation and arbitration, bankruptcy, conflicts of laws, financial markets and family law. He has extensive experience advising and representing clients in complex international commercial arbitration proceedings under the rules of LCIA, ICC and ICAC. Korolev has acted for corporate and individual clients across a range of industry sectors, including banking and finance, energy, real estate and aviation. His recent highlights include representation of real estate property developer in a set of complex LCIA arbitration and related proceedings in England, Cyprus and Russia. He graduated from MGIMO University (Moscow) and is admitted to practice in Russia. He is also currently pursuing a LL.B. degree at the University of London.



Anna Kostina
Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov
& Partners

Job title: Associate

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: Two

Admissions: Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Banking and finance, investment arbitration

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Russia and CIS

Languages: Russian, English, Spanish, French

Having graduated from MGIMO University (Moscow), Anna Kostina joined the MZS arbitration team to work on the firm's investment arbitration cases. Her other areas of interest and expertise include international commercial arbitration and cross-border litigation.



Maria Petrenko
Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners

Job title: Associate

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: Two

Admissions: Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Litigation, investment arbitration

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Russia and CIS

Languages: Russian, English, German

Maria Petrenko is an associate at MZS with expertise in international commercial and investment arbitration. Her experience includes acting in international arbitrations under the rules of SCC and ICAC. She holds an LLM degree in Public International Law from Queen Mary, University of London (2018) and a Russian Specialist law degree from the Russian Foreign Trade Academy (2015).



Kirill Shmotov
Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners

Job title: Associate

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: Two

Admissions: Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Real estate, protection of business reputation, bankruptcy

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Russia and CIS

Languages: Russian, English

Kirill Shmotov is an associate at MZS. He specialises in bankruptcy, litigation and arbitration. His practice focuses on disputes arising in such areas as real estate, lease agreements, aviation and business reputation. Shmotov graduated from Lomonosov Moscow State University and is admitted to practice in Russia. He continues his studies as a postgraduate student at Kutafin Moscow State Law University. As a member of Lomonosov MSU team, he took third place in Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot 2019.

Kirill Udovichenko

Monastyrsky, Zyuba, Stepanov & Partners

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 14

Number of years as an arbitrator: Three years

Current appointments as arbitrator: Three

Admissions: Russian Federation

Principal areas covered: Commercial, insolvency, shareholder, investment, construction disputes, disputes related to international trade, conflict of laws and jurisdictional disputes

Languages: Russian, English

Throughout his career Kirill Udovichenko has developed a remarkable track record in dispute resolution cases. His practice deals primarily with cross-border disputes (often involving bankruptcy proceedings) and international commercial arbitration. He has also acted for key creditors in a number of major Russian bankruptcy proceedings, advancing claims for hundreds of million dollars. During the recent years, his work has also been focused on investment arbitration, where he has acted as lead counsel on several cases.

Udovichenko has been personally involved in the biggest cases on the Russian market, allowing him to easily pinpoint the key issues of a dispute and effectively pursue clients' goals through its resolution. His many notable representations include leading on an ongoing \$1bn investment arbitration against another CIS state. This large, extremely complex and much politicised dispute involves a number of parallel litigations and has been described as *'like an octopus that has arbitration as the head and a lot of smaller matters connected to that fundamental proceeding.'* It is a case which demonstrates both Udovichenko's expertise as counsel and MZS's ability to handle investment arbitration, making it one of only a small number of Russian firms with this capability.

Udovichenko comments, *'To deliver results to a client, counsel has to be pro-active and unrelenting. I have dealt with different clients: from high net worth individuals and transnational corporations to Russian and foreign state-owned entities. I am*

able to understand the needs of a particular client and offer a tailor-made solution. [Equally important to that success], I have also managed to build a highly effective and proficient team of lawyers who have practiced in major international law firms and gained an in-depth understanding of the core of dispute resolution.'

Recently, Udovichenko has acted for O1 Group in a complex cross-border \$500m plus dispute with Otkritie Bank, another incredibly sophisticated and politicised matter involving over 20 litigation, arbitration and bankruptcy proceedings in Russia, England and Cyprus. This dispute concerns the complicated restructuring of multiple financial obligations between a large investment group and a Russian bank. The arbitral tribunal on a key dispute consists of three former High Court and Court of Appeal judges and handles twenty arbitration proceedings, consolidated into a single case by the LCIA Court. The parties have exchanged various cross-claims for damages, disclosed over 20,000 individual documents and called more than twenty witnesses and experts. The tribunal has made a dozen of interim orders on joinder of parties, provisional measures, security for costs, and disclosure of evidence.

In one of Udovichenko's other recent representations, an English-language arbitration under the ICAC Rules with a heavy focus on English law arising out of a complex transaction involving pledges, securities options and a series of secured transactions, MZS managed to secure a victory for a number of Cypriot respondents.

Udovichenko is currently acting on an SCC investor-state arbitration between Russian state corporation VEB.RF and Ukraine. The subject matter of this dispute is a series of hostile acts by state officials culminating in the expropriation of VEB.RF's subsidiary bank. Ukraine has raised the stakes by trying to portray this arbitration as a political dispute between two sovereign states. While proceedings have so far reached a hearing on jurisdictional issues, VEB.RF has already secured multiple victories and partial awards in its favour, including an unprecedented award of the SCC Emergency Arbitrator, later confirmed by the full panel of arbitrators. This has added to the dispute an intricate layer of complex enforcement litigations worldwide.

His current work also includes acting as counsel on bankruptcy proceedings of major Czech steel processing companies Pilsen Steel and Pilsen Estates on behalf of largest creditors (with cumulative claims exceeding €1bn).

Previously he represented the Boeing Company Russian team in a multijurisdictional dispute (in Sweden, Russia, California) regarding the joint venture of companies from Russia, Ukraine, USA and Norway purporting to build a floating spaceport and operate commercial spacecraft launches.

Udovichenko is a permanent arbitrator in the International and Investment Disputes Panel of the Arbitration Center at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs RSPP and constantly acts as arbitrator in other institutions and ad hoc proceedings. He has also acted on over 150 litigation proceedings and is regularly involved in many of the firm's other matters, from advising on some of the most high-profile family law disputes to providing support in hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of M&A projects.

In conversation with...

'Russian arbitration is still experiencing the turbulent aftermath of the arbitration reform. The local courts are yet to develop consistent case law on arbitration matters. Although the situation is getting better, as things currently stand, there still are pitfalls in the Russian judiciary that only an experienced practitioner can avoid. These mainly concern validity of arbitration clauses and arbitrability of certain matters (e.g. corporate disputes and contracts involving the public sector).

It is no secret that efficient arbitrators are key to efficient arbitration. The Russian arbitration scene is certainly up for a turn for the better in this regard. It is currently undergoing a generational shift: the percentage of younger practitioners (under 40s) on the market is going up fast. This is expected to bring about wider implementation of international standards and guidelines, which will certainly benefit

the quality of the awards and predictability of the proceedings.

Once I exited a maritime arbitration hearing accompanied by the employees of the client (a multibillion Indian steelmaking corporation) and tried to summon a taxi. Then a police car pulled up and the officers offered to give us a lift to my office. They even turned the sirens on. I bet the client did not expect to get a view of the Kremlin walls while being driven along the contraflow lane in a police car with the lights on!

Recently we were engaged in proceedings to recognize and enforce an interim measures decision against the host State – in that very State. The hearing was supposed to be the last one and we expected a positive outcome – until around 20 people in military uniform of the host State turned up in court and started to harass the judge. The case will now proceed before another judge and we are ready for any new surprises.

In another arbitration I had to conduct a series of under-the-radar witness interviews. I booked a secure conference room, but the hotel management did not warn me that noisy construction works were in full swing in the neighboring room. I had to make arrangements with the owner of a bar next door to get us a quiet place to talk. It still turned out to be a very productive evening – despite the unlikely surroundings.' ■



Dmitry Ivanov

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 13

Number of years as an arbitrator: One

Admissions: Russian Federation

Main sectors covered: Energy, real estate and construction/infrastructure, banking, corporate M&A

Geographical areas of focus: Russia, Europe, USA, CIS, Asia

Languages: Russian, English, French

Dmitry Ivanov counsels clients in complex cross-border and domestic litigation and international arbitration proceedings on contentious and general commercial matters. He also represents clients in state courts and arbitration tribunals and advises on disputes in energy, real estate, construction, contractual and corporate matters, as well as on bankruptcy and insolvency. Additionally, he advises on international compliance matters, including investigations in connection with US FCPA and UK Bribery Act issues, as well as on possible criminal and administrative sanctions risks and investigations by State bodies and assists clients on related matters. Since late 2019, he has been included in the list of arbitrators of the Arbitration Center of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (one of three approved Russian institutions).

Lasha Noida

Nodia, Urumashvili & Partners

Job title: Managing Partner

Location: Georgia

Number of years in practice: 24

Number of years as an arbitrator: Eight

Current appointments as arbitrator: One

Admissions: Georgia

Main sectors covered: Banking and finance, commercial, corporate and M&A, insolvency and restructuring, real estate

Geographical areas of focus: Georgia

Languages: Georgian, English, Russian

Lasha Nodia is one of the leading figures of the Georgian arbitration scene. Prior to establishing the law firm Nodia, Urumashvili & Partners (of which he is managing partner) he worked at JSC Bank Republic as in-house counsel (1996 – 2003) and a head of legal (2003 – 2005). He was the first chairman and co-founder of the Georgian Arbitrators' Associations (GAA). Since 2012 he has been an accredited mediator of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR), where he is a member of the list of Court Mediators, and since 2013 he has been a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb).

He has also served as a member of the auditing committee of the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (1999-2001) and is one of the authors of the legislative amendments to the Arbitration Law of Georgia (2015). As an expert, he was involved in the working group that drafted the bill on Rehabilitation and Collective Satisfaction of Creditors.

Dr. Viktor Gerbutov

Noerr

Job title: Associated Partner

Location: Russia

Admissions: Moscow Bar

Languages: Russian, English, German

Dr Viktor Gerbutov heads the dispute resolution practice with Noerr Moscow. He regularly represents clients before Russian courts and arbitration tribunals and serves as arbitrator and as a Russian law expert witness. He is included in the recommended lists of arbitrators of the Arbitration Center at the RSPP and the Russian Arbitration Center at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration. Dr Gerbutov holds the position of Associate Professor in the Alekseev Private Law Research Centre and lectures at the Law Faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University.

Yaroslav Klimov

Norton Rose Fulbright

Job title: Head of Dispute Resolution

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 24

Number of years as an arbitrator: Three

Admissions: Moscow Bar (since 1997)

Main sectors covered: Construction, international trade, energy, corporate and finance

Geographical areas of focus: Russia and CIS, Europe, Middle East and Asia

Languages: Russian, English, French, German

Yaroslav Klimov is head of dispute resolution practice in Russia and the CIS at Norton Rose Fulbright. He is predominantly known for his extensive experience in cross-border disputes involving Russia/CIS parties. He became a partner with the firm in 2011 having previously worked for a major international law firm for 15 years. He is fluent in English, German and French and can work on arbitration matters involving these languages.

Klimov is often involved in high-profile disputes and is highly regarded by clients for his knowledgeable and strategic approach. As counsel, he has represented clients' interests as counsel in more than 30 arbitration proceedings (for both claimants and defendants) and also sits as an arbitrator in both domestic and international arbitration matters. He is a Russian delegate to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR and is listed as an arbitrator at the various arbitral institutions.

Ekaterina Lebedeva

Pepeliaev Group

Job title: Head of the International

Litigation and Arbitration Practice

Location: Moscow, Russia

Number of years in practice: 12

Number of years as an arbitrator: One

Main sectors covered: all commercial disputes (construction, service provision, sale and supply, lease, corporate)

Geographical areas of focus: Russia, CIS

Languages: Russian, English, Spanish, Italian

Ekaterina Lebedeva has wide experience cooperating with foreign lawyers to provide legal expertise on Russian law issues within the framework of international arbitration proceedings. She is included in the list of arbitrators for corporate disputes of the Arbitration Center at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and in the list of arbitrators of Caspian Arbitration Society. As counsel, she has successfully represented part of a major Russian agricultural holding in an SCC dispute with a foreign counterparty in relation to debt being collected and losses recovered under a supply agreement; represented a Russian company, a major global producer of fertilisers in a dispute with an international agent over the collection of debt under a contractor agreement, and successfully represented a Japanese company, a leader in information and communication technology, in the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a dispute concerning the recovery of debt under a supply contract.

Business message

PB Legal is a Russian law firm specialising in corporate conflicts, bankruptcy proceedings and commercial disputes, including international arbitration.

The firm was founded in 2016 by Alexander Panin and Alan Bayramkulov, Russian lawyers and legal business managers with more than 25 years of experience. Prior to establishing PB Legal, Alexander and Alan held positions in major Russian investment holdings and international law firms.

Our practice in international arbitration

The PB Legal team represents clients in all major international arbitration institutions, including:

- London International Arbitration Court (LCIA)
- International Court of Arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- Stockholm Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Institute (SCC)
- International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (ICAC at the RF CCI)

Our team

The PB Legal team comprises 15 lawyers with experience in Russian courts, foreign courts and international commercial arbitration. The composition of our team allows us to advise clients both in Russian and English law.

Our services

- Early case assessment and analysis of case prospects and parties' positions
- Developing a detailed case strategy and representing clients in arbitration proceedings
- Preparation of legal opinions on matters of Russian law
- Evidence collection, including research, working with witnesses, as well as various industry and technical experts
- Enforcement proceedings
- Recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitration awards
- Interim relief in support of arbitration or foreign legal proceedings
- Project budgeting and monitoring at all stages
- Collaboration with foreign litigation funds

Our approach

The PB Legal approach is based on comprehensive and creative resolution of conflict situations. Our clients appreciate the non-standard solutions offered by our team, combining international standards with a deep understanding of the specifics of local business. Our efforts are aimed not only at a positive legal outcome of the case, but at creating opportunities for our client to get the most profitable financial result.

The logo for PB Legal, featuring the letters 'PB' in a large, bold, white serif font, with the word 'LEGAL' in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font directly beneath it. The entire logo is set against a dark blue square background.



Alan Bayramkulov



Alexander Panin



Nikolay Stroev

Examples of recent relevant experience of PB Legal team

Complex LCIA litigation in relation to corporate conflict worth more than \$58m:

The PB Legal team successfully advised a former co-owner of Business Lines, a top Russian haulage and logistics company, and Caledor Consulting Ltd in connection with a complex litigation in the London International Arbitration Court (LCIA). We represented the interests of the client in a corporate conflict with the largest beneficiary of Business Lines – Alexander Bogatikov – who did not comply with the terms of an option agreement totaling of more than \$58m.

As a result of this unfriendly influence, which can be characterised as a raider-seizure of the group, one of the company's investors was in receipt of Mr. Bogatikov's dividends. We represented the investor's interests and initiated a number of proceedings in arbitration and state courts in Russia and abroad.

We acted as a leading law firm in a complex cross-border arbitration and litigation project. We successfully represented the client's interests as a claimant before the LCIA arbitral tribunal, prepared expert opinions on Russian law in order to substantiate the jurisdiction of the arbitration, and arranged necessary documents to take interim measures in support of the arbitration proceedings in Cyprus. As a result, we successfully managed to freeze the opponent's assets in Cyprus and are currently undertaking Russian court proceedings regarding the recognition and enforcement of LCIA award.

Representing CAS in connection with the doping scandal following the 2014 Olympic Games:

The PB Legal team advised the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS, an international quasi-judicial body established to settle disputes related to sport through

arbitration located in Lausanne, Switzerland) in connection with the doping scandal following the 2014 Olympic Games when an award was issued against a group of Russian athletes. One member of the group of athletes, Mr. Alexander Zubkov, initiated proceedings in a Russian court to have the CAS award set aside.

Our team successfully protested the Russian court's acts on the CAS account and maintained this position until the end of the process. This allowed us to form positive case law on the matter of foreign arbitral institutions' procedural status in the Russian courts of general jurisdiction.

Representing a client in a major corporate conflict with one of the largest Russian ceramic tile producers:

The PB Legal team represented one of the largest Russian investment corporations in relation to a major corporate conflict with one of the largest Russian ceramic tile producers. Our team successfully developed the strategy of LCIA actions in order to solve the corporate conflict with a highly beneficial outcome for the client. Our team acted as a white knight and successfully repulsed an attempt at an unfriendly takeover of a group of companies. As a result, the parties of the conflict entered into a settlement agreement.

During this process, opponents of the settlement organised a large-scale scheme for withdrawal of the company's assets and challenged the settlement which, according to their assurances, was made under the influence of duress. We acted as Russian law experts during the LCIA proceedings and have prepared conclusions on Russian law issues and five affidavits of the parties to the conflict from our client's side. We also organised the preparation of witnesses for cross-examination. Our team also represented client's interests in Russian court in relation to the above LCIA proceedings.

Alan Bayramkulov

PB Legal

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 12

Admissions: Moscow Bar

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS, UK

Languages: Russian, English

Alan Bayramkulov is an expert in corporate conflicts, bankruptcy-related disputes and international commercial arbitration. He typically represents clients in cross-border and multi-jurisdictional disputes and frequently acts as an expert on Russian legal affairs, both at international commercial arbitrations and before the High Court in London.

He began his career in private practice and held roles as a legal consultant at leading domestic and international firms (Egorov, Puginsky, Afanasiev & Partners and White & Case) before joining Alfa Group, one of Russia's largest privately-owned investment consortiums as disputes counsel. He then moved to A1, Alfa Group's investment arm. At the time, A1 was the centre of gravity of corporate conflicts in Russia, and Bayramkulov led on a number of international arbitrations and high-profile distressed asset disputes, including a sizable shareholder dispute involving one of the region's leading telecoms and technology business. The matter, resolved at the LCIA in London, saw Bayramkulov coordinating a team of counsel from the UK, Russia and Cyprus.

In 2016, he co-founded PB Legal [Panin Bayramkulov & Partners] with former Alfa Group general counsel Alexander Panin. The founders' experience of corporate conflict, says Bayramkulov, gives the firm a unique perspective on commercial arbitration.

PB Legal has since grown to one of Russia's leading boutiques specialising in arbitration, bankruptcy and corporate contracts under Russian law, with a client base that includes both Moscow-based private businesses and London-based owners of Russian businesses. The matters on which Bayramkulov advises typically involve trade secrets and introduce questions that require expertise in Russian business

and law. He is often called to work alongside leading international law firms as specialist counsel and frequently acts as an expert on Russian law issues in both the High Court of Justice and at LCIA arbitrations.

Bayramkulov has also helped shaped Russia's laws as a member of the Expert Council for the Improvement of the Bankruptcy Legislation under the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

In conversation with...

'A successful arbitration counsel must combine a knowledge of how business operates with a detailed understanding of the law. Both [Alexander Panin and I] have a long experience of advising a leading business on its arbitration matters, which allows us to better understand what clients need and expect from us as advisers. There is a big difference between having victory on paper and achieving business efficiency. As lawyers, we have had "skin in the game" and do not fall into [the error of] giving overly formalistic interpretations of a matter. We understand how the process works from a commercial perspective; we can see the typical reasons for corporate conflicts and are able to identify strategies to resolve them. It is not sufficient to know the law – one must also know what results a business has in mind, and how likely it is to meet those goals through arbitration. Winning a matter is one thing, but you must also understand such things as how to enforce arbitral awards against a shareholder or how to freeze assets to have better chance of recovery.

The decision to open a disputes boutique was rooted in my experience as senior counsel. For the legal team of any large international businesses, managing a big-ticket dispute often means dealing with dozens of external lawyers. The main challenge is how to monitor their work and ensure it is of a sufficiently high quality. As a boutique, we are always sure the quality of our work will meet clients' expectations. As owners, we are acutely aware that

achieving favourable results for clients is essential to our success. After all, our personal reputations are on the line when we enter a court or arbitral hearing. That means we are closely involved in every single matter and work hard to ensure the quality remains consistently high.

In international arbitration the most important thing is for lawyers to be honest with their clients, especially when it comes to price. It is no secret that arbitration is expensive. Often lawyers seek to hide the true cost of a matter by quoting fees for the arbitration itself, while ignoring the likely cost of subsequent actions such as enforcement. For me, being "business minded" is all about being honest with one's clients. A good arbitration counsel should be able to give predictable budgets for the entire matter. He should also be able to give realistic probability thresholds for achieving certain results. Only then can a client consider whether it is in its interests to arbitrate.

I was once involved in a rather unique case at the Russian Chamber of Commerce. I was representing an Australian supplier of livestock against a Russian purchaser. The dispute concerned the quality of the supplier's products, which meant I had to become an expert in the various characteristics of this particular type of livestock. At the time, I knew everything there was to know about these animals and was able to challenge them on obscure issues to do with breeding and quality.

Recent arbitration reforms in Russia has been so profoundly important that we cannot predict all the consequences they will have. However, we will see big changes in how arbitral institutions operate in Russia, and there will likely be certain unintended consequences that counsel need to be aware of. One of the main goals of Russia's recent legislative initiatives, I believe, was to limit the number of arbitrations permissible in Russia by approving only those institutions that have good reputations. As a result, many arbitrators and arbitration centres did not obtain permission to act in Russia. That is a controversial issue and the results remain unclear.' ■

Alexander Panin

PB Legal

Job title: Managing Partner
Location: Russia

Alexander Panin is a managing partner of PB Legal. He has more than 20 years of experience dealing with corporate conflicts and disputes involving banks' and investment companies' distressed assets. An experienced and successful negotiator and mediator, Panin has led on some of the most complex multi-jurisdictional and high-value work of recent years. Prior to the establishment of PB Legal he acted as head of legal at A1, the investment division of Alfa Group. He has also held senior in-house roles at Russian Standard Holding and General Electric and as an associate at Denton Wilde Sapte and ALM-Eversheds.

In addition to his busy practice, Panin participates in strategic legislative initiatives that will significantly change the Russian legal system and landscape. One such project, managed by the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, is designed to implement systemic changes in the legal regulation of entrepreneurial activity ("Transformation of the business climate"). This work touches on many areas of law, including corporate governance, special administrative regions, bankruptcy proceedings and valuation activities. The project members of this strategic group were personally approved by the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Andrei Belousov.

Panin graduated from the Law Faculty Moscow State University and has also attended the Executive Leadership Programme at INSEAD Business School.

His experience includes:

- Representing a former co-owner of Business Lines, a top Russian haulage and logistics company, and Caledor Consulting Ltd. in connection with a complex LCIA litigation;
- Development and implementation of a strategy to protect the interests of the shareholder of the largest Russian Internet retailer who applied to the LCIA with a claim against the majority shareholder to buy out the shares;
- Development of a strategy to protect the interests of the client in the LCIA against the claim of the largest French bank for recovery of damages in connection with the failure of the client to execute an option agreement. Legal support of negotiations and mediation procedures with the French party, structuring and signing a settlement agreement for the client;
- Development and implementation of a strategy to protect the interests of the shareholder of the largest Russian Internet retailer who applied to the LCIA with a claim against the majority shareholder to buy out the shares.

Nikolay Stroev

PB Legal

Job title: Partner
Location: Russia

Nikolay Stroev is counsel at PB Legal. He has more than 12 years of experience specialising in dispute resolution before state courts and international commercial arbitration tribunals. Prior to joining PB Legal he acted as head of dispute resolution practice at Sameta law firm and worked as litigation associate at several other of Russia's leading firms. He graduated from Moscow State University, Law Faculty and has a Master of Law degree from the University of Edinburgh.

Experience includes:

- Representing a former co-owner of Business Lines, a top Russian haulage and logistics company, and Caledor Consulting Ltd. in two complex LCIA arbitrations;
- Representing a Russian gas company in an arbitration dispute with the Maritime Arbitration Commission on claims of foreign ship-owners for the recovery of payments under charter vessels;
- Providing legal support and advice to a reputable English law firm concerning Russian legal and factual issues with regard to LCIA arbitration under an international insurance dispute;
- Providing legal advice and opinions to various foreign law firms for the purposes of the number of international arbitrations.

Egor Chilikov

Petrol Chilikov Law Offices

Job title: Founding Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 13

Number of years as an arbitrator: One

Current appointments as arbitrator: One (as party appointed arbitrator)

Admissions: Moscow City Bar

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS, CIS-related businesses across Globe (primarily in developing jurisdictions), Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East

Main sectors: Energy, mining and metals, construction, banking and finance, insurance, retail.

Languages: Russian, English



A founding partner of Petrol Chilikov law firm, Egor Chilikov has over 13 years of experience in cross-border disputes, both before state courts and arbitration tribunals. He has acted as counsel and advised clients on commercial and investment arbitration matters under major arbitration rules, including ICAC (Moscow), LCIA, SCC, ICC, ICSID and UNCITRAL and has extensive experience in the strategic management of complex disputes involving proceedings in many civil and common law jurisdictions.

He is particularly skilled in directing investigations of various types, including international assets tracing and debt recovery, pleading in Russian courts on commercial and bankruptcy cases, and in acting as negotiator in contentious and transactional matters. He also regularly advises funders (as non-counsel) on cases which they have invested in. Prior to establishing Petrol Chilikov, he worked in disputes teams at international and Russian law firms and for a disputes funder.

Sergiy Gryshko

Redcliffe Partners

Job title: Head of the Dispute Resolution Practice

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 17

Main sectors covered: Energy, construction, infrastructure, pharmaceutical, banking and finance, insurance and telecommunications

Sergiy Gryshko is a partner and head of the dispute resolution practice at Redcliffe Partners. He has 17 years of experience acting for clients in investment arbitration, joint venture and M&A disputes, as well as international commercial arbitrations in the energy, construction, infrastructure, pharmaceutical, banking & finance, insurance and telecommunications sectors. He is experienced in acting for clients at all stages of litigation, international arbitration and enforcement, offering versatile advice on contentious matters. This includes negotiations, arbitration and post-arbitration advice. He has handled arbitrations under a variety of international institutional and ad hoc arbitration rules, and is a listed arbitrator of the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICAC). He is the Head of ICC Ukraine's Commission on International Arbitration and a member of the Council of the Ukrainian Bar Association Committee on Procedural Law. Gryshko represents Ukraine in the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR.



Volodymyr Yaremko

Sayenko Kharenko

Job title: Counsel

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 11

Admissions: Volyn Regional Bar Association, Kyiv Regional Bar Association

Sectors covered: Transport and infrastructure, construction, energy, banking and finance, international trade, M&A and corporate

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, CIS, EU

Languages: English, Ukrainian, Russian and Polish

Volodymyr Yaremko is head of the infrastructure industry group in the international arbitration practice of leading Ukrainian firm Sayenko Kharenko where he provides legal support, project management and government relations assistance to domestic and international clients in their Ukraine-related activities. As counsel he has a wide experience representing clients under the arbitration proceedings of a range of global arbitral institutions in matters concerning cross-border debt recovery, enforcement of foreign court judgments and arbitral awards in Ukraine and abroad. He has particular expertise in disputes arising in connection with large-scale infrastructure projects under FIDIC contracts, as well as in commodities arbitrations (GAFTA and FOSFA). *'I started my career with a love for arbitration', he says. 'My first big case introduced me to infrastructure and construction disputes, and I have since worked in parallel on arbitration and infrastructure and construction matters.'*

He has acted for the State of Ukraine in various ICSID and Energy Charter Treaty arbitrations while his commercial arbitration experience includes acting for one of the leading Ukrainian mobile phone operators in an ICC Rules arbitration, representing a Ukrainian individual in a complex LCIA Rules hearing, and representing the Ministry of Energy and Coal of Ukraine in two VIAC arbitration proceedings related to energy export.

Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Business message

Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners (RGP) has carved a unique position for itself in the Russian legal market. We believe no other Russian firm is so well placed to handle complex disputes.

RGP is an independent law firm established in 2018 in Russia, supporting clients from all over the world in their business dealings involving Russia and CIS countries. In addition, our firm offers unparalleled expertise in foreign legal matters to Russian companies with significant international presence.

With the launch of RGP Advocates' Bureau of the City of Moscow, the firm now boasts one of the largest and most experienced disputes offerings among independent Russian law firms. Our disputes practice brings together the expertise of Ilya Rybalkin (head of Litigation and Investigations practice) and Dmitry Dyakin (head of Arbitration

practice), two of Russia's leading disputes counsel. They are joined by 30 highly experienced disputes professionals specializing in both Russian and international law.

We are a cohesive team of seasoned professionals, highly ranked in all aspects of dispute resolution and corporate work in a variety of industries, such as power and natural resources, financial institutions and financial technology, production and transport, retail and real estate, telecommunications and media business.

Our lawyers have been ranked by the leading international rankings guides and have represented clients on more than 350 deals, matters and disputes, with many of them being the most high-profile matters in the history of modern Russia, for the total amount in excess of US\$90bn, in more than 170 jurisdictions worldwide.

RYBALKIN
GORTSUNYAN
PARTNERS







Dmitry Dyakin

Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Partner, Head of Arbitration Practice
Number of years in practice: 22

Dmitry Dyakin joined Rybalkin, Gortsunyan and Partners (RGP) in 2020 to head its newly launched arbitration practice. He brings with him over two decades of experience representing both state-owned and private companies in a variety of industries, including representations for multinationals such as Bayer, BP, Credit Suisse, Iberdrola, Lafarge Cement, and Sanofi-Aventis. He is described by one UK barrister as *'the go-to counsel for any sizeable dispute in the Russian market.'* Another client comments on his *'unique ability to manage complex, multijurisdictional arbitrations while keeping the client apprised and calm.'*

Prior to joining RGP, Dyakin was a partner and co-head of the litigation and arbitration practice at leading Russian firm Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners. He leads the ICC Arbitration Commission in Russia and the Investment Arbitration Working Group of the Russian Arbitration Association, is a member of the Russia/Eurasia Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA), the International Bar Association (IBA) and the Users Council of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). In 2017 he was appointed as the Chairman of the Presidium of the Arbitration Centre at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RUIE) and has since been elected to its Management Board.

In conversation with...

'I came to Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners with a team of ten lawyers. While the firm had practiced arbitration before, mainly through the work of Ilya Rybalkin, the idea was to combine forces to form an international standard commercial and investment arbitration practice. We are now over 30 lawyers covering international disputes. If you compare the strength of our team, and the quality of cases we handle, and the clients and complexity of disputes we work on, RGP is definitely a number one law firm for disputes in Russia. This is a market traditionally occupied by international firms, so to build a challenger firm in such a short period is a big achievement.

Russia has been something of a virgin territory for investment treaty arbitration cases over the past few years, but we are now seeing a sharp increase. Of the dozen or so cases that I routinely handle each year, only two or so would be investment treaty cases. This is picking up, but the historical absence of these cases means it is still considered somewhat exotic for the Russian market. Not many firms can handle these successfully.

Serving as chair of the Arbitration Centre at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

(RUIE, of which he is now board member) has given me a great insight into the development of arbitration in the Russian Federation. It is the oldest of the three still active arbitral institutions in Russia and has close connections with the Russian Union of Entrepreneurs, which is one of the largest business organisations in the country. That gives us a good insight into the issues encountered by domestic businesses when facing disputes. However, we are also trying to expand and understand the issues faced by international investors. I am responsible for setting RUIE's international agenda and am working to bring more international cases to the centre. Case numbers have grown at around 300%, and we are now using technology to hold remote hearings. This has proved to be prescient, particularly after the pandemic hit.

Of my recent matters, the one that stands out most to me is an investment treaty case against a CIS country that has been in the news a lot lately. This is one of the first investment treaty cases against that state and it is the first time for a Russian investor to use ICSID additional facilities. Russia is not a member of the Washington Convention so cannot use ICSID as a forum, though ICSID additional facilities are permissible. This is somewhat untested which makes the case all the more interesting and complicated.' ■



Ilya Rybalkin

Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Partner, Head of Litigation and Investigations Practice

Number of years in practice: 21

Ilya Rybalkin is a founding partner of Rybalkin, Gortsunyan and Partners (RGP), a law firm one client refers to as *‘the Russian Quinn Emanuel.’* He also heads the litigation and investigations practice at RGP.

His practice focuses on large-scale commercial cross border disputes, fraud litigation, investigations and reputation recovery matters, though he also dedicates a significant part of his practice to advising Russian and international clients on their corporate activities, especially when there is a contentious element involved.

Rybalkin has worked on some of the most renowned arbitrations of the past 20 years. He made a name for himself in the international legal world in 2012 by acting as lead advisor to Alfa-Access-Renova consortium (AAR) on the US\$28bn sale of its stake in TNK-BP to Rosneft, the largest-ever corporate transaction in Russia. It followed on from a series of international arbitration proceedings related to the so-called Arctic alliance between TNK and BP, in which Rybalkin had represented Renova. The successful resolution of these claims paved the way for the later landmark deal. He was also closely involved in representing Renova Industries in US legal proceedings initiated against a private individual for unjustified enrichment.

Other recent matters on which Rybalkin has led include: representing Russian oil and gas company PJSC Tatneft on a US\$380m English litigation proceedings and a freezing injunction application in the High Court against four Ukrainian oligarchs; representing a prominent Russian businessman in BIT arbitration proceedings against a Baltic country, to protect his investments in the financial sector; representing a Russian mining company in a landmark victory through the annulment by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court of a multimillion dollar arbitration award against the company, and representing a prominent Russian entrepreneur in significant white-collar litigation in which the client faced serious allegations of dishonest business practice and money laundering by the finance intelligence unit of an Eastern African country. In this latter case, all charges were withdrawn and the dispute settled as a result of Rybalkin’s strategy of initiating bilateral investment treaty arbitration against the country.

Rybalkin started his career in 1998 as a paralegal at German firm Bruckhaus, which later became part of global legal giant Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. He then joined German rival Noerr in 1999, becoming the firm’s youngest partner ever in 2004, before moving to Hogan & Hartson in 2006. He joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in 2010 and was known as one of the firm’s leading rainmakers in the Russian market. He left to found RGP in 2018.

In 2019 he was included in the ICC Russia’s roster of arbitrators and his questionnaire was added to the List of Practitioners on VIAC’s website. In 2020, he became a member of the Scientific Advisory Board on International Law under the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and a member of ICC FraudNet.

In conversation with...

‘The whole idea behind Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners was to set up a disputes powerhouse. We had a very strong name for international litigation, so it was a natural step to expand our practice by bringing in the best lawyers for arbitration. Our ambition was to grow the practice and bring in the best talent available. With the withdrawal of several major international firms from Russia there was an opportunity to create a new market leader. With RGP Advocates Bureau we have done just that. The number of highly complex cases we now handle for major foreign and domestic clients is an indication that we are now the number one firm in Russia for disputes and have colonised the niche traditionally occupied by international firms.

Historically, international arbitration was always managed outside Russia. International firms with Russian outposts simply exported matters to their London, Paris, or Geneva offices. As a result, there was little opportunity for local lawyers to develop significant expertise in arbitration.’ Our team is working hard to change this trend. ■



Vladimir Pestrikov
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Partner

Vladimir Pestrikov is a partner with Rybalkin, Gortsunyan and Partners' arbitration practice. He focuses on complex international commercial, corporate, financial and investment arbitrations, including complex cross-jurisdictional disputes with parallel proceedings both in state courts of various jurisdictions and in international commercial and investment arbitration institutions. He has extensive experience in handling arbitration processes under the rules of various arbitration institutions as well as proceedings to recognize and enforce foreign judgments and arbitral awards. Furthermore, Pestrikov is an acknowledged expert in debt recovery, bankruptcy and restructuring, including cases with international aspect. He represents his clients from a number of industries, including gas and oil, retail, telecommunications, construction, and others.

Prior to joining RPG, Pestrikov acted as a counsel with the litigation and arbitration practice of a leading law firm for several years. He has an excellent track record of multiple successful cases both in Russia and many other jurisdictions and international institutions. Before that, he held the position of a general counsel at a major Russian industrial holding. His responsibilities included ensuring legal support for the company's commercial projects, in particular, with regard to corporate, tax and antitrust law issues, and providing legal advice on securing exemptions, benefits and state support.



Ivan Meleshenko
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Partner

Ivan Meleshenko is a partner at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan and Partners. For over 15 years, he has represented clients in a wide range of areas such as: dispute resolution, investigations, domestic and international tax issues, customs regulations, as well as corporate mergers and acquisitions. He has extensive experience in developing complex strategies aimed at solving corporate conflicts and commercial disputes, handling challenging cross-border proceedings, including parallel litigations and arbitrations in multiple jurisdictions, internal investigations and investigations of regulatory and law enforcement bodies, as well as asset tracing and recovery worldwide. In addition to the above, Meleshenko focuses on international investment arbitration. He has represented foreign investors in the disputes arising out of the breach of investment protection treaties with the Baltic, Central and Eastern European, Central Asian and African states.

Prior to joining Rybalkin, Gortsunyan and Partners, he was a counsel at the Moscow office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, and prior to that, an attorney at Hogan & Hartson and Noerr.



Dmitry Kaysin
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Over a span of 18 years, Dmitry Kaysin has worked both at one of the leading Russian law firms and as a deputy director of legal affairs for an asset management company in banking, insurance and alcohol industry. His practice focuses on resolution of disputes involving governments, primarily investment disputes and investment arbitration. He has vast experience of representing clients in international arbitration proceedings under UNCITRAL, SCC, LCIA, ICC, Swiss Chambers, SIAC, WIPO, and ICAC rules, and in the Russian state courts, including bankruptcy proceedings. This experience includes: representing the Russian Federation in a \$1 bn tax dispute arising out of a production sharing agreement; advising a Russian investor in a dispute related to petrochemical asset expropriation in the territory of a CIS member state; advising a Russian contractor and a design institute in arbitration proceedings under the SIAC rules with respect to a dispute on the recovery of debt arising out of a construction contract, and representing an Irish bank in Russian bankruptcy proceedings, corporate disputes, real estate disputes and parallel litigations and arbitrations in Ukraine, Ireland, Panama and Belize.

He is a member of the Nomination Committee of the Commission on International Arbitration, ICC Russia; a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), a member of the Moscow Region Bar Association (2007), and an arbitrator on the Shanghai International Arbitration Centre's Panel of Arbitrators.



Yan Kalish
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Yan Kalish is counsel at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners (RGP). His experience includes: representing a prominent Russian businessman in a complex multiparty dispute involving a number of litigations and arbitrations in various jurisdictions and ending with a favourable settlement for the client; acting for an entity of the top Russian billionaire in a major dispute over one of the largest social networks in Europe – VKontakte, involving several proceedings in London, the US and offshore jurisdictions; representing an offshore company of a Russian businessman against his former partner in a dispute relating to recovery of debt. The opponent agreed to recover the debt in full and repay the client's legal costs, and acting for the participants of a multibillion joint venture managing major business in Russia and CIS in a complex corporate conflict regarding management of the JV and contractual obligations of the JV members. The dispute settled in a favourable outcome for the clients.

Prior to joining RGP, he worked as an associate at the Moscow offices of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan and Baker Botts.



Anastasia Konstantinova
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Anastasia Konstantinova is a counsel in the dispute resolution practice at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners (RGP). She specialises in litigation issues, corporate law and competition. She also has experience in advising clients on mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings, conducting due diligence of Russian companies in the oil and gas, pharmaceutical and real estate sectors, as well as participating in internal investigations.

Her experience includes: carrying out an anti-money laundering investigation involving a Russian retail energy sales holding and Hungarian oil and gas contractors; advising Garsdale (a subsidiary of USM) on a \$1.78 bn sale of Yota, a leading Russian 4G operator, to MegaFon, a leading Russian mobile operator; advising Renova on the consolidation of its shareholding in logistics and storage business, Multinational Logistics Partnership (MLP), one of Russia and Ukraine's largest and most successful logistics operators and on the subsequent sale of 100% of its shares, and advising AF Telecom in relation to MegaFon's \$8.5 bn shareholder restructuring, which resulted in AF Telecom becoming a majority shareholder of MegaFon.

She joined RGP from Akin, Gump, Strauss Hauer & Feld, where she had worked since 2012.



Alexander Lazarev
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Alexander Lazarev is a counsel in the dispute resolution practice at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners. A specialist in litigation and arbitration, he also has extensive experience advising Russian and international clients on construction, commercial, corporate and real estate disputes, bankruptcy cases, and on recognition and enforcement of foreign common court and arbitral awards. Prior to joining RGP Alexander was a dispute resolution associate with the Moscow office of Dechert for nearly ten years.



Yuri Makhonin
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Yuri Makhonin is counsel at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners (RGP), focusing on litigation and arbitration in Russia, including commercial, real estate, construction and corporate disputes, bankruptcy, debt recovery and administrative disputes. Yuri represented major foreign and local clients in more than 400 cases in state arbitrazh, general jurisdiction courts and international arbitration tribunals.

His experience includes representing a leading Turkish construction company in regard to \$200m ICC disputes regarding construction and fit-out works in a business centre in Moscow and before the ICAC with regard to the construction of a stadium in Donetsk, Ukraine (amount in dispute is approximately \$100m) and defending a metallurgical plant in the arbitration proceedings before the SCC against a Chinese contractor in a dispute valued at \$200m regarding construction of a rolling mill in Chelyabinsk.

He is a member of the Russian national committee of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR; and a Committee member of Moscow Commercial Litigators' Forum. Prior to joining RGP, Makhonin worked at the leading Russian and international law firms. He spent ten years at Dechert, the last three of which saw him supervising all of the firm's Russian dispute resolution work.



Gayane Nadzharova
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Gayane Nadzharova is a counsel who focuses her practice on dispute resolution. Her early career was spent on general corporate matters, as well as mergers and acquisitions, antimonopoly, real estate and employment issues and Nadzharova has advised clients in various industries on private equity transactions, establishment of joint-ventures and corporate restructuring. Her landmark engagement experience includes, among other matters, representing PJSC Tatneft, Russia's fifth biggest oil company, in US\$380m English litigation proceedings and a freezing injunction application in the High Court against four Ukrainian oligarchs – Messrs. Igor Kolomoysky, Gennady Bogolyubov, Pavel Ovcharenko and Alexander Yaroslavsky – in relation to large and complex alleged cross-border fraudulent activities. *The Best Lawyers 2021* recognises Nadzharova among the top litigation lawyers in Russia.



Varvara Voynova
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Counsel

Varvara Voynova is a counsel with RGP. Her practice focuses primarily on international arbitration and dispute resolution matters, although she has been involved in a substantial number of mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions. Voynova's landmark engagement experience includes representing Renova Industries Ltd in two arbitration proceedings in the ICC as well as representing Renova Group and Viktor Vekselberg in a US\$1bn commercial litigation case in the British Virgin Islands regarding a joint venture in respect of a domestic Russian electric power generation business. The dispute focused on disagreements as to the terms of the joint venture and also involved claims of fraud, conspiracy and misrepresentation. *The Best Lawyers 2021* recognises Voynova among the top litigation lawyers in Russia.



Stanislav Karandasov
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Senior associate

Stanislav Karandasov is a senior associate at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners. He has extensive experience of representing clients in international arbitration proceedings under UNCITRAL, ICC and ICAC rules. His practice focuses on resolution of cross border disputes in Russian courts, specifically, on recognition and enforcement of foreign court judgments and arbitral awards. In addition, he is well versed in bankruptcy proceedings, including cross border bankruptcy cases.



Vsevolod Taraskin
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Senior associate

Vsevolod Taraskin is a senior associate at Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners. His extensive disputes experience includes: representing the Russian Federation in Exxon Neftegas Limited v the Russian Federation and Sakhalin Oblast, a \$1bn ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules; representing Mr Deripaska in Deripaska v Montenegro ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules; advising a top-tier Russian telecom provider regarding an investment dispute against a Central Asian state, and representing a UAE investor in a joint venture dispute with Russian construction group in Russian courts and parallel LCIA arbitration.



Timur Abushakhmanov
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Associate

Timur Abushakhmanov is an associate with Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners. He is known for his deep understanding of the peculiarities of international commercial and investment arbitration and has substantial expertise in complex disputes. Notable cases include representing a major European agribusiness company in a dispute with a BVI subsidiary of a Russian agribusiness company under the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce Rules with regard to implementation of a share exchange agreement stipulating sweep of shares of Russian and Cypriot subsidiary companies worth over €10m; representing an employer in a construction dispute under the Rules of the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation against a contractor who sought to recover €3.5m as alleged unjust enrichment; and advising a Russian state-owned company in a dispute against its former employee with parallel proceedings underway in Guernsey, the British Virgin Islands and in Luxembourg, the overall amount in dispute being around €50m. Abushakhmanov was also involved in advising a Luxembourg-incorporated company on litigation proceedings for the recovery of US\$45m against the directors and management company of a Cypriot investment fund, in which it holds investor shares, before the District Court of Nicosia, Cyprus, as well as representing the company in a parallel criminal investigation in Russia.



Maxim Bezruchnikov
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Associate

Maxim Bezruchnikov is an associate in our arbitration practice. He is co-author of numerous articles on international arbitration published in Russian and foreign media, has written several articles as part of the HSE Academic Fund grant programme and is an author of publications on business law and law of procedure. Bezruchnikov is actively involved in industry-specific events held by business and professional associations and often speaks at conferences. He gained extensive experience in dispute resolution and international commercial arbitration advising clients on complex disputes before Russian arbitration courts, as well as on matters concerning international arbitration and recognition and enforcement of international awards and judgments in Russia and Russian judgments abroad.



Vadim Vunukainen
Rybalkin, Gortsunyan & Partners

Job title: Associate

Vadim Vunukainen is an associate in our arbitration practice. During his career, he has participated in dozens of arbitrations under ICC, SCC, LCIA and ICAC at the RF CCI arbitration rules as a counsel. Further, he gained experience in his role as a tribunal secretary. Apart from international disputes, Vunukainen is experienced in advising on Russian litigation projects. His expertise covers construction disputes with a particular focus on FIDIC arbitrations, financial and banking disputes, as well as corporate conflicts including those involving parallel cross-border proceedings. Vunukainen's projects involve issues of Austrian, English, Belarussian, Chinese, Luxembourg, German, Russian, Finnish, Czech, Swedish and Swiss law. Previously, during his professional studies, he held the position of the Chair of Students' Civil Law Association at Saint Petersburg State University, as well as participated in William C. Vis Moot and ELSA Moot on WTO law.

Olexander Droug

Sayenko Kharenko

Job title: Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 11

Admissions: Kyiv Bar

Main sectors covered: Banking and financial services (including securities), M&A, shareholders, trade, telecommunication, construction, aviation, product liability, as well as sports

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, CIS, EU

Languages: English, Ukrainian, Russian



Olexander Droug has been with Sayenko Kharenko for over ten years, having joined the firm in 2007. He specialises in dispute resolution and restructuring with a focus on international arbitration and cross-border commercial litigation. His experience includes advising local and foreign clients at all stages of complex multi-jurisdictional proceedings involving the BVI, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Ukraine, the UK, and other fora, as well as commercial and investment arbitration under the arbitration rules of all major international arbitration institutions (LCIA, ICC, SCC), ICSID Arbitration Rules and UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, and arbitration rules of the Ukrainian and CIS-based arbitration institutions.

Droug is regularly invited to contribute to some of the key legislation in the areas of arbitration, litigation and restructuring. He was recently involved in the working group of the Ukrainian Arbitration Association on the development of a draft law to improve judicial support by the Ukrainian courts to international arbitration. Droug has also advised the World Bank on a draft law concerning financial restructuring (establishing a legislative framework for informal workouts and pre-packaged restructurings), and has advised the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development on the drafting of its expedited Arbitration Rules for resolving disputes arising in financial restructuring procedures under the Law of Ukraine and on its draft law on derivatives (addressing close-out netting in the bankruptcy proceedings).

In March 2017, Droug was included in the list of arbitrators elected to settle disputes arising in financial restructuring procedures under the Law of Ukraine on Financial Restructuring.

Timour Sysouev

SBH Law Offices

Job title: Partner

Location: Belarus

Number of years in practice: 28

Number of years as an arbitrator: 22

Admissions: Minsk Region Bar

Main sectors covered: Sport, transport and infrastructure, energy, international trade, banking and financial services

Geographical areas of focus: Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and others

Languages: English, Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian

Timour Sysouev is head of dispute resolution at SBH Law Office where he has developed a market-leading practice as both a litigator and arbitrator. He has been appointed as arbitrator on over 200 occasions during his career and continues to serve as both arbitrator and counsel in a variety of sectors. He is a member of the Ukrainian Arbitration Association, an associate member Russian Arbitration Association, a member of the Vienna International Arbitral Center, a member of the Presidium and arbitrator of the International Arbitration Court at the Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and a recommended arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Lausanne, Switzerland).

Dmitry Semashko

Stepanovski, Papakul and Partners

Job title: Partner

Location: Belarus

Number of years in practice: 14

Admissions: Minsk City Bar Association (admitted to practise in all courts of the Republic of Belarus)

Geographical areas of focus: Belarus, Russia, CIS, Switzerland, EU (especially Germany, Italy), USA, UK and Ireland, China (Hong Kong)

Languages: Belarusian, English, Russian

Dmitry Semashko is an experienced counsel whose practice focuses on commercial cross-border litigation and arbitration, with particular expertise in the field of administrative law and state-involved disputes. He has represented clients in Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Kazakhstan. After graduating in Belarus he continued his legal education at the American University Washington College of Law with focus on international commercial and investment arbitration (becoming the second Belarusian lawyer and fourth Belarusian national to study under the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program in its 40-year history), and later worked in the arbitration practice of an international law firm based in Washington, DC. In 2018, along with my colleagues from another Belarusian law firm, he created Young ADR Belarus, the first ever organisation for young and aspiring arbitration counsel in that country. Since 2019 he has been a member of the Young Advocate Council at Minsk City Bar where he has initiated a leadership program for young lawyers, giving them the tools to navigate the early years of their careers, opportunities to network, and resources to grow their skills. This year he has started teaching civil law as an adjunct professor at the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

In conversation with...

‘In 2014-2015 I was involved in a CISG arbitration where a party relied on a Force Majeure clause regarding military actions on the East of Ukraine. At that period of time the position of the international community was uncertain. The president of Ukraine enacted a state of emergency with special decree in two regions, but the rest of the country continued with ordinary life. Due to this uncertainty, the tribunal and the parties analysed the economic connections that may permit force majeure.’ ■

Oleg Alyoshin

Vasil Kisil & Partners

Job title: Partner

Location: Ukraine

Number of years in practice: 25

Number of years as an arbitrator: Three

Current appointments as arbitrator: Five

Main sectors covered: Shareholder disputes, commercial & contractual disputes, oil & gas, infrastructure, construction and real estate, telecoms

Geographical areas of focus: Ukraine, UK, US, EU, Russian Federation

Languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English

Oleg Alyoshin is an international arbitration and cross-border litigation partner with more than 25 years of experience representing companies, individuals and governments in complex and high-value disputes across many industry sectors, including energy, finance, construction, shareholder relationships, joint ventures and M&A, media and telecommunications. He graduated from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Institute of International Law) in 1993 and commenced legal practice in Ukraine in 1995 at law firm “Jurvneshservice”, which was one of the first private law firm in Ukraine after dissolution of the USSR. In January, 2003 he joined Vasil Kisil & Partners, which was founded by Dr Kisil, Professor of the Department of Private International Law of the Institute of International Law at Taras Shevchenko National University and a group of his former students.

Alyoshin is the Ukrainian representative in the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) on arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. He is also a member of the American Chamber of Commerce (ACC), of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and the European Business Association (EBA).

Alexey Anischenko

Sorainen

Job title: Partner

Location: Belarus

Number of years in practice: 21

Number of years as an arbitrator: 11

Current appointments as arbitrator: Three (two as chair, one as party-appointed arbitrator)

Admissions: Belarusian Republican Bar, Minsk City Bar

Main sectors: International trade and investment, IT/telecom, construction, energy, corporate/M&A, transportation, finance and insurance

Geographical areas of focus: Post-USSR countries (particularly Belarus, Russia, Ukraine), Baltic countries, EU members (particularly Poland, Austria, Italy), Switzerland, UK, China

Languages: Belarusian, Russian, English, Polish

Described as *'tough but peaceful'* by a client, Sorainen's Alexey Anischenko has built up a formidable record in international arbitration, with over half his cases ending with a favourable settlement to his clients. Anischenko himself says that, *'a good arbitration counsel should be like a bulldog that is always prepared to snap at the heels, but must never forget how to be a mediator who can defuse a situation.'*

He joined Sorainen in 2008 to develop the dispute resolution practice at its newly-opened Minsk office. For a firm which has its roots in the Baltic and has historically focused on M&A, it was chance for Anischenko to make his mark. Dispute resolution has since grown to represent a far larger share of the firm's revenues across its various offices, and under Anischenko's guidance Sorainen has developed an integrated arbitration practice.

Anischenko has been involved in some of the region's standout arbitrations, including successfully representing a Lithuania-based energy company in its ICSID case against the Republic of Latvia over a breach of fair and equitable treatment under the Latvia-Lithuania bilateral investment treaty. More recently, he led the Sorainen team that acted alongside the Vienna and Prague offices of Wolf Theiss in a Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC)

case against a Czech company. His hard work saw the client win a US\$10m award that was promptly enforced just before the global pandemic brought international arbitration to a halt.

He has also been an enthusiastic supporter of aspiring arbitration counsel in Belarus, both at the firm and among his students at the Belarusian State University. His most recent CSR activities in that area have included the launch of Young ADR Belarus, organising the first International Commercial Arbitration Summer School in Belarus under the auspices of the International Arbitration Court at the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and running a Legal Practice Course for young practitioners under the auspices of the Belarusian Republican Bar and Institute for Training of Justice Practitioners.

He was recently appointed to the International Advisory Board (IAB) of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) and is a member of the presidium of Belarus' newest arbitration centre, which he says *'intends not to act as an alternative to the established centres but to provide healthy competition for both local and regional users.'*

In conversation with...

'The toughest challenge so far in my work as counsel was a three day VIAC hearing which I had to run in Vienna with terrible toothache. I spent the entire time on painkillers and basically without having slept or eaten. Luckily we won the case so all the pain was worth suffering. A much easier and more entertaining experience was our recent win in a small but principled SCC arbitration, where the client did not have any reasonable budget for proper representation and the client's chief executive refused to travel to the hearing. That left us with the only evidence supporting the defence being the chief executive's testimony explaining the whole story behind the case, which was filmed on an iPhone and posted on YouTube. I'm not sure if that was eventually a decisive factor, but we, as a counsel, were very much convinced it would be and it inspired to draft persuasive submissions.

Tight budgets can result in amusing episodes. I was involved in an LCIA arbitration originating from a loan agreement subject to English law, where I had



to study the basics of common contract law to argue the case against the Ukrainian claimant, who was represented by Ukrainian counsel. The only English law qualified lawyer in the hearing room was the sole arbitrator, who eventually dismissed the claim to our great pleasure, having upheld our argument based on consideration of the theory.

As an arbitrator, I always enjoy digging for truth though evidence investigation and, especially, witness and expert examination. That largely explains why I was actively engaged with the Prague Rules initiative from its very start. My favourite experience includes resolving the debt recovery claim made by a circus, which confirmed it had held actual performances only by producing a few playbills and witness testimonies of circus actors.

I prefer to approach disputes from conflict management, rather than conflict resolution perspective and I am an active proponent of commercial mediation as the most effective means of dealing with commercial disagreements. Though commercial mediation is not so widespread in Belarus (domestic arbitration alike), mainly due to the "cheap and quick" approach of courts, I am making continuous efforts to promote its usage, at least in resolving shareholders disputes, where state courts are not so efficient.' ■

Kirill Trukhanov

Trubor Law Firm

Job title: Managing Partner
 Location: Russia
 Number of years in practice: 14
 Number of years as an arbitrator: Three
 Admissions: Moscow Bar
 Main sectors covered: International trade, construction, corporate, film industry
 Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS, EU
 Languages: Russian, English

Kirill Trukhanov is managing partner of Trubor Law Firm, a multi-practice boutique which he co-founded in 2016. He specialises in dispute resolution and has extensive experience representing major domestic and foreign clients before Russian commercial (arbitrazh) courts and international arbitral tribunals. Over the past eight years, he has acted as counsel in international arbitration cases under ICAC Rules, LCIA Rules, HKIAC Rules, SCC Rules and Swiss Rules. He has also acted as an arbitrator in arbitral proceedings and as a Russian law expert in arbitral and foreign court proceedings.

In conversation with...

‘Arbitration counsel can often struggle with their interpreters. I remember one occasion in particular where the interpreter, who was recommended by the counsel for the other side, would omit some important evidence given by a witness from the outset, which slowed down the whole process considerably. By the end of the cross-examination the interpreter had started to summarise and paraphrase what the witness had said, despite the fact that both arbitrator and counsel had specifically asked her not to do so on a number of occasions. The culmination, which made every Russian speaker in the hearing room burst into laughter, happened when the interpreter started explaining very emotionally the real meaning of the question from the arbitrator to the witness, instead of giving word-by-word translation. The cross-examination, despite the clumsiness of the situation and very unhelpful interpreter, worked out well in the end.’ ■

Julia Zagonek

White & Case

Job title: Partner
 Location: Russia
 Number of years in practice: 20
 Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven
 Current appointments as arbitrator: Two
 Admissions: Law Society of England and Wales; Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Rights of Audience)
 Principal matters covered: Shareholder, partnership and JV disputes, general commercial disputes, oil and gas, mining and metals, power, private equity, financial institutions, agency agreements and telecoms
 Geographical areas of focus: CIS, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Israel
 Languages: English, Russian, French

Julia Zagonek is an English solicitor-advocate and a partner in the international arbitration practice of White & Case. She has built a career in international arbitration having represented states, leading global corporations and high-net-worth individuals in complex multi-jurisdiction disputes conducted under all major arbitral institutions and rules. She is regularly appointed as arbitrator. She also represents clients in court proceedings concerning applications for interim measures such as disclosure and worldwide freezing orders. Zagonek has authored a number of articles and chapters on international arbitration and regularly teaches English law and international arbitration at leading Russian universities. She is a member of the LCIA Court and the ICC Court, as well as the ICC Russia Arbitration Committee and Nominations Committee member. She also holds a position on the VIAC’s International Advisory Board and serves as Diversity and Inclusion Officer on the IBA Arbitration Committee.

From the publishers of

