



The Law Society
of England and Wales

Central Asia legal services inward visit to London 2016

4 - 6 October 2016





Introduction

The emerging markets of Central Asia hold a strategic geographic position and feature an abundant wealth in resources which represent an enormous interest and potential for leading economic powers. UK trade with Central Asia has grown strongly in recent years, as the region has become increasingly open and accessible to UK business from different sectors. In 2015, the Law Society of England and Wales organised a Central Asia legal services visit to London to learn about regional differences from a legal perspective and explore mutually beneficial business opportunities. Following last year's success, we welcome a Central Asia delegation again in 2016.

To coincide with our annual one-day International Marketplace Conference 2016 on 6 October 2016, lawyers from Central Asia will be visiting the Law Society for a three-day programme from Tuesday 4 October to Thursday 6 October 2016. This is an excellent opportunity for English and Welsh law firms with an interest in Central Asia to meet their counterparts and potential future clients and/or business partners.

The delegation will be made up of 11 lawyers from small, medium-sized and larger firms from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The firms all have some international experience, and are keen to build their network and expand their reach in the UK. Their specialist areas range from banking and finance, energy, infrastructure, real estate and property to M&A, insurance, employment and tax, and international dispute resolution.

This delegation brochure contains details of their three-day programme with the Law Society of England and Wales, as well as profiles of the firms and their delegates, including their contact details.

While English and Welsh firms will be able to meet the delegates at various seminars and networking opportunities throughout the programme, to arrange one-to-one meetings please refer to the contact details and contact them directly.

If you have any questions at any point during the programme, please contact the CIS policy team:
Katharina Kirchberger: Katharina.Kirchberger@lawsociety.org.uk and Chika Muorah:
chika.muorah@lawsociety.org.uk.



Delegation programme

Date/Time	Meeting/Event	Location
Tuesday, 4 October 2016		
09:30 - 10:00	Registration and Refreshments	The Honourable Society of Inner Temple, Crown Office Row, London, EC4Y 7HL
10:00 - 12:30	Opening of the Legal Year parallel seminars for international bar leaders, solicitors, barristers and foreign delegation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of technology on legal services and the role of the profession Technological advancements and their effects on dispute resolution and the regulation of the justice system 	
12:30 - 14:00	Networking lunch	
14:30 - 16:00	Visit and Tour of the UK Supreme Court <i>You will be accompanied by Roberta Taveri, International Coordinator, the Law Society</i>	UK Supreme Court, Parliament Square, London SW1P 3BD
16:00 - 18:00	Designated time for one to one meetings Opportunity for participants to arrange their own one to one meetings.	

Wednesday, 5 October 2016		
09:30 - 11:30	Roundtable discussion on Doing Legal Business in Central Asia Chair: Sergey Ostrovsky, Partner, Ashurst LLP, London Panellists: Ainur Karbozova, Counsellor of Investments Technologies and Trade, the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United Kingdom Eugenia Rebotunova, Senior Counsel, Sayenko Kharenko, London Liza Zhumakhmetova, Partner, Signum Law Firm, Kazakhstan Lydia Ivanova, Prime Advice, Russia Otabek Suleimanov, Partner, Centil Law Firm, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Iran Segei Grachev, Managing Partner, MGAP Attorney at Law, Russia	Strand, Fleet and Bell, The Law Society 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL
12:00 - 14:00	Networking lunch hosted by Mishcon de Reya LLP	Africa House, 70 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AH
14:30- 17:00	Doing legal business in England and Wales Speakers: Maria Gritsenko, Counsel, Bryan Cave Jason Woodland, Partner, Peters & Peters LLP Ed Powles, Partner, Maurice Turnor, Partner, Gardner LLP David Fisher, Partner, CM Murray LLP	Holborn and Lincoln, The Law Society



17:00 - 17:30	Tour of the Law Society	
17:30	Central Asia delegation welcome reception - networking opportunity	113 Restaurant and Bar, the Law Society

Thursday, 6 October 2016 - International Marketplace
Venue: The Law Society, 113 Chancery, Lane, London WC2A 1PL

09:00 - 09:30	Registration and Refreshments
09:30 - 09:45	Opening remarks by Robert Bourns, President of the Law Society of England & Wales
09:45 - 10:30	Keynote address: The role of international development banks in creating legal frameworks and sharing best practices in emerging markets Speaker: Marie Anne Birken, General Counsel, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
10:30 - 10:50	Tea and Coffee break
10:50 - 12:45	The law firm and the market - How will clients and firms be working together in the years ahead? - panel discussion Moderator: Stephen Denyer, Director of Strategic Relationships, The Law Society of England and Wales Speakers: Robert Bourns, President, The Law Society of England and Wales and partner at TLT Mark Rigotti, Chief Executive, Herbert Smith Freehills Edwin Tham, Senior Counsel, Danilov & Konradu LLP
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 15:15	Brexit and the marketplace - panel discussion Our panellists will provide insights on how the international marketplace will adapt to a UK outside the European Union
15:15 - 15:40	Tea and Coffee break
15:40 - 17:00	Robots v. Lawyers: on which side is technology? - panel discussion Moderator: Peter Wright, Chair, The Law Society Technology and Law Reference Group and Managing Director, DigitalLawUK Ltd Speakers: Chrissie Lightfoot, CEO and founder of The Entrepreneur Lawyer, Author of the Naked Lawyer series Laura Dowson, Head of Innovation and Development, Relate Paul D Paton, Deal of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Alberta
17:00 - 17:10	Closing remarks by Charlotte Ford, Head of International Policy and Engagement, the Law Society
17:10 - 19:00	International Marketplace networking reception



Delegation Profile

Artyushenko and Partners law firm, Kazakhstan



Artyushenko and Partners is a boutique law firm. We have been practising law in Kazakhstan since 2005 and we are the only real estate and property law firm in Kazakhstan. This allows us to provide tailored real-estate and related services, real estate construction and management, real estate deals, property, legal due diligence, second opinions and legal memos, litigation and corporate law.

Our firm has extensive experience in EPC and other FIDIC-based contracts support, including construction and design developments licensing, establishing construction and design service companies and branches in Kazakhstan, etc.

Our lawyers are members of the Kazakhstan Bar Association, the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES), the American Bar Association, the International Bar Association, The Law Society of England and Wales, Society of Construction Law.

Recognized by international ratings: Legal 500 EMEA 2016, Chambers and Partners 2016, Asialaw profiles 2015 and 2016.

Delegate: Andrey Artyushenko, Managing Partner and Founder

Andrey has been working as a lawyer in the Republic of Kazakhstan law lawyer, practicing the Kazakh law for more than 16 years. He specialises in real estate, property and construction.

He has worked as an in-house lawyer and chief legal counsel for 11 years dealing with real estate and property construction, and development for the projects, among others, Biohim plant, Medeu and Shymbulak ski resort, Almaty Financial District, Esentai Park, Ritz Carlton Almaty, Amusement parks and cinemas.

In 2001, he graduated from the Kazakhstan Legal Humanitarian University in International Law. In 2013 he completed a high education course program on the practice of FIDIC contract implementation in the CIS countries, at the Moscow Automobile and Construction University.





Andrey is a recognised practitioner by Chambers and Partners Asia-Pacific Guide 2016 in Kazakhstan for Corporate & Finance practice. He has also been recommended by the Asia law profiles 2016 as a Leading Lawyer in Construction & Real Estate.

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Centil Law Firm (formerly Colibri Law Firm), Kazakhstan

CENTIL.LAW

Centil Law Firm is a leading full-service law firm, advising within the jurisdictions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran, with particular expertise in banking and finance, energy, M&A, tax and infrastructure.

Centil's 45 lawyers have advised on complex transactions across the Central Asia and Caucasus regions, working with both international and domestic clients on pioneering projects that range from multi-billion dollar energy projects to ground-breaking public-private partnership projects. We work with leading international law firms from the UK, USA and EU as their local "branch" within the Central Asian region. We are also an active member of The Law Society's International Division.

We continually invest in attracting and retaining local legal talent, meaning that all of our lawyers have a deep knowledge and first-hand understanding of the jurisdictions and cultural contexts within which we work. It is for this reason that the firm and its lawyers are continually recognised by industry-leading legal directories such as Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

Delegate: Otabek Suleimanov, Partner

Otabek joined Centil in 2008, having previously worked for Uzbekistan's largest insurance company.

His main areas of expertise are insurance, industrial and infrastructure projects. Notably, Otabek worked on one of the most complex pan-Central Asian projects with a focus on insurance and construction matters. His clients include foreign contractors, reinsurers, ship owners, manufacturers and private investors.



He is a graduate from the University of Sheffield in the UK, and also spent just under a year working for AIG in the City of London.

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EKVITA LLC, Azerbaijan



EKVITA is a full-service consulting company providing legal and tax advisory services, accounting support as well as business consulting to both local and international clients. We bring together more than 10 years of market knowledge and experience.

The firm's work speaks for itself - some of the largest oil projects, the largest construction projects, and the largest telecommunication projects in Azerbaijan have selected EKVITA to represent their interest in various transactions covering both legal and tax matters.

Our consultants and experts have established themselves as reliable and skilled professionals with proven track record in the market. We pride ourselves for providing business oriented and sound professional advice.

Delegate: Ilgar Mehti, Managing Partner

Ilgar is the Firm's managing partner with more than 10 years of professional experience both in business and as a lawyer. He practiced law in the office of a major international law firm as well as held a position as an in-house counsel in major multinational energy company.



He specialised in Energy Law & Practice, Infrastructure Projects, Corporate, Employment and Taxation.

Ilgar holds Bachelor and Master Degrees in law from Baku State University as well as a LL.M. Degree from Northwestern University Law School, USA. In addition, he has a certificate in Business Administration from the IE Business School, Spain.

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MGAP Attorneys at Law, Russia

MGAP Attorney at Law has operated as a boutique law firm in the international legal services market for over 15 years.



A key element of our work is legal support for international projects. For foreign companies, MGAP helps ensure their operations in Russia are secure and transparent, and the same for Russian companies trading in foreign markets, taking into account the different legal regulations for business in other countries.



We advise our clients on various corporate, M&A, commercial, tax, IP, TMT, real estate matters as well as dispute resolution.

Delegate: Anna Alekseeva, Junior Partner, Head of Business Development

Anna works with MGAP's clients and prospective clients to identify and propose new legal opportunities for their business. During her first 5 years with MGAP, Anna provided legal support at all stages of development, structuring, financing and completion of projects in documentary, animation and feature films as well as music projects.



Anna graduated with a Diploma in Law from the Moscow State Law Academy in 2007.

Before joining MGAP in 2010, Anna was an in-house lawyer with a leading film and commercial production company. Previously, she worked with a major Russian TV group and a promoter of Russian music events.

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Delegate: Sergei Grachev, Managing Partner

Sergei is the founder and Managing Partner of MGAP and leads MGAP's main international projects in the field of asset tracing and debt recovery, M&A, TMT (technology, media and telecoms), including strategic work between US major studios and Russian leading film and TV producers.



He graduated with a Diploma in Law from the Moscow State Law Academy in 2002 and has worked on worked on large Russian and International mergers and acquisitions projects prior to founding MGAP.

Sergei holds the title Advocate, is a member of Moscow Regional Bar, and is recommended by The Legal 500 EMEA as a TMT lawyer. He also has been a member of Amnesty International since 1991.

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Nazkhanov and Partners, Kazakhstan

Nazkhanov and Partners firm of attorneys was founded in 2008 and is one of the leading litigation law firms in Almaty. We specialise in providing legal assistance to individuals and legal entities.



We have earned our reputation as litigation experts who deliver excellent results and exceptional service to our clients. Our lawyers are known for their skills in representing our clients at trials, arbitrations, mediations and appeals.

The partnership consists of nine lawyers with experience from 15 to 35 years including former judges, officers of law enforcement, professionals with extensive practical experience in various areas of criminal and civil law.

The narrow specialisation in certain categories of judicial practice allows us to offer better services to our customers. Our participation in the development of legal acts and laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as regular engagement in round tables, conferences and forums, confirms the high level of training of our lawyers.

Delegate: Tair Nazakhanov, Managing Partner

Tair has founded Nazkhanov and Partners Firm of Attorneys in 2008 and has specialised in protection of interests and consultation of entrepreneurs, top-managers and accountants during criminal investigations and the representation of companies.



Tair graduated from the Faculty of Law at the Kazakh State University in 1997 and holds an LLM from Queen Mary University. He also has certificates from the Blackstone Institute in Pennsylvania, USA (civil litigation), the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris (Arbitration), and the Birbeck College in London (English common law).

He is also an active supporter of bringing pro-bono legal aid into Kazakhstan attorneys' practice.

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Prime Advice St Petersburg, Russia

Prime Advice Consulting Group is one of the leading providers of legal, auditing and consulting services in Russia with an established reputation of a reliable business partner.



Today our clients include international companies, Russian industrial holdings, investment and construction corporations, woodworking and timber companies, transport companies and banks, retail chains and food suppliers as well as energy corporations.

Our experts have a background of successful work with Russian and international government agencies including the Federal Tax Service of Russia, the Public Chamber and the Federal Agency for State Property Management of Russia among many others. Over the years, Prime Advice has developed close working relationships with Russian government authorities as well as with local administrations in Saint Petersburg and in the North West Region of Russia.

Beside its main office in Saint Petersburg, Prime Advice has offices in Moscow, Kiev and Singapore.

Delegate: Lydia Ivanova, Head of Legal at the International Projects Department

Lydia has joined HLB Prime Advice in 2014 and specialises on legal issues including multiple/foreign jurisdictions such as the restructuring of group of companies based in different jurisdictions.

Prior to that, she has worked for the Capital Group on M&A, Equity and Contract Law and also has served as a Legal Counsel to the St.Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences.



Lydia holds a Diploma of Jurisprudence (J.D.) in International Law from the Saint Petersburg University of Humanities and Social Sciences, an LL.M. in European and International Law from Universität des Saarlandes, Germany, and a Diploma in Management from the University of London International Programmes.

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Sayenko Kharenko, Ukraine

Sayenko Kharenko is a leading Ukrainian transactional and dispute resolution law firm. We specialize in complex cross-border and local matters and regularly handle the largest and most challenging projects involving Ukraine.

SAYENKO KHARENKO

We have introduced many new products in Ukraine, particularly in finance and capital markets, and have significantly contributed to the development of many markets and industries.

Our clients especially value our practical and innovative approach and our ability to deeply understand and help achieve their strategic and business goals. Our reputation as Ukraine's leading firm in antitrust, corporate law, GR, finance, intellectual property, international arbitration, international trade, labour law, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, restructuring, real estate, securities law and tax is confirmed by our foremost position in league tables, top rankings and awards for our work.

Delegate: Eugenia Rebotunova

Based in London, Eugenia serves as a key point of contact for the firm's UK clients, as well as Ukrainian and other Eastern European clients interested in the UK market.

As a Ukrainian, Russian and US (State of New York) qualified lawyer, Eugenia has over 20 years of experience advising on international investment, restructurings, M&A and real estate matters.



She launched the real estate practice in the Moscow office of a major international law firm headquartered in New York and advised financial institutions, developers, hotel groups and retail companies on international financing, construction, letting, sale of assets, and acquisitions.

In addition to broad legal advisory expertise, she spent years working for investment funds and asset management companies with broad responsibility for legal, commercial, governmental and public relations strategies.

Eugenia is a member of the Ukrainian National Bar Association and the New York State Bar. She holds an LL.M. from Duke University School of Law, Durham NC, the United States and a JD from Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine.

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SIGNUM Law Firm, Kazakhstan

SIGNUM Law Firm is an independent law firm based in Almaty, servicing domestic and international clients. Having years of practice lawyers of SIGNUM offer clients comprehensive professional advice on corporate, commercial, taxation, licensing and other matters.

We seek to deliver our services in a creative, professional and constructive manner, leading our clients to success. We pride ourselves on our extensive and expanding client base. That being said, we recognize that each of our clients is unique with particular business concerns.

We specialise in corporate law, Mergers and Acquisitions, contracts and business law, dispute resolution and litigation, regulatory compliance and environment, finance and tax, employment and labour, subsurface use and corporate investigations.

We represent clients in the energy and natural resources, mining, construction and real estate, financial institutions, telecommunication and transport, non-commercial organisations, manufacturing industry, trade and services and the pharmaceutical sectors.

Delegate: Liza Zhumakhmetova, Partner and Head of the M&A practice

Liza has over 10 years' experience in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions and commercial law, and advises both international and domestic clients, primarily in the oil and gas sectors.

Prior to joining SIGNUM, Liza was a Senior Attorney in PwC Kazakhstan Legal Services.

Liza Zhumakhmetova holds an M.A. in Comparative Law from the Indiana University School of Law. She is qualified to practice in Kazakhstan and is admitted to the New York State Bar.

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Delegate: Sofiya Zhylkaidarova, Managing Partner

Sofiya has advised numerous international oil and gas and mining companies on various subsurface use issues for about 20 years including on strategic acquisitions, by assignment, takeover, among others.

Sofiya participated in drafting a number of regulations related to the subsurface use, M&A and tax matters. Corporate issues, including optimization business, are also among her key and basic practices. She has very high rankings and rating among local lawyers.

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The Law Society's International Department

The Law Society's International Department supports its members and overseas lawyers by reducing the barriers commonly faced when working in global markets, as well as establishing, developing and maintaining relationships with international stakeholders. Our team covers all regions of the globe; Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas and the Caribbean.

We provide practical support, training, information and advice to law firms and legal professionals; giving our members the tools to prosper in jurisdictions around the world and to be supported with the knowledge and intelligence to exploit business development opportunities internationally. We also raise awareness of the legal sector's contribution to the global marketplace and promote the expertise of our members across all regions, sectors and practice areas.

The International Division

The International Division is our exclusive membership service providing law firms, in-house legal teams, and legal practitioners with the information and tools you need to help you develop international links and thrive in the global marketplace.

Membership provides access to exclusive benefits including briefings, training opportunities, networking events, discounts, and an entry into our online global directory, as well as speaking and writing opportunities.

In the past year our members have benefitted from **over 30 events** for **over 1500 delegates** held in the UK and overseas. These have provided members with the knowledge needed to become established in developing markets across the globe and are excellent networking opportunities.

Membership is free for English solicitors and law firms regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. Foreign lawyers and overseas law firms are welcome to join for an annual fee. To join either complete the membership registration form at the back of this brochure or register at www.international.lawsociety.org.uk/join.