



One of the five best Russian law firms handling complex dispute resolution cases

(Chambers Europe Awards • Chambers Global • GAR 100 • The Legal 500 • Pravo-300 • Kommersant)

WHO WE ARE

Russian lawyers who provide the same quality of service as international law firms but at a local price

We do not spread our staff thin. Our narrow focus on complex commercial disputes and major transactions guarantees a premium quality service

Maximum partner involvement in every single project

Flexible pricing policy and payment options



Maxim Kulkov
Managing Partner
m.kulkov@kkplaw.ru



Oleg Kolotilov
Partner
o.kolotilov@kkplaw.ru



Nikolay Pokryshkin
Partner
n.pokryshkin@kkplaw.ru

'Maxim Kulkov is a formidable trial lawyer who has very persuasive advocacy skills.'

The Legal 500 EMEA

'Oleg Kolotilov understands the ever-changing landscape of Russian law and can clarify what seems complex.'

The Legal 500 EMEA

'Even before we had questions about further steps and possible arguments of our opponents, Nikolay had already prepared answers to them.'

The Legal 500 EMEA

WHAT WE DO



Russian and Foreign Litigation



Insolvency and Restructuring



Commercial Arbitration



Sanctions



Corporate and M&A



Expert Opinions on Russian Law for Foreign Arbitrations and State Courts

IN 2024

11 arbitrations

47 litigation cases in Russia

11 litigation cases abroad

9 expert reports on Russian law

US\$6bn the total value of the cases we won

19 sanctions-related cases totalling almost **US\$5.6bn**

WE HAVE WORKED IN



28 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

6 FSU COUNTRIES

27 REGIONS IN RUSSIA

7 COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS

5 AFRICAN COUNTRIES

12 ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES





Domestic Litigation



Defending a **Finnish company**, which owns large shopping centres in St Petersburg, against collecting losses of **more than RUB244m** for withdrawing from negotiations on the sale of a shopping centre in favour of the Russian beneficiary, as well as against the challenging of an intra-group transaction for the sale of shares in the company owning the disputed asset due to the lack of permits from the Government Commission.



Sanctions



Defending **Commerzbank** in disputes against a large Russian bank and other companies (the total amount of claims is **more than US\$100m**). The opponents commenced disputes in connection with the freezing of their funds in accounts opened with a depository whose funds were in turn frozen in a German bank due to European sanctions. The recovery from foreign counterparties of the depository is an innovation for Russian courts, and these disputes are establishing the practice similar cases. The unprecedented complexity of the case is confirmed by the fact that the Court of Appeal has already held six hearings.



Insolvency



Successful inclusion of an **international fund (the client)** in the register of creditors' claims. The client provided loans to oil trading companies totalling **almost RUB600m** to finance the purchase and sale of oil and petroleum products. The debtors did not repay the loans, and third parties initiated bankruptcy proceedings against the debtors. The case was complicated by the fact that the client is a foreign organisation and the loan agreements are subject to Swiss law, in connection with which opponents argued that Presidential Decrees allegedly forbid creditors from unfriendly countries to include their claims in the register of creditors of Russian debtors. Moreover, some circumstances of the case indirectly evidenced the actual affiliation of the client and the debtors, which could lead to subordination of the client's claim.

The firm is an
"independent Russian
boutique with extensive
experience of cross-border
disputes, acting for a range of
domestic and international
clientele."

Chambers Global

Defending **ING Bank France** in an **US\$80m** dispute over a claim by Sberbank arising from a syndicated loan agreement under which the client acts as a lender. Due to sanctions, Sberbank faced difficulties in fulfilling the payment schedule and appealed to the Russian court to force the amendment of the contract: this is a precedent-setting sanctions dispute in Russia related to changing the terms of the contract, allowing Sberbank to avoid default, despite the sanctions.



Corporate and M&A



Supporting a part of the client's global acquisition of assets of a **world leader in optical solutions**. The transaction covers about 60 jurisdictions, in each of which the local consultant provides business due diligence and support of applicable corporate procedures. The transaction is complicated by a sanctions component, as well as by the use of a rare asset transfer structure involving the transfer of property instead of the company shares, which complicates business due diligence procedures and asset transfer mechanisms.



Expert Reports



Preparing an expert report for the High Court of Justice of England on the concept of "trust" in Russian law in a dispute initiated by **Mr Alexander Gorbachev against Mr Andrew Guryev (Client), the beneficiary of PhosAgro**. The Claimant declared that PhosAgro's assets were allegedly promised to him as a reward for agreeing to manage the Client's companies. The Claimant appealed to the court to recover PhosAgro shares (or their value), which the Client allegedly holds in trust in favour of the Claimant, and the lost profits. The client needed the expert report on extraordinary issues of Russian law in order to prove the inadmissibility of concluding a trust agreement (as it is understood by English law) under Russian law, as well as the fact that the wording of the agreements invented by the Claimant is so vague that no Russian court would ever enforce them since it is not possible to identify their subject. In 2024, the court ruled in favour of the Client.



Commercial Arbitration



Representing the client in a dispute in ICC arbitration over the client's claim against its counterparty, one of the world's largest manufacturers of wind turbines. The client won tenders for the production of "green" electricity and started the construction of wind farms. The wind turbines were to be produced, supplied and maintained by the opponent. However, due to the sanctions, the respondent terminated its contracts with the client, that resulted in substantial losses for the client. Thanks to the efforts of the team, the parties settled the dispute on terms which were favourable for the client.



Foreign Litigation



Successful recognition and enforcement of an ICAC award in Kazakhstan. The ICAC ruled in favour of the client to recover several million euros, i.e., the amount of an unprocessed advance and accrued interest. The respondent, the client's subcontractor, refused to voluntarily enforce the award and made unsuccessful attempts to overturn the award in a Russian court. We defended the client by convincing the Russian court to uphold the ICAC award and for almost a year we supported the process of recognition and enforcement of the award in Kazakhstan. Despite the court of the first instance's refusal to recognise the award, the court of appeal found our arguments convincing and declared the return of the application unlawful, sending the case for a new hearing. The court of first instance reviewed the earlier decision and fully satisfied the application for recognition and enforcement of the arbitral award, which will allow the client to foreclose on the debtor's assets.