

# Dentons further expands its operations in Kazakhstan

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Following the combination of Salans, FMC and SNR Denton which was launched in April, Dentons has continued the expansion of its operations in Kazakhstan with the opening of a new satellite office in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The Astana satellite office will be headed by newly promoted Partner Birzhan Zharasbayev. Birzhan specialises in construction and real estate, infrastructure and PPP, corporate and commercial matters and M&A. He has acted as lead lawyer on a number of major M&A and development projects and frequently represents clients in high-level negotiations with the Kazakhstan government. Birzhan has provided advice on several draft laws and acted as leading co-drafter of Kazakhstan's legislation on Islamic banking and finance. He has been with the Firm since 2006.

The new Astana satellite office was opened in July 2013 and acts as an integral part of Dentons' existing Kazakh practice and Almaty office, headed by Partner Aigoul Kenjebayeva. It will enable Dentons' lawyers to service the growing number of national and international clients doing business in Astana more quickly and efficiently on the ground. The combined Kazakh practice of Dentons now has over thirty-five fee earners (including six partners) with further growth expected in the near term, positioning it as the leading and the largest international law firm in the country.

Dariusz Oleszczuk, Dentons' Europe Chief Executive Officer, said: *"I am delighted to announce Birzhan's promotion to partner and his relocation to head our new satellite office in Astana. This is a great opportunity for us to build on the success we have had in Almaty and to provide our clients with legal advice in the locations where they need it. Kazakhstan is a rapidly growing economic hub in the CIS region, so strengthening our capabilities and presence in this country is of strategic importance to us. I am confident that with Aigoul and Birzhan at the lead, we will continue to be successful in taking advantage of the opportunities in this key market."*

## About Dentons

Dentons is a global law firm driven to provide clients a competitive edge in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. A top 20 firm on the Acritas 2014 Global Elite Brand Index, Dentons is committed to challenging the status quo in delivering consistent and uncompromising quality in new and inventive ways. With a legacy of legal experience that dates back to 1742, Dentons was formed by the combination of international law firm Salans LLP, Canadian law firm Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (FMC) and international law firm SNR Denton. Dentons' clients now benefit from approximately 2,600 lawyers and professionals in more than 75 locations spanning 50-plus countries across Africa, Asia Pacific, Canada, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, CIS and the Caucasus, the UK, and the US. The firm serves the local, regional and global needs of a broad spectrum of clients, including private and public corporations; governments and government agencies; small businesses and startups; entrepreneurs; and individuals.

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