

Dentons Global Task Force on Ukraine Transformation



Oleg Batyuk

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Oleg is our Ukraine Managing Partner and Head of the Ukrainian Corporate Practice in Dentons' Kyiv office. A long-standing leader in Ukraine's legal market, he has been spearheading the country's legal practice since 1992.

Particularly experienced advising international clients on their investments and operations in Ukraine, Oleg can help businesses undertake feasibility and regulatory framework assessments to help their strategy development in relation to the upcoming infrastructure investment opportunities. As the leader of our Ukraine office, Oleg can create bespoke teams to address your specific issues, leveraging the team's deep sector and area of law expertise.



Esther McDermott

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Esther specializes in helping clients mitigate risks in major infrastructure projects, given her experience in a wide range of infrastructure related disputes (including roads, railway, energy, real estate and construction). As sponsors, banks, governments invest into Ukraine and support Ukraine's transformation, the investment levels involved mean Esther's experience as project counsel for clients in the management of complex multi-party litigation and international arbitration matters, particularly in the CIS, is hugely valuable. Esther can help clients assess the risks and opportunities Ukraine's transformation will bring their organization.



James Batham

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In 2022, James began to champion the opportunities that would exist post-conflict for Ukraine, and international investors and infrastructure sector participants. Known for his global outlook (developed through his work with global clients such as the World Health Organization Foundation, FTSE 100 company DS Smith, PepsiCo among others), James has a track record in developing and supporting clients access new markets and realize growth opportunities. An experienced relationship partner, James regularly brings together cross-border teams to ensure clients get the quality of insight, service and support they require. James attended the 2023 Ukrainian Recovery Conference in London.



Chris W.K. Fetzer

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Chris is a partner in the Dentons' Public Policy and Regulation practice and the leader of the National Security and Foreign Policy team and has worked on Ukraine-related matters dating back to 2014. A native Washingtonian with an established track record of securing favorable outcomes to complex, high-stakes problems at the intersection of business, law, policy, politics, and geopolitics for over two decades, Chris focuses on advocacy and strategy in the defense, trade, security, energy, technology, and foreign affairs arenas. He is married to a prominent member of Ukrainian diaspora in the US who spent a decade living and working in Kyiv. They frequently collaborate on Ukraine-related projects.

Chris brings rich insights to his clients. His board level engagement with US-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) – the premier business association in the US focused on US-Ukraine bilateral relations provides direct engagement with senior US and Ukrainian government officials, as well as other key stakeholders. The association advances US companies' trade and investment interests in Ukraine's emerging market, and advocates for measures to improve conditions for bilateral trade and investment between the US and Ukraine. Chris' recent engagements through USUBC include meetings with senior Ukrainian MOD officials and defense industry leaders, meetings with the US Ambassador to Ukraine and Commercial / Trade section leaders within the US Embassy in Kyiv, and a private roundtable discussion with Ukraine's Minister of Energy and Deputy Minister of Energy.

In 2022 and 2023, Chris was honored to be invited by the Ukrainian, Swiss, and UK governments to participate as a delegate in the first two Ukraine Recovery Conferences in Lugano and London, respectively. Beyond his work leading matters on behalf of multiple Ukrainian clients at Dentons—including a strategic metals miner and manufacturer, as well as a global management consultancy and investment advisory firm specializing in the iGaming sector—outside of Dentons, Chris is involved in numerous high-level engagements and roles that reinforce and augment his ongoing Ukraine-related activities, highlighted by his role as a member of the board of directors of the Atlantic Council, recognized as one of the world's leading think tanks and a global authority on Ukraine-related matters.