

# Aigoul Kenjebayeva

## Kazakhstan and Central Asia Managing Partner



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Almaty

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## Overview

Aigoul Kenjebayeva is the Managing Partner for Kazakhstan and Central Asia at Dentons. She has been in role since the establishment of the Almaty office in August 1994.

Her particular areas of specialization, acquired from over 30 years as a practicing lawyer in Kazakhstan and 11 years as a researcher in the economics of law, include corporate/M&A, energy/natural resources, PPP/infrastructure projects, IP, competition law, and dispute resolution. She is widely considered a top choice for dispute resolution in Kazakhstan.

Since 2017, Aigoul serves as the first Kazakhstan lawyer appointed as a member of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce.

Aigoul currently serves for the fourth year as a member of the International Council under the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan. She is also a member of the arbitration panel of the International Arbitration Center at the Astana International Financial Center, a member of the Users' Committee of the AIFC Court, a member of the Kazakhstan Bar Association Board, a member of the Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers Association Board and the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Norway in Almaty.

In 2019, Aigoul was awarded with the Certificate of Honor of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for merit in public and social activities.

In 2020, Aigoul received a prestigious award from the Republic of Kazakhstan Supreme Court "For the Contribution to the Development of International Cooperation".

In 2021 Aigoul was awarded by the Supreme Court with a medal "For Contribution to the Development of International Cooperation"

Legal directories, including *Chambers Global*, *Asia-Pacific*, *The Legal 500* and *IFLR1000* consistently name Aigoul Kenjebayeva as a Band 1 leading expert in Kazakhstan. *Chambers & Partners* also recognizes her as an "eminent practitioner" in Dispute resolution as well as in Energy and Natural resources, whereas *Who is Who Legal Arbitration* 2021 edition recognized Aigoul as a "Global leader".

# Insights

- “Sham transactions: tax management, challenges and new approaches,” *Zakon.kz*, February 2021.
- “Distinguishing between different kinds of disputes involving investors and governmental authorities in the light of the adoption of the APPC,” *Zakon.kz*, December 2020.
- “Foreign Courts and Arbitration Awards - A New Source of Inspiration for Kazakh Judges,” *Zakon.kz*, June 2019.
- “Terms for applying to court in case defects are detected in goods, works or services,” *Zakon.kz*, December 2018
- “Kazakhstan expands measures to combat counterfeiting,” *Forbes Kazakhstan*, October 2018
- “On the issue of the responsibility of mobile operators and TV and radio broadcasting operators for the content of TV channels retransmitted via the Internet and mobile applications,” *Zakon.kz*, September, 2018
- “Dispute resolution between subsoil users and a competent authority according to the New RK Subsoil Use Code,” *Oil & Gas Kazakhstan*, September 2018
- “Establishment of recommended or maximum resale prices for distributors (retailers),” *Forbes Kazakhstan*, October, 2017
- “So, you received a subpoena to an international arbitration...”, *Forbes Kazakhstan*, September, 2016
- “Judicial Independence in Kazakhstan: Law and Reality,” *Investors’ Voice* , February 2013
- “The Development of Kazakhstan’s Legal Profession,” *Investors’ Voice* , April 2012
- “Fighting Corruption in Kazakhstan: A Continuing Effort,” *Investors’ Voice* , July 2011
- “Regulating Subsoil Use in Kazakhstan,” *Doing Business in Kazakhstan*, October 2010
- “Regulating Subsoil Use in Kazakhstan,” *Oil & Gas of Kazakhstan*, 2010
- Chapter on Kazakhstan Legislation, *The International Arbitration Review*, July 2010
- “Legal Regulation of Subsoil Usage in Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: a Comparative Analysis,” January 2010
- “Local Content: Legal Aspects, Kazakhstan,” *The International Business Magazine*, 2009
- Chapter on Kazakhstan Legislation, Mergers and Acquisitions Guide, *PLC Which Lawyer?*, 2008-2009
- “Ambiguities in the Law: Challenges and Solutions,” *Investors’ Voice*, 2008
- “New Kazakh Amendments Aim to Give Government New Rights over Subsoil Use Contracts,” *BNA’s Eastern European Reporter*, January 2008
- “Anticipated Changes to Subsoil Use Legislation,” *Doing Business in Kazakhstan*, 2008
- “Anticipated Changes to Subsoil Use Legislation,” *Oil & Gas of Kazakhstan*, 2008
- “Preventing Violations of Law: A Vital Social Responsibility,” *Investors’ Voice*, April 2008

# Activities and Affiliations

## Memberships

- Board Member, Kazakhstan Bar Association
- Board Member, Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers' Association
- Member, International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce
- Member, International Council of Kazakhstan's Supreme Court
- Member, Users' Committee of the AIFC court
- Member, International Arbitration Center at the AIFC

## Prior and Present Employment

- Managing Partner, Dentons, Kazakhstan and Central Asia (2017-present)
- Managing Partner, Dentons (formerly Salans), Almaty (1994-2017)
- In-house Counsel, Oryx Energy, Almaty (1993-1994)
- Partner, private law firm in Kazakhstan (1992-1993)
- Head Arbitrator, Commodity Exchange "Kazakhstan" (1991-1992)
- Senior Researcher, Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan (1978-1991)

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Arbitration
- Corporate
- Employment and Labor
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution

### Industry sectors

- Information Technology (IT)
- Infrastructure and PPP
- Communications
- Luxury, Fashion and Beauty
- Life Sciences and Health Care
- Maritime
- Energy

## Education

- Duke University School of Law, 1993, LL.M.

- Tashkent State University, 1988, PhD
- Kazakh State University, 1978, JD

## Languages

- English
- Kazakh
- Russian