

# Birzhan Zharasbayev

## Office Managing Partner



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Nur-Sultan

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## Overview

Birzhan Zharasbayev is Office Managing Partner in Dentons' Nur-Sultan office.

His expertise includes construction and real estate, infrastructure and PPP, corporate and commercial matters and M&A.

He has acted as a lead lawyer on several major M&A and development projects and frequently represents clients in high-level negotiations with Kazakhstan's government.

Birzhan provided advice on a number of draft laws, and acted as a leading co-drafter of Kazakhstan's legislation on Islamic banking and finance. He has advised Aldar Properties PJSC on all legal matters of Abu Dhabi Plaza, a landmark multifunctional development project in Nur-Sultan (formerly Astana). His latest expertise includes advising the organizer of Astana EXPO-2017, a major event for Kazakhstan, on real estate, construction, regulatory and other matters associated with hosting the event.

Birzhan graduated from the Kazakh-Turkish International University (Law Degree, 2000), the Kazakh Humanitarian Law University (Master of Laws, 2003) and University of Edinburgh (LL.M. with distinction, 2006). He speaks Kazakh, Russian, and English.

## Experience

- Advising a major Middle Eastern real estate developer with regard to the development and construction of a multi-purpose real estate complex in Nur-Sultan (formerly Astana), Kazakhstan.
- Assisting a major Middle Eastern investment fund with respect to a project involving the construction and operation of a five-star hotel.
- Advising a major Kazakh real estate developer with regard to the construction and development of Aktau City, a multi-purpose real estate complex outside of Aktau, Kazakhstan.
- Assisting a major Kazakhstan bank in connection with the introduction of Islamic banking in Kazakhstan, preparation of the draft law on Islamic banks and organisation of Islamic financing.

- Assisting major Korean investors with respect to various commercial and residential development projects.
- Advising a leading oil services provider on various aspects of liability under contracts for the provision of oilfield services and sale of equipment.

## Insights

- Islamic Banking: Perspectives for Development in Kazakhstan, Jurist No 1, 2009
- Investments Insurance: New Trends in Protecting Investor's Interests, Jurist No7, 2007
- The Legislation on Public Procurement: Current Issues, Jurist No 8, 2005
- The Land Code: Legal Matters of Ownership Rights to Land, Jurist No 12, 2003
- Development of the Legislation on Subsoil and Subsoil Use in Kazakhstan, The Legal Reform in Kazakhstan, No 4, 2003

## Activities and Affiliations

### Memberships

- Kazakhstan Bar Association

### Prior and Present Employment

- Partner - Dentons (formerly Salans LLP), Almaty (July 2013 to date)
- Of Counsel - Salans LLP, Almaty (January-June 2013)
- Senior Associate - Salans LLP, Almaty (October 2010-December 2012)
- Associate - Salans LLP, Almaty (2006-2010)
- Head of Legal Department - JSC Vokzal-Servis (2004-2005)
- Counsel to MP, Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (2003-2004)
- Lecturer - Kazakh-American University (2002-2003)

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Banking and Finance
- Corporate
- Real Estate

## Education

- University of Edinburgh, 2006, LL.M., in Commercial Law with distinction
- Science Research Institute for Private Law, 2003 to date, Research Programme

- Kazakh Humanitarian Law University, 2003, Master's Diploma, with Distinction
- Kazakh Turkish International University, 2000, Law Degree, with Distinction

## Languages

- English
- Kazakh
- Russian