

## Overview

As one of the most important economies in Central Asia, Kazakhstan has significant mineral wealth, and is a major exporter of oil & gas, metals and other minerals. In addition to the wealth of business opportunities presented by the energy industry, the country is also the financial center of the region and home to the largest bank in Central Asia as well as other major financial players.

Operating in such a dynamic and regionally important location, you need a partner with the international experience and local knowledge to drive your success. With over two decades of experience in the region, and as the largest international firm in Kazakhstan, Dentons is your logical choice.

Our team of lawyers successfully combines in-depth knowledge of Kazakhstan's evolving legal framework with the firm's global experience. We advise clients on transactions of any size and complexity. Dentons offers results-oriented solutions alongside practical and cost effective legal advice.

The continued prominence of the oil & gas industry, and ever-improving infrastructure, makes Kazakhstan an exciting place to do business. Take advantage of our depth of experience in assisting foreign investment into Kazakhstan and the surrounding areas. You will also benefit from the support of our offices and teams throughout Russia, CIS and the Caucasus, whenever needed.

Look to our lawyers for effective solutions across Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region in areas including:

- Arbitration
- Banking and Finance
- Competition
- Corporate
- Employment
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Information Technology
- IP, Technology and Communications
- Life Sciences
- Real Estate and Construction
- Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Reorganisation, Restructuring and Insolvency
- PPP/Infrastructure Projects
- Tax/Customs

# Representative Experience

- **EBRD:** Acting as legal advisor to EBRD for the structuring, tender preparation, negotiation and implementation of a major PPP project for the construction of a portion of the Tashkent-Shymkent toll road in Kazakhstan, which belongs to the international transit corridor stretching from Tashkent to the border point of Horgos on the Chinese border. Dentons acted as co-counsel with Pinsent Masons and ARUP.
- **Eurasian Development Bank:** Acting as Kazakh, French and English law counsel for Eurasian Development Bank in relation to the financing of an investment project “Production of Electric Locomotives in Kazakhstan”. The transaction involved three jurisdictions - Kazakhstan, the UK and France: a French company provided a guarantee under English law in favor of an international organization (Eurasian Development Bank) to secure the borrower's obligations prepared under Kazakh law.
- **Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector:** Assisting Islamic Corporation for the Development of Private Sector with the creation of the first Islamic leasing company in Kazakhstan. Dentons advised on adapting the Islamic finance principles on leasing to the realities of Kazakhstan law, as well as on introducing Shariah Board (a prerequisite requirement), a corporate body that does not exist in regular companies.
- **Kazakhmys:** Advising Kazakhmys on its secondary listing at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. Kazakhmys, whose shares are also listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange, is one of the top copper producers in the world. The SPO has made Kazakhmys the first ever Kazakhstan-based company listed in Hong Kong.
- **Major Chinese gold refiner and bar manufacturer:** Assisting a major Chinese gold refiner and bar manufacturer with the acquisition of a stake in a Kazakhstan company, holder of subsoil use rights on exploration and production of copper, gold, silver and molybdenum on the Koksay field, which is considered to be one of the unique deposits in Kazakhstan.
- **Major international financial institution:** Assisting a major international financial institution as Kazakhstan law counsel with the restructuring of a debt of a major Kazakhstan paper and packaging producer, including drafting amendments to financing and security documents and issuing a legal opinion.
- **Major international footwear manufacturer:** Successful appeal of refusal to register a trademark of a major international footwear manufacturer in Kazakhstan, which included gathering evidence of the use of the trademark in Kazakhstan, Russia and worldwide, conducting an opinion poll among consumers in Kazakhstan on the perception of the trademark, eliminating false information about the trademark on Wikipedia, investigating perception of the trademark on the Internet.
- **Major international oil and gas companies:** Successfully representing major international oil and gas companies (in partnership with another global law firm) in settling a 2+ year dispute with the Republic of Kazakhstan. The settlement included complex issues of interpretation of Subsoil use contract related to taxation, cost recovery, cost control, customs, environmental and other issues. This extremely complex process involved legal management of various workstreams, including development of legislation, provision of contractual framework, finalisation of various disputes considered in courts and through administrative proceedings, issuance of new permits and similar.
- **Major Kazakhstan investment fund:** Assisting a major Kazakhstan investment fund with debt-to-equity transaction with the involvement of a Canadian listed company that indirectly owns subsoil use rights in Kazakhstan. The transaction was a cross border lending involving several jurisdictions with a complex loan structure (partly repaid, partly debt-to-equity conversion) with a use of several interconnected security tools.
- **RBS (Kazakhstan):** Advising RBS (Kazakhstan) on the sale of a retail portfolio to HSBC. The transaction was unique for the Kazakhstan market and involved a number of legal complex and unprecedented issues.
- **Societe Generale:** Advising Societe Generale on the sale of client's consumer credit business in Kazakhstan. The transaction was a mixture of equity and assets sale.

## Your Key Contacts

Central Asia



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