

Irina Stepanova

Counsel



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Moscow

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Overview

Irina Stepanova is a counsel at Dentons Russian Intellectual Property and Technology practice. She has significant experience in negotiating and consulting on a wide range of IP transactions, such as technology transfer and licensing, franchise and non-disclosure agreements, including issues relating to protection of confidential information. She advises the IT industry on software development and licensing, support and maintenance, reseller/distribution agreements and e-commerce matters.

Irina also assists clients with IP matters in M&A transactions and joint venture projects. Her experience covers dispute resolution, including know-how and patent infringement matters.

Irina Stepanova holds a PhD in Law degree from Saint Petersburg State University and an LL.M in Intellectual Property Law degree from Queen Mary, University of London. Irina attended the Lex Mundi Institute Cross-Border Technology Transactions Course in Monterey, California. Irina's prior experience includes teaching at the Department of Civil Law of Saint Petersburg State University.

Irina has advocate status and is a member of the Moscow Bar Association.

Experience

- **Major Russian oil company:** Advising on IP issues relating to the establishment of a joint venture in the shipbuilding sector, including the elaboration of an IP strategy within the framework of the joint venture and shareholder relationships, drafting and negotiating IP-related project documents.
- **Major Russian oil company:** Advising on IP matters relating to the establishment of a joint venture in the information technology sector, including in respect of software licensing, maintenance and support agreements.
- **Major Russian oil company:** Advising on intellectual property matters, including technology transfer, engineering and confidentiality agreements.
- **Russia's largest independent natural gas producer :** Advising on licensing and other IP matters relating to an LNG project.

- **Major online retailer:** Advising on transactional IP and information technology issues in respect of its acquisition of interests in the leading Russian e-book and audio book distributor.
- **Leading US provider of mobile-enabled solutions for construction project collaboration:** Advising on IP and information technology issues related to the sale of a software developer company.
- **Major Russian producer of gas turbines and electrical equipment for energy sector:** Advising on technology transfer issues in the project that encompasses design, development and manufacturing of a new gas turbine and establishment of a joint venture.
- **One of the world's largest aluminum producers :** Advising on various IP issues which covered patent, copyright law, protection of confidential information, including contract drafting, challenging patents and legal advice.
- **Leading Austrian manufacturer of fluid control products:** Representing in a complex know-how dispute in court and before the Federal Antimonopoly Service, drafted and negotiated the settlement agreement.
- **Major mining and metal company:** Advising on a dispute relating to an allegation of patent infringement by its next generation technology.
- **Renowned UK manufacturer:** Advising on franchise and sub-franchise agreements with Russian companies.
- **Company running a chain of Japanese restaurants in Russia:** Advising on licensing and franchise agreements.
- **Pharmaceutical company:** Advising on its licensing and distribution of small molecule pharmaceuticals for the Russian market.
- **Number of local and international software development companies:** Advising in relation to licensing, maintenance, distribution and reseller agreements.
- **Number of US and European companies:** Performing an IP due diligence in connection with M&A transactions.
- **Global creative agency:** Advising on copyright and advertising matters in connection with the promotional campaigns for famous Italian brands.
- **Large Russian securities exchange group:** Advising in connection with the use of trademarks owned by third parties in the marketing materials and on the Internet.
- **International bank group:** Advising on legal issues regarding the web-site terms and conditions and privacy policy.
- **Large Russian group of companies:** Advising on protection of the reputation and privacy of their main shareholders.

*The list includes experience from Irina's previous firm.

Recognition

- *The Legal 500, 2021:* Recommended lawyer in intellectual property in Russia; "a terrific specialist, with a very strong academic and practical background", "incredibly responsive, knowledgeable and an experienced IP specialist and brilliant negotiator", "Irina is highly experienced and reliable, she has an excellent knowledge of law, creative thinking and ability to solve complicated issues."
- *WIPR Leaders, 2021:* Leading lawyer in intellectual property in Russia.
- *World Trademark Review, 2021:* Leading lawyer in intellectual property in Russia; "Irina's amazing communication abilities shine through even in the toughest deals."

- *Best Lawyers*, 2013-2020: Recognized as “Lawyer of the Year” for Information Technology Law in Moscow in 2014, 2018 and 2019; listed among the leading practitioners in information technology, intellectual property, media and telecommunications and construction law in Russia.
- *Pravo.ru-300*, 2020: Leading lawyer in intellectual property in Russia.
- *Chambers Europe*, 2012: Recommended among the leading practitioners in intellectual property in Russia.

Insights

- Irina has authored a number of publications on intellectual property and civil law, including the following:
 - Franchising Q&A: Russian Federation, Practical Law, December 2017.
 - Protecting confidential information in Russia, Intellectual Property Magazine, September 2016.
 - Invalid and “Unconcluded” Civil Contracts: Theoretical and Practical Problems, Moscow: Prospekt, 2013.
- Irina is a co-author of the online intellectual property course, LF Academy Project, 2019.

Activities and Affiliations

Memberships

- Registered as a trademark attorney with the Russian Patent and Trademark Office, 2016
- Admitted to the Saint Petersburg City Bar, 2007

Prior and Present Employment

- Counsel – Dentons, Moscow (2019 to date)
- Associate; Head of IP Practice Group (Moscow) – Baker Botts L.L.P., Moscow (2013 to 2018)
- Visiting Foreign Attorney – Ashurst, London (September-December 2012)
- Associate; Senior Associate – Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners Law Offices, St. Petersburg (2007-2013)

*Biography includes grades according to Dentons’ internal classification

Areas of focus

Practices

- Intellectual Property and Technology
- IP Contracts, Assignment and Licensing
- Technology Procurement, Development and Licensing
- Franchising and Distribution

Industry sectors

- Information Technology (IT)

Education

- Queen Mary University of London, 2012, Master of Laws
- Saint Petersburg State University, 2007, PhD
- Saint Petersburg State University, 2001, Law Degree

Languages

- English
- Russian