

# Ulugbek Abdullaev

## Counsel



Counsel

Tashkent

D +99 878 150 31 05

ulugbek.abdullaev@dentons.com

## Overview

Ulugbek Abdullaev is a Counsel in Dentons' Tashkent office. He has broad experience in advising clients on corporate, regulatory and intellectual property issues. Ulugbek regularly advises foreign companies intending to invest or do business in Uzbekistan in various sectors, including IT, life sciences, FMCG and through joint ventures. He is a co-author of numerous articles in *Law Business Research*, *Law Reviews* and *Chambers*. Ulugbek was first recognized as the leading lawyer in Uzbekistan by *The Legal 500* in 2017 and by *Chambers and Partners* in 2021. In addition to his legal practice, Ulugbek is a part-time Lecturer at the Westminster International University in Tashkent.

## Experience

### Intellectual Property and Technologies (including FinTech)

- **Multinational IT company:** Advising on data localization issues.
- **Multinational telecom company:** Advising on tower business.
- **International Trade Center:** Advising the Government of Uzbekistan on compliance of domestic law with the requirements of TRIPS agreement.
- **Multinational IT company:** Advising on distribution of foreign TV content.
- **Multinational IT company:** Advising on online maps services.
- **Multinational telecom company:** Advising on regulatory compliance for CDN services.
- **Multinational telecom company:** Advising on copyright infringement claim in relation to software.
- **Multinational FinTech company:** Advising on payment systems launch in Uzbekistan.
- **Multinational hospitality company:** Advising on franchising hotel brands in Uzbekistan.
- **Multinational IT company:** Advising on ride sharing services.

- **Chinese Multinational IT company:** Advising on online education product launch in Uzbekistan.
- **Uzbek bank:** Advising on critical software integration and licensing.
- **US multi-national bank:** Advising on the use of cloud based collaboration and communication platform in Uzbekistan.
- **Joint-Venture in Uzbekistan:** Advising on a national geographic information system project in Uzbekistan.
- **Software company:** Advising on terms of service and privacy policy for a mobile app.
- **Financial services company:** Advising on mandatory disclosure requirements under Uzbek law.
- **Financial services company:** Advising on voice transactions via call centers.

## Life sciences

- **US multinational pharmaceutical company:** Conducting a risk assessment on tripartite distribution agreements with local distributors.
- **Dutch multinational pharmaceutical company:** Drafting and advising on API supply agreement.
- **Multinational pharma company:** Conducting due diligence of IP rights (including patents, trademarks, and commercial secret) related to on acquisition of US\$660 million pharmaceutical portfolio in Uzbekistan (overall, the project involved 11 countries, including in Russia and CIS). The perimeter of the asset purchase deal involved transfer of key intellectual property and regulatory authorizations relating to the pharmaceutical products. The deal involved identifying the legal value of intellectual property in the form of trademarks and patents, the scope of their protection, and possible restrictions for the purposes of the value assessment. From the regulatory side, the deal involved a legal assessment of the transferability of regulatory authorizations and the form of transfer. As the focus was on existing products popular in Uzbekistan, the transitional arrangement related to supply and foreign trade regime was also examined.
- **US multinational pharmaceuticals company:** Successfully representing the client on a court claim for protection of patent rights against on a competitor product.
- **Global provider in healthcare sector:** Advising on construction of nuclear medicine facility in Tashkent.
- **Polish pharma company:** Advising on regulatory requirements related to changing marketing authorization holder, packaging and registration documents of medicinal products, trademark holder, transferring IP rights to dossier and licenses.
- **French multinational pharma company:** Advising on protection of trademark rights against an infringing competitor product.
- **Japanese multinational pharma company:** Advising on trade marketing activities in Uzbekistan;
- **Multinational pharmaceuticals company:** Advising on setting up a supply chain in Uzbekistan.
- **US multinational pharmaceuticals company:** Advising on a fraudulent competitor product issues.
- **Swiss multinational pharmaceuticals company:** Advising on research and development of medicine.
- **Multinational pharmaceuticals company:** Advising on HCP services regulation.
- **Russian pharmaceuticals company:** Advising on country opening and setting up a local office in Uzbekistan.

## Corporate / Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity

- **One of the largest Uzbek companies:** Advising on joint venture agreement for the mining project in Uzbekistan.

- **Turkish conglomerate:** Advising on US\$300 million investment into a real estate development project in Tashkent.
- **Private equity client:** Advising on share acquisition in a leading local bank in Uzbekistan.
- **Korean multinational company:** Advising on a joint-venture agreement for a car manufacturing plant business.
- **Russian oil and gas company:** Advising on entering into a joint-venture in Uzbekistan with national oil company of Uzbekistan.
- **Turkish industrial conglomerate:** Advising on the acquisition of a chemical plant in Uzbekistan both on direct negotiation and bidding models. This is one of the first major privatization projects after the new administration came into service in Uzbekistan. Our services included conducting legal due diligence of the plant; drafting and negotiating share purchase agreement, shareholder agreement, investment agreement, final agreements and merger and acquisition clearances with the state monopoly agencies.
- **Foreign investor:** Advising on the acquisition of biggest oil refinery in Uzbekistan.
- **French multinational company:** Advising on country launch and setting up a local courier company.
- **Foreign investor:** Advising on the acquisition of an FMCG production company.
- **Turkish investor:** Advising on the acquisition and operation of a cement plant and subsoil use rights.
- **Turkish investor:** Advising on the investment and set up processes for a production plant in a special economic zone.
- **Multinational telecom company:** Advising on a corporate restructuring process in Uzbekistan.

## Energy, Infrastructure and PPP

- **Saudi Arabia investor:** Advising on investment agreement, power purchase agreement and other legal issues for gas-fired IPP project in Uzbekistan in Syrdarya region. The projected power plant capacity is 1,500 MW.
- **Multinational wind turbine manufacturer:** Advising on implementing a wind turbine project in Uzbekistan.
- **World Bank:** In consortium with other companies, advising the Government of Uzbekistan on reforming the gas sector.
- **EBRD:** In consortium with other companies, advising the Government of Uzbekistan on designing a low-carbon roadmap for the power sector.
- **Foreign investor:** Advising on a solar plant project in Uzbekistan.
- **Turkish industrial conglomerate:** Advising on investment agreement, power purchase agreement and other related documents in respect of the first independent power producer project in conventional gas-fired power plant in Surkhandarya region. The projected power plant capacity is 900 MW.
- **Turkish contractor:** Advising on the construction of the second combined cycle power plant with capacity of 900 MW in Namangan region of Uzbekistan. The project with the total value of US\$1.1 billion is financed jointly by JICA (Japan) and the Uzbek Fund for reconstruction and Development. Scope of services included advice on licensing, permits, drafting subcontracts, labour issues (litigation), claims, liaising with state authorities on customs, tax, licensing and other issues.
- **Korean contractor:** Advising on the expansion of the Talimarjan thermal power plant - construction of two combined cycle gas turbines with the total capacity of 900 MW. The project with the total value of US\$861 million was financed jointly by the Asian Development Bank, JICA (Japan) and Uzbek Fund for reconstruction and Development. Scope of services included advice on licensing, permits, drafting subcontracts, labour issues (litigation), claims, liaising with state authorities on customs, tax, licensing and other issues.

- **Swiss contractor:** Advising on the construction on EPC basis of the nitric acid plant in Navoi region, Uzbekistan. The project for the total value of US\$180 million is financed jointly by a consortium of European banks and the Uzbek Fund for reconstruction and Development. Scope of services included advice on licensing, permits, drafting subcontracts, labour issues (litigation), claims, liaising with state authorities on customs, tax, licensing and other issues.
- **Chinese contractor:** Negotiating an EPC contract for a US\$94.5 million coal mining facility in the Surkhandaryo region.
- **Turkish contractor:** Advising on the EPC construction of US\$200 million cement plant in Surkhandaryo, Uzbekistan.

## FMCG and SMCG

- **Multinational energy drinks producer:** Advising on healthy lifestyle policy of Uzbekistan.
- **Australian coffee brand owner:** Advising on the master franchising agreement in Uzbekistan.
- **Global nutrition supplements producer:** Advising on country opening and business model for re-entering into Uzbekistan.
- **Multinational energy drinks producer:** Advising on protection of trademark rights.
- **US furniture manufacturer:** Advising on product entry and regulatory matters in Uzbekistan.
- **Japanese trading company:** Advising on structuring the car dealership business in Uzbekistan.

## Recognition

- *Chambers and Partners, 2021*
- *The Legal 500, 2017*

## Insights

- Silva C.L. et al, Life Sciences 2020, (2020), *Chambers Global Practice Guide* – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan
- Bueno J.C. et al, The Projects and Construction Review, (2019), 9th Edition, *Law Business Research*, London – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan
- Bueno J.C. et al, The Projects and Construction Review, (2018), 8th Edition, *Law Business Research*, London – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan (ISBN 978-1-912228-41-6)
- Webb D. et al, Chambers Global Practice Guides: Anti-Corruption, (2018), *Chambers & Partners Publishing*, London – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan (ISBN 978-0-85514-711-2)
- Zerdin M. et al, The Mergers & Acquisitions Review, (2016), 10th Edition, *Law Business Research*, London – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan (ISSN 2042-7972)
- Schwartz D. et al, The Energy Regulation and Markets Review, (2015), 4th Edition, *Law Business Research*, London – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan (ISBN 978-1-909830-51-6)
- Facey B.A. et al, The Foreign Investment Regulation Review, (2014), 2nd Edition, *Law Business Research*, London – co-authored Chapter on Uzbekistan (ISBN 978-1-909830-19-6)
- La Fleche E.R. et al, The Mining Law Review, (2012), *Law Business Research*, London – co-authored chapter on Uzbekistan (ISBN 978-1-907606-46-5)

# Activities and Affiliations

## Prior and Present Employment

- Counsel, Dentons Tashkent, Tashkent (April 2019 to date)
- Senior Associate, Dentons Tashkent (former Avent Advokat), Tashkent (2014 to March 2019)
- Associate, Avent Advokat, Tashkent (2011 to 2014)
- Paralegal, Avent Advokat, Tashkent (2010-2011)

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Corporate
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Real Estate
- Competition and Antitrust
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Competition and Antitrust Counseling and Compliance
- Compliance
- Privacy and Cybersecurity

### Industry sectors

- Infrastructure and PPP
- Technology
- Energy
- Media, Entertainment and Sports
- Communications

## Education

- University of Oslo, 2014, LL.M.
- University of Westminster, 2011, BA, Commercial Law

## Languages

- English
- Russian

- Uzbek