

DENTONS

Dentons in Kazakhstan

Your trusted advisor

Grow | Protect | Operate | Finance

September 2024

What makes Dentons different?

Dentons is the first polycentric global law firm

We are client outcomes focused.

We have organized ourselves and our content around how we can support clients grow, protect, operate and finance their organizations.

We are polycentric.

Dentons has no single headquarters or dominant national culture. Our polycentric, in-and-of-the-community approach means we are always a local firm as well as a global firm.

We are global.

With offices in more than 160 locations across 80 countries, Dentons can support you everywhere you do business.

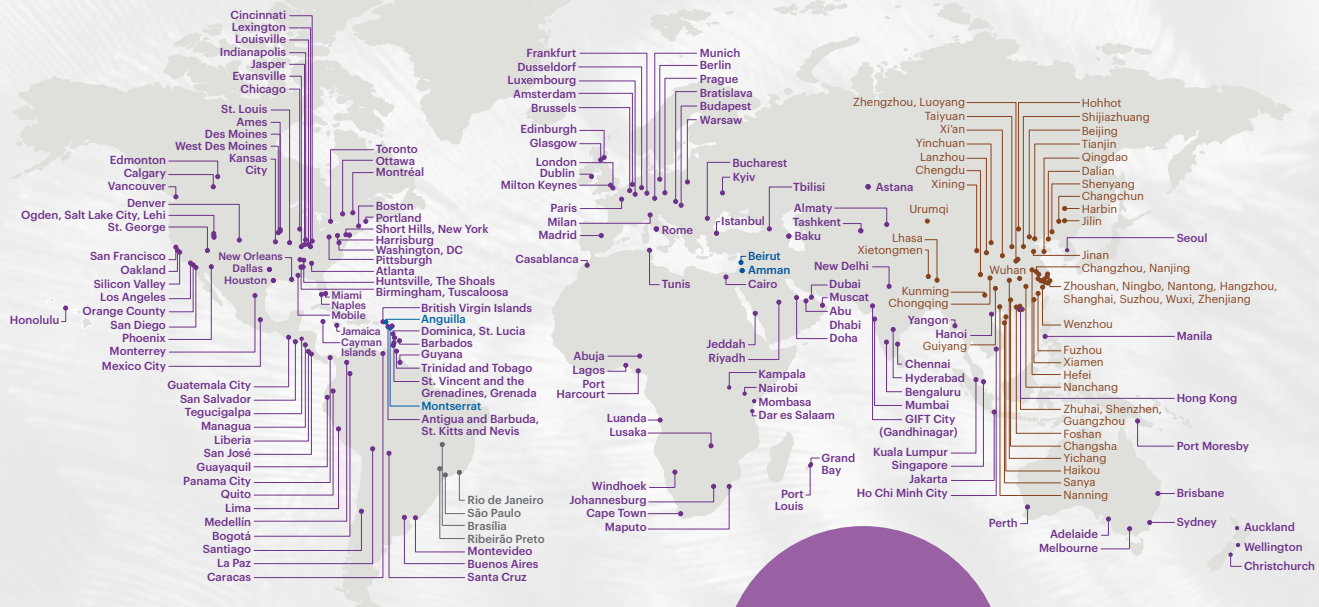
We are the largest global law firm in the world.

With more than 12,500 globally, we offer clients talent from diverse backgrounds with a depth and breadth of experience that no other law firm can match.

We are purpose-driven.

Dentons is the first global law firm with a purpose statement. Our drive to connect talent to opportunity enables us to attract and retain the best and most diverse talent to serve clients better.

160+
locations



Locations in purple represent Dentons offices.
 Locations in blue represent associate firms, offices, jurisdictions of practice from other Dentons' offices or special alliances as required by law or regulation.
 Locations in gray represent Brazil Strategic Alliance.
 大成 is Dentons' preferred law firm in China.

80+
countries

June 2024

24
industry sectors

40
practice areas

5,900
lawyers

12,500+
total number of people

80+
languages spoken

Dentons in Kazakhstan

30
years

**Proudly serving Kazakhstan
since 1994**



World's largest global law firm in Kazakhstan

31 lawyers including 7 partners



30 years experience in Kazakhstan

with unparalleled insight gained from truly major and groundbreaking deals



Consistently top ranked amongst law firms

in Kazakhstan by *Chambers*,
The Legal 500 and *IFLR 1000*



Integrated advice in all key areas of law

to businesses from all sectors



Strong client base

including multinational corporations
as well as regional and local lenders



Insurance, infrastructure and resources

We are equipped with professional
liability insurance

Being one of the most important economies in Central Asia, Kazakhstan has significant mineral wealth and is a major exporter of oil and gas, metals and other minerals. Kazakhstan is also the regional financial hub and home to some largest financial institutions in Central Asia.

Operating in such a dynamic and regionally important location, you need a partner with the international experience and deep local knowledge to pave the fast-track to your success.

With 30 years of the intense local experience in the region, and as the world's largest law firm,
Dentons is your logical choice to solve your legal matters in Kazakhstan.

Superb brand rankings



Chambers Asia – Pacific, 2024

Kazakhstan, Band 1 in all ranking categories

- Corporate and Finance
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Natural Resources



The Legal 500 EMEA, 2024

Kazakhstan, Tier 1 in all ranking categories

- Banking, Finance and Capital Markets
- Commercial, Corporate and M&A
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy and Natural Resources
- IP and TMT
- Real Estate and Construction
- Tax and Customs



IFLR1000, 2024

Kazakhstan, Tier 1 in all ranking categories

- Banking and Finance
- Capital markets (Equity and Debt)
- M&A
- Project Development

Partners, and practice group heads



Abai Shaikenov
Managing Partner



Aigoul Kenjebayeva
Partner, Dispute Resolution & Litigation



Daniyar Toigonbaev
Partner, Dispute Resolution & Litigation, Subsoil, Tax



Vassiliy Zenov
Partner, Banking & Finance



Birzhan Zharasbayev
Partner, Real Estate & Infrastructure



Gani Ashimkhan
Partner, Corporate & M&A



Victoria Simonova
Partner, Employment, Intellectual Property & Technology



A close-up photograph of a purple flower, possibly a lily, with several large, pointed petals. The image is monochromatic, with various shades of purple. A large, semi-transparent purple circle is overlaid on the center of the flower, containing the text.

**Your
dedicated
team**



Abai Shaikenov

Managing Partner

Almaty

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Abai is the Managing Partner at Dentons Kazakhstan.

He has been actively advising clients in Kazakhstan and across the CIS for more than 25 years.

He focuses on complex M&A and corporate transactions, including cross-border acquisitions and disposals, as well as the diverse finance transactions. His experience includes advising on the most complex and unique M&A and financing transactions in Kazakhstan.

Abai has been the preferred legal counsel to the leading financial institutions and private investment firms in Kazakhstan for many years, including Citibank, Bank of China, ICBC, EBRD, IFC, KAZ Minerals and ERG.

Abai is a regular speaker at conferences and is a contributing author to many local and international legal and business publications.

Education

- Duke University, 1998, Transactional Summer University for international lawyers in Hong Kong
- Kazakh State Legal Institute, 1996, Law Degree, with Honours

External Recognitions

- *The Legal 500*, Leading individual in Banking, Finance and Capital Markets, Corporate, Commercial & M&A
- *Chambers Global*, Band 1 in Corporate & Finance
- *Who's Who Legal*, Recommended lawyer in Real Estate
- *IFLR1000*, Market Leader in Banking and M&A

Activities and Affiliations

- member of Kazakhstan Bar Association Supervisory Board
- member of the Board of Directors of EUROBAK



Aigoul Kenjebayeva

Partner

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Aigoul Kenjebayeva is a Partner of Dentons' Kazakhstan.

Aigoul has extensive experience dealing with the legal aspects and tax implications of investing in Kazakhstan. Her particular areas of focus have been acquired from more than 35 years as a practicing lawyer and 12 years as a researcher in the economics of law, include energy/natural resources, corporate, M&A, PPP/infrastructure projects, IP, competition law and dispute resolution. She focuses on litigation and international arbitration, both commercial and investor-state, and acts as counsel and arbitrator.

Aigoul has authored numerous chapters on Kazakhstan in reputed international guides and local publications. High-profile conferences regularly invite her to speak on the issues facing domestic and foreign companies when doing business in Kazakhstan.

Widely considered a top choice for dispute resolution in Kazakhstan, in 2017 Aigoul became the first Kazakhstan lawyer appointed as a member of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce. Aigoul has also served as a member of the International Council under the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, in which capacity she makes significant contribution to shaping Kazakhstan's legislation and court practice particularly in the sphere of investment protection.

Education

- Duke University School of Law, 1993, LLM
- Tashkent State University, 1988, PhD
- Kazakh State University, 1978, JD

External Recognitions

- *The Legal 500*, Eminent Practitioner in Dispute Resolution, Energy & Natural Resources
- *Chambers Global*, Eminent Practitioner in Dispute Resolution, Energy & Natural Resources
- *Who's Who Legal*, Recommended Lawyer in Mining, Arbitration, Energy, M&A and Governance
- *IFLR1000*, Expert Consultant and a Women Leader in Project Development and M&A

Activities and Affiliations

- Member of the arbitration panel of the International Arbitration Center at the Astana International Financial Center
- 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
- Board Member, main arbitration body of Kazakhstan (under the National Business Chamber of Kazakhstan)



Daniyar Toigonbaev

Partner, Dispute Resolution
and Litigation, Subsoil, Tax

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Daniyar is a partner and the Head of the Tax, Subsoil Use and Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practices at Dentons Kazakhstan. Daniyar is a recognized leading practitioner in dispute resolution, energy and natural resources and is known for his extensive industry experience and excellence. He is a trusted advisor to leading oil & gas, mining companies and investors.

Daniyar focuses on complex disputes in commercial and corporate sectors, as well as on disputes with tax and other governmental authorities. He has a proven track record of successful dispute resolution in courts and in arbitrations in Kazakhstan and abroad, which is based on his professionalism, deep knowledge and understanding of clients' businesses, and a thoughtful and innovative approach to each case. Daniyar's particular specialization is in investment disputes.

Prior to joining Dentons, Daniyar worked as an in-house counsel, including as a general counsel, in large mining companies in Kazakhstan, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan.

Education

- Pennsylvania State University (LLM, 2009)
- Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (Law Degree, with honors, 2002)

External Recognitions

- *The Legal 500*, Next Generation Partner in Dispute and Resolution, Energy and Natural Resources, Tax and Customs
- *Chambers Global*, Ranked Lawyer Band 4 in Dispute Resolution

Activities and Affiliations

- Arbitrator of the International Court of Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Kazakhstan Bar Association



Vassiliy Zenov

Partner, Head of Banking & Finance

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Vassiliy Zenov is a partner and head of the Banking & Finance practice in Dentons' Kazakhstan office. He focuses on banking and finance, capital markets, financial regulations and derivatives.

Vassiliy has 15 years of legal experience and is highly recognized in the local market for his unique experience in drafting statutory amendments.

By way example, Vassiliy is an author of the legislative amendments on "close-out netting" in Kazakhstan, which were adopted in 2022. He also led the Dentons' team in the several matters which aimed to set up an effective legal framework for resolution and sale of non-performing loans.

Vassiliy drafted and negotiated the amendments to the Kazakh Law on Use of Airspace, which envisages complex legal restrictions on foreign parties that own or may otherwise control Kazakh airlines.

Recently, as per request of the Kazakhstan financial regulator, he prepared a draft law, which adopted once will simplify the entry and licensing requirements for foreign banks, which plan to set up their branches or subsidiaries in Kazakhstan.

Education

- Australian National University, 2008, MPP, with Merit
- Australian National University, 2007, Graduate Diploma, in Public Administration, with Distinction
- Kazakh Humanitarian and Law University, 2003, Bachelor of Laws, with Distinction

External Recognitions

- *IFLR1000*, Highly Regarded in Banking and Capital Markets
- *Chambers Global*, Ranked Lawyer Band 4 in Corporate & Finance
- *The Legal 500*, Next Generation Partner in Banking, Finance and Capital Markets

Activities and Affiliations

- Kazakhstan Bar Association
- AIFC Roll of Registered Legal Advisers



Birzhan Zharasbayev

Partner, Real Estate and Infrastructure

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Birzhan is the Office Managing Partner in our Astana office and the head of Dentons' infrastructure practice in Kazakhstan. He focuses on infrastructure—including renewable energy—construction and real estate, PPP as well as on corporate and commercial matters. He has acted as a lead lawyer on several major infrastructure and development projects and frequently represents clients in high-level negotiations with the Kazakhstan government.

Birzhan has advised multilateral institutions, investors, contractors and developers on infrastructure developments, commercial contracts, concession bids and operations, and regulatory and legislative issues. He is also engaged by clients to act as an independent expert facilitating parties in resolving construction disputes.

His latest experience includes advising mining and oil and gas companies on decarbonization matters. This involves assessing the feasibility of potential power projects and associated legal and technical risks and forming proposals for developing new legislation in this respect.

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

External Recognitions

- *The Legal 500*, Leading Individual in Real Estate and Construction
- *IFLR1000*, Highly Regarded in Real Estate, Construction and Materials

Activities and Affiliations

- Kazakhstan Bar Association



Gani Ashimkhan

Partner, Corporate and M&A

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Gani Ashimkhan is a partner and head of the M&A and Corporate practices at Dentons Kazakhstan.

As practice head, Gani leads the team on such matters as M&A and regulatory approvals, joint ventures, general corporate transactions and corporate reorganizations. Clients include businesses based in mainland Kazakhstan as well as at the Astana International Financial Center.

He focuses on foreign investment issues, cross-border M&A, and general corporate transactions. His excellent background includes legislative drafting in the areas of both public and private law, advising private equity, banking and other corporate and private clients on various M&A deals and joint-venture agreements.

Gani has been at the forefront of negotiating deals for clients across various industries, such as aviation, banking and finance, food and beverages, transportation services, real estate management, telecommunications, medical services, subsoil use and related services and construction. His clients include major players from private equity funds, banks and financial organizations, subsoil users as well as private clients.

Education

- BPP Law School, 2009, Graduate Diploma, in Law
- University of Hull, 2005, LL.M.
- Ministry of Justice of Japan Training course, 2003, International IP Rights
- Kazakh State National University, 2000, Law Degree

External Recognitions

- *The Legal 500*, Next Generation Partner in Corporate, Commercial and M&A
- *Chambers Global*, Ranked Lawyer Band 4 in Corporate & Finance
- *IFLR1000*, Rising Star in M&A

Activities and Affiliations

- Kazakhstan Bar Association



Victoria Simonova

Partner, Employment,
Intellectual Property and Technology
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Victoria is a partner in Dentons' Almaty office with over 25 years' experience and advises clients on a wide variety of Kazakhstan and international law issues, including litigation/arbitration matters, corporate, employment and IP matters.

Victoria has advised on a number of major mergers and acquisitions; defended clients in numerous litigation matters. Her work also extends to assisting major international and Kazakhstan multinational companies with foreign investment and protection of the investments in Kazakhstan.

Victoria continues to be the key lawyer for handling legal matters of European Business Association of Kazakhstan (pro-bono project).

Education

- Duke University, North Carolina, USA, 2005, LLM
- Adilet Law School, 1998, bachelor degree, Law (with distinction)

External Recognitions

- *The Legal 500*, Leading Individual in Dispute Resolution, IP and TMT
- *IFLR1000*, Women Leader and Highly Regarded in Energy and Infrastructure, M&A, Project development, Restructuring and Insolvency

Activities and Affiliations

- EUROBAK
- Kazakhstan Bar Association
- AIPN

ABOUT DENTONS

Across over 80 countries, Dentons helps you grow, protect, operate and finance your organization by providing uniquely global and deeply local legal solutions. Polycentric, purpose-driven and committed to inclusion, diversity, equity and sustainability, we focus on what matters most to you.

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