

A conference presented by the IBA European Regional Forum



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# IBA Europe- Caucasus-Asia Forum 2019

**31 October – 2 November 2019**  
**Courtyard by Marriott, Tbilisi, Georgia**

**Topics include:**

- Legal challenges of investing in Caucasus and Central Asia
- Navigating investment risks in times of uncertainty: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova
- International Clients Service – what does it mean to work with globally active clients?
- Environment in the legal profession – unfair HR practices
- How do we foster a more equal, diverse and inclusive legal profession?
- Burnout of lawyers: something unavoidable?
- M&A transactions in the ECA region
- New world – new tax
- Dispute resolution in the region

**Who should attend?**

The Forum will gather managing partners, heads of practice, in-house lawyers and other senior practitioners coming from, or interested in, the ECA region.



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# Programme

## Conference Co-Chairs

Alexander Bolkvadze *BLC Law Office, Tbilisi*

Jörg Menzer *Noerr, Bucharest; Vice Chair/Treasurer, IBA Section on Public and Professional Interest*

Maria Ostashenko *Alrud, Moscow*

Lana Sinichkina *Arzinger, Kyiv; ECA Liaison Officer, IBA European Regional Forum*

## Conference Host Committee

Sandro Bibilashvili *BGI Legal, Tbilisi*

Alexander Bolkvadze *BLC Law Office, Tbilisi*

Nick Gvinadze *Gvinadze & Partners, Tbilisi*

Lasha Nodia *Nodia Urimashvili & Partners, Tbilisi*

Kakha Sharabidze *BLB, Tbilisi*

## Thursday 31 October

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### 1400 – 1600 **Registration**

*Courtyard by Marriott*

### 1600 – 1800 **Guided welcome tour of Tbilisi**

This tour is open to all registered delegates; however, please indicate your attendance upon registration for the conference. Please meet in the lobby of the Courtyard by Marriott hotel by 1600.

### 1900 – 2100 **Reception offered by the Host Committee**

*Sky7 Terrace and Lounge, Hotel Mercure  
9 Vakhtang Gorgasali Street, 0105, Tbilisi*

Enjoy a casual evening of networking with speakers and fellow delegates before the start of the Conference.

This reception is open to all registered delegates; however, please indicate your attendance upon registration for the conference.

Transport will be provided.

## Friday 1 November

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### 0800 **Registration at the conference venue**

### 0800 – 0900 **Welcome coffee/tea**

### 0900 – 0905 **Welcome on behalf of the Host Committee**

Alexander Bolkvadze *BLC Law Office, Tbilisi*

### 0905 – 0920 **Opening remarks**

David Asatiani *President of the Georgian Bar Association, Tbilisi*

Horacio Bernandes Neto *Motta Fernandes Advogados, Sao Paulo, IBA President*

Zhumageldy Yelyubayev *President of Kazakhstan Bar Association, Almaty*

### 0915 – 0930 **Keynote address**

State Representative *(invited)*

0930 – 1045

### **Legal challenges of investing in Caucasus and Central Asia**

The states of the Caucasus and Central Asia have been drawn into more direct and immediate contact since the Soviet collapse. Infrastructural improvements and the race by the great powers for access to the region's vital natural resources have allowed these states to develop closer ties with each other and the wider world, creating new interdependencies and fresh opportunities for interaction and the exercise of influence. They are being integrated into a new, wider economic and political region that is increasingly significant in world affairs, owing to its strategically central location, and its complex and uncertain politics. Rule of law is still a prime concern!

### *Session Chair*

Alexander Bolkvadze *BLC Law Office, Tbilisi*

### *Speakers*

Alexander Ahn *Kalikova & Associates, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan*

Živa Filipič *Managing Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris*

Ilgar Mehti *Ekvita, Baku*

Benjamin Paine *Paine Stevens, Tbilisi*

David Sargsyan *Ameria Law firm, Yerevan*

Jennifer Younan *Shearman & Sterling, Paris*

Nodir Yuldashev *GRATA, Tashkent*

1045 – 1130

### **Navigating investment risks in times of uncertainty for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova**

Commercial arrangements with private parties can be affected in many ways. Risks such as bankruptcy, regulatory, political challenges, sanctions and anti-corruption, and compliance of the partner become more and more important for contract lawyers. The panel will discuss the best practices that companies use to mitigate or overcome the uncertainty existing in the region.

### *Session Chair*

Maria Ostashenko *ALRUD, Moscow*

### *Speakers*

Marina Golovnitskaya *Sorainen, Minsk*

Gabriel Lansky *Lansky Ganzger & Partner, Vienna*

Oleksandr Nikolaichyk *Sayenko Kharenko, Kyiv*

Ann Sultan *Miller & Chevalier Chartered, Washington DC*

# Friday continued

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1130 – 1200 **Coffee/tea break**

1200 – 1300

## **International clients service – what does it mean to work with globally active clients?**

In a highly globalised world, it is important to analyse all business opportunities and take advantage of all potential markets. Speakers will discuss the pros and cons of being internationally active as a law firm in the region. How much does the growing demand from corporate counsel/international clients for pro bono activities, CSR, secondments and other services, as well as pressure on legal fees, influence work on the international level?

*Session Chair*

**Jörg Menzer** *Noerr, Bucharest; Vice Chair/Treasurer, IBA Section on Public and Professional Interest*

*Speakers*

**Borislav Boyanov** *Boyanov & Co, Sofia*

**Zoya Ilyenka** *1961 Abogados y Economistas Barcelona; European Liaison Officer, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

**Iryna Nikitina** *Strategic Advisor for Law Firm Partnerships, IOCONS, Kyiv*

**Gerard Tanja** *Venturis Consulting, Amsterdam*

**Maria Ślęzak** *European Association of Lawyers, Brussels*

1300 – 1430 **Lunch**

1430 – 1530

## **Environment in the legal profession: no-poach, wage fixing agreements, exchange of sensitive information and other unfair competition HR practices**

The legal profession market is very competitive. Talented and favourable professionals are always in demand, with employers attempting to fix their arrangements to keep them inside firms. Sometimes such arrangements go too far and can be qualified as unfair competition. The panel will discuss the relevance for legal services markets and the ways to combat such practices.

*Session Chair*

**Lana Sinichkina** *Arzinger, Kyiv*

*Speakers*

**Salomé Cissal De Ugarte** *Hogan Lovells, Brussels*

**Pavel Karpunin** *Capital Legal Services, Moscow*

**Volodymyr Kolomoyetz** *Pedersen & Partners, Kyiv*

**Artem Timoshenko** *Unicase, Almaty*

# Saturday 2 November

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0830 **Registration at the conference venue**

0830 – 0900 **Morning coffee/tea**

0900 – 1000

## **M&A transactions in the ECA region**

The panel will review the M&A market and the main trends and developments in the region. The panel will discuss key drivers of the M&A market, investment priorities in the long and medium term as well as the attractiveness of the region in the world market.

1530 – 1630

## **How do we foster a more equal, diverse and inclusive legal profession?**

Equality is a central principle at the heart of the rule of law. Lawyers globally are required to be of good character and uphold the highest ethical standards – such obligations date back to ancient Greece. Research continuously shows that diverse and inclusive workplaces are more productive and produce better work. Yet the legal profession remains lacking in equality, diversity and inclusiveness. Globally, women remain underrepresented at leadership level in law firms and other legal workplaces. Recent research by the IBA has demonstrated that bullying and sexual harassment is rife amongst lawyers.

*Session Chair*

**Jurate Guzeviciute** *IBAHRI Programme Lawyer, London*

*Speakers*

**Horacio Bernardes Neto** *Motta Fernandes Advogados, São Paulo; IBA President*

**Irina Paliashvili** *RULG-Group, Kyiv*

**Ros Prince** *Stephenson Harwood, London*

**Ketevan Shubashvili** *Head of Equality Department, Public Defender's Office of Georgia, Tbilisi*

1630 – 1700 **Coffee/tea break**

1700 – 1745

## **Burnout of lawyers: something unavoidable?**

Lawyers face a lot of stress at work: we all know it – but do we do enough to avoid professional burnouts? This is a big question for both law firms and corporates.

*Speaker*

**Kateryna Kunytska** *Expert in emotional intelligence, Kyiv*

1830 – 2200

## **Traditional dinner and cultural programme**

*Mtatsminda Funicular, Mtatsminda Plateau, 0114, Tbilisi*

The evening will begin with drinks with dinner commencing at 1930. Dinner and cultural programme are included in the registration fee; however please indicate your attendance upon registering for the Conference.

Transport will be provided.

*Session Chair*

**Kakha Sharabidze** *BLB, Tbilisi*

*Speakers*

**Sandro Bibilashvili** *BGI Legal, Tbilisi*

**Meri Chachanidze** *TBC Capital, Tbilisi*

**Alexander Ermolenko** *FBK Legal, Moscow*

**Syed Mujtaba Hussain** *Emirates Legal, Dubai*



# Saturday continued

1000 – 1100

## New world – new tax

Battle for tax: any chance to make it win-win situation?

- recent anti-avoidance measures (beneficial ownership concept, substance concept, mandatory disclosure, dtt practices, etc.)
- making taxpayers and tax authorities BFF – tax rulings, ATA, tax transparency and reliability – mission impossible?

Digital economy and tax: are we there yet?

- are tax regulations up-to-date – what is going on?
- exchange of information.

*Session Chair*

**Natalia Luchkova** *TaxTeam, Amsterdam*

*Speakers*

**Ay Khan Asadov** *BM Morrison Partners, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan*

**Walter Andreoni** *Mercanti e Associati, Milan*

**Ketevan Buadze** *BSH law office, Tbilisi*

**Vadim Medvedev** *Avellum Law Firm, Kyiv*

1100 – 1130 **Coffee/tea break**

1130 – 1230

## Dispute resolution in the region

This panel will discuss key trends in dispute resolution relating to the region.

*Session Chair*

**Nick Gvinadze** *Gvinadze & Partners, Tbilisi*

*Speakers*

**Timur Aitkulov** *Clifford Chance, Moscow*

**Anar Janmammadov** *MGB Law Offices, Baku*

**Ulyana Bardyn** *Dentons, New York*

**Charles Nairac** *White & Case, Paris*

**Lasha Nodia** *Nodia, Urumashvili & Partners, Tbilisi*

1230 **Closing remarks**

1300 – 1430 **Lunch**

## 1430 Winery tour at Chateau Mukhrani

Join us to celebrate the end of the Conference with a tour of the Chateau Mukhrani winery, wine tasting and a masterclass in Georgian bread baking.

This tour is open to all registered delegates; however, please indicate your attendance upon registration for the conference. Places are limited and not guaranteed.

Transport will be provided.

The IBA, its officers and staff accept no responsibility for any views expressed, presentations or materials produced by delegates or speakers at the Conference.

## Continuing Professional Development /Continuing Legal Education

\*The number of CPD/CLE hours available may vary depending on the rules applied by the members' bar association/law society on time recording criteria.

For Conference delegates from jurisdictions where CPD/CLE is mandatory, the IBA will provide a Certificate of Attendance for the Conference. Subject to CPD/CLE requirements, Conference delegates can use this to obtain the relevant number of hours' accreditation. A CPD/CLE Certificate of Attendance is available to Conference delegates on request. Please ask at the IBA conference registration desk for information on how to obtain the certificate.

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