



EKATERINA PONKA

DETAILS

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LANGUAGES

English, fluent
Arabic, beginner
French, basic
Russian, native

PROFILE

Dynamic senior lawyer with 19 years of extensive experience in corporate law, international transactions, and compliance, specialising in the complexities of sanctions law. Proficient in managing intricate corporate structures across multiple jurisdictions, with a strong focus on the MENA region and UAE regulations. Expertise encompasses providing strategic legal advice for high-net-worth individuals and family offices, ensuring risk compliance, and navigating the challenges of a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape. Recognised for a client-centric approach, fostering strong relationships while delivering comprehensive legal solutions that align with business objectives.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Senior Lawyer at Altan Dynamic Project Management Services LLC (UHNW Family Office), Dubai

August 2023 — March 2025

- Legal, commercial and transactional support of the client's structures in UAE, France, UK, US, Bermuda, IoM, Cyprus;
- Establishment and management of foundation in UAE;
- Commercial negotiations;
- Corporate governance;
- Alternative dispute resolution;
- Setting up companies and bank accounts, creating sustainable banking profile;
- Involvement in labour, real estate, administrative, etc. issues;
- Analysis of sanctions and counter sanctions legislation and preparation of legal notes on the above.

Recent projects:

- ✓ Complex turnkey projects intended for uninterrupted management of corporate structures (LLC, foundations, trusts) in various jurisdictions;
- ✓ Preparation of independent opinions with respect to local laws and EU/US/UK sanctions;
- ✓ Development of legal structure to protect family assets in UAE and successful implementation, comprehensive legal and compliance support;
- ✓ Support for the legal structures and individuals for successful KYC/compliance procedures with the banks (source of wealth, source of funds, public profile, databases);
- ✓ Asset management (real estate, yachts, art).

Senior Lawyer at CFC Management LLC (UHNW multifamily office), Moscow

February 2017 — August 2023

- Project management: USD18,8 mln sale of fish factory, including investment quote receipt, construction, business split and 100% share transfer (Russia);
- Project management: USD16,8 mln sale of 33% share in telecom business (Russia);
- Project management: launch of endowment fund (philanthropy), supporting schools in Siberia (general management with council member role, drafting legal documentation, budget planning, and control over funds);
- Ongoing legal support of business (corporate, M&A, commercial, investment, ESG matters):
 - largest vertical integrated fish-farming holding (public company), including USD16,9 mln SPO in 2017;
 - seaweed factory, including quotation, retail, marketing and license matters;
 - several closed-end investment funds, including internal relations settlement;
 - establishment of companies for HNWI in UAE, including foundation documents set, KYC and compliance procedures, bank accounts opening, TS, LoI, SHA, corporate approvals/agreements for business support, local service providers coordination;
- Legal support of existing corporate structure entities, including foundation, liquidation, labour, cash-in injections, corporate approvals and various transaction matters (Russia, UK, UAE, Singapore, Delaware, Cyprus).

General Counsel for Personal Clients,

March 2022 — Present

- Advising personal clients (UAE, Russia, UK, Monaco, Singapore) from retail, FMCG, IT, VC and trade sector on various legal matters (as single lawyer), including corporate resolutions, share register keeping, drafting of TS, Engagement letters, SHA, SAFEs, M&A transactional documentation, labour agreements, cash-in injections documents, and participation in negotiations on behalf of the client.

Chief Specialist, Project Management Group, Corporate Governance Department at Rosneft JSC, Moscow

September 2014 — February 2017

- Participating in structuring and legal support of USD135 mln assets' acquisition by Rosneft, biggest Russian oil company;
- Project management: restructuring of group of companies of former TNK-BP holding, corporate governance policies drafting and implementation;
- General legal support of 49 Rosneft subsidiaries in various jurisdictions (Russia, Cyprus, UK, Switzerland, BVI).

Associate at Noerr OOO, Moscow

July 2012 — September 2014

- Advising IKEA on sale of wood processing plant in Russia; Advising Aeroflot on sale, lease and lease-back of 5 aircraft;
- Advising ROLF group on business restructuring in Russia; Advising Fresenius Medical Care AG (dialysis products leader) on JV set up in Russia;
- Legal support of international companies on various Russian law issues, including M&A, restructuring, corporate and labour matters.

Trainee Associate at Latham & Watkins LLP, Moscow

March 2008 — July 2012

- Drafting parts of offering memoranda relating to IPO of major agricultural holding;
- Commenting and drafting various transactional documentation, including LSAs, SHAs, TS, LO, conducting DD and drafting DD reports for various clients;
- Advising an investment company on an equity-structured acquisition of real estate; Advising Iberdrola (Spanish construction company) on branch opening;
- Advising Cambridge university branch on corporate and labour law issues.

Junior Associate at Hannes Snellman LLC, Moscow

August 2007 — March 2008

- Advising IKEA on construction of a trade and entertainment centre;
- Conducting an FCPA investigation in Russia for Georgia Pacific (USA paper company);
- Legal support of Russian and foreign companies on various Russian corporate law issues, performing DD and drafting DD reports.



EDUCATION

ESG Management, MGIMO University, Moscow,

January 2023

Master's in law (cum laude), Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow,

January 2009

Bachelor's in law (cum laude), Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow,

January 2007