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Sergey Pepeliaev specialises in financial law, including tax law, budget law, exchange regulation and arbitration proceedings. He has vast experience in providing legal support to big projects, drafting legislation and handling tax disputes in arbitration courts, courts of general jurisdiction, the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

Mr Pepeliaev advises the State Duma budget and finance committee, was involved in the discussion and finalisation of the draft Russian Tax Code, and participated in projects improving Russian tax legislation, including TACIS projects. Mr Pepeliaev is on the panel of experts of the Federation Council Upper House of Parliament; member of the Low House of Parliament advisory committee on tax issues, budget and finance, and is on the board of the Bar Association for the Moscow region. He is a member of the Presidium of the Russian Tax Law Association, and a Fellow of the International Fiscal Association (IFA). He is also a Themis Prize winner. Sergey Pepeliaev has written a number of training manuals, books and articles underlying current Russian tax law. He serves as editor-in-chief of *Nalogoved* (Tax Expert), a new professional magazine for tax practitioners.

Sergey Pepeliaev manages tax consulting projects, provision of services involving legal support to investment projects and major transactions, analysis and elimination of tax risks, client representation in courts of arbitration and tax audits aiming to detect and eliminate errors, identify overpaid taxes and have them refunded, and increase tax security.

UKRAINE

**ALEXANDER MININ**

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Alexander Minin, a founding partner of KM Partners, specialises in offering complex advice to major Ukraine-based companies, as well as international clients with a strong Ukrainian presence. In particular, he focuses on tax and complex structuring issues. He often develops approaches that establish new standards and models for the market, and which are both innovative and fitting for the clients' needs.

Mr Minin deals with virtually all areas of tax law, including tax compliance and planning, structuring, tax litigations, etc. Specific types of taxation within his practice include corporate profit taxation, indirection taxation, international tax treaties implementation, personal taxation, tax treatment of investments etc. He is especially strong providing tailored business advice relating to taxation. Since 2005 Mr Minin has been selected as the best tax lawyer by annual poll *Ukrainian Law Firms – A Handbook for Foreign Clients*. Both he and his law firm have been chosen in the top tier of the poll. Also the firm acts as the exclusive Ukrainian correspondent of International Tax Review web-portal for their online tax database, and is a cooperation partner of WTS Alliance – a global network of independent tax firms.

Throughout his professional career Mr Minin has contributed to over 200 publications. He has acted as counsel to many industry bodies and clients, advising on and developing amendments to existing laws, and has shaped his practice with a number of cornerstone court cases. Clients do not view Mr Minin as merely a legal adviser, but rather as a member of their own team and as a trustee, having acted in this capacity in numerous cases.

He is highly thought of not only for his legal knowledge but also for his practical ability to get things done.

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Mr Oleh M Malskyy is a partner, head of M&A, corporate, international trade and antitrust practice of Astapov Lawyers.

Born in 1979 he completed his Masters in law at Georgetown University (USA) as well as studies at the World Trade Institute (Switzerland) and Lviv National University (Ukraine).

Prior to joining the firm, Mr Malskyy held position of a senior associate with Magisters, one of the major Ukrainian law firms; practised with UK-based magic circle law firm Herbert Smith and leading US-based law firm WilmerHale in Brussels. On a public side he also served for the parliament of Ukraine, interned for the parliament of Canada, European Commission in Brussels and UNCTAD in Geneva.

His main areas of practice include international business transactions, corporate and M&A, international trade and WTO law, competition and energy policy issues.

Mr Malskyy has substantial experience in representing leading national market players, foreign and CIS-based blue-chips in various complex transactional matters including acquisitions, financing and joint ventures, in such industries as: natural resources, energy and oil and gas, telecommunications, media, pharmaceutical, and insurance and financial institutions.

He is admitted to the Bars of New York and Ukraine (advocate).

Mr Malskyy was recognised among top five Ukrainian trade lawyers in 2008 by Ukrainian law firms directory of *Yuridicheskaya Praktika*. He also co-authored the handbook *International Trade Law*.

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Polls in Ukraine reflecting the top recommendations of both clients and peers always place Mr Minin among the leading lawyers, with the most enthusiastic praise reserved for his handling of tax matters.

He is highly thought of not only for his legal knowledge but also for his practical ability to get things done.

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