

AL STAM

FORMERLY ALZHAN STAMKULOV — MATTERS AND COURT RECORDS PRIOR TO 2023 APPEAR UNDER THAT NAME

Expert Witness on the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation
Litigation Consultant to United States Counsel

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Law of the Russian Federation
- Determination of foreign law under FRCP 44.1 and state analogues
- Kazakh and Russian civil, corporate and commercial law
- Kazakh and Russian tax law; international taxation and transfer pricing
- Banking, finance and securities regulation of Kazakhstan
- Recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards in the Russian Federation
- The Russian arbitrazh (state commercial) court system and its distinction from arbitration
- Kazakh and Russian civil procedure and state court practice
- Use of criminal process against commercial opponents; politically motivated prosecution
- Kazakh and Russian succession, marital property and civil registry records
- Notarial acts, powers of attorney, apostille and legalization chains
- Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) structures
- Offshore holding structures for CIS beneficial owners
- Beneficial ownership tracing and cross-border asset recovery
- OFAC sanctions exposure on CIS counterparties
- Authentication and interpretation of Russian-language legal records

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles — School of Law

May 2022

Master of Laws (LL.M.), Business Law

Mergers & Acquisitions; Securities Regulation; Business Associations; Executive Compensation; Contract Law; Healthcare Compliance; Legal Research. Award: Best Negotiation Team, UCLA transactional competition.

University of East Anglia — UEA Law School, Norwich, United Kingdom

February 2005

Master of Laws (LL.M.), International Commercial Law

International Taxation; Transfer Pricing; International Banking Law; Securities Regulation.

University of North London (now London Metropolitan University), London, United Kingdom

Oct 2001 – Jan 2002

Postgraduate study, School of Law, Governance and Information Management

Attended as a visiting postgraduate researcher within the European Commission Tempus TACIS Joint European Project "Creation of the Centre for Pedagogical Jurisprudence" (Contract T_JEP-10825-1999, DG XXII Education, Training and Youth). Study areas: European Union Public Law and International Relations; Parameters of European Union Law; International Relations and Legal Regulation of Conflict; International Legal Institutions; Legal Research Methodology. Project coordinated by Professor Bill Bowring, Professor of Law and Human Rights. Statement of Attendance issued; no degree conferred.

KAZGUU University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

2001 – 2004 (approx.)

Doctoral (candidate of sciences) programme in law — research in international environmental law

Programme not completed; no degree awarded and none claimed. Enrolled 2001 — postgraduate status confirmed in writing by the University of North London on 12 October 2001; withdrew over the winter of 2003–2004, the precise date of the withdrawal record not being presently to hand. Listed for completeness of the professional record.

Kazakh State Law Academy, Almaty, Kazakhstan

July 2000

Diploma with Honors — Qualified Lawyer (equivalent to Bachelor of Laws)

Four years full time, 1996–2000; 6,485 contact hours. Diploma series ЖБ No. 0010977, 10 July 2000, registration No. 184. State examinations in History of Kazakhstan, Theory of State and Law, International Law, Civil Law and Civil Procedure Law. Thesis: International Environmental Law (excellent). The awarding institution was subsequently re-registered as M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University on 4 May 2018; the diploma issues in the former name.

Formal training in the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Examined coursework on the Kazakh law degree included Constitutional Law; Civil Law (324 hrs); Criminal Law (216 hrs); Civil Procedure Law and Criminal Procedure Law (162 hrs each); Administrative Law; Tax Law; Finance Law; Customs Law; Environmental Law; Land Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Employment Law; Legal Regulation of Foreign Economic Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan; International Law and International Civil Law (162 hrs each); International Commercial Arbitration; International Trade Law; International Banking Law; International Tax Law; Theory and Practice of International Treaties; Comparative Constitutional Law; Modern Legal Systems; Trial Advocacy. Certified transcript available on request.

LICENSES, CREDENTIALS AND LANGUAGES**California Licensed Professional Fiduciary, No. 1601**

2026 – present

California Professional Fiduciaries Bureau — active

Legal qualification, Republic of Kazakhstan

2000 – 2019

Kazakh law degree with honors (Qualified Lawyer); twenty years of legal practice in Kazakhstan and the CIS

California State Bar Examination

Pending

Sat July 2026; results pending. Not admitted to practice law in any United States jurisdiction.

Languages

Russian — native. English — fluent, professional working proficiency in legal practice since 2004.

Kazakh and Russian legal materials are reviewed in the source language. Kazakh statutory and case material is worked from the official Russian-language texts in general use in Kazakh practice.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**Al Stam — Foreign Law & Litigation Consulting** *San Diego, California*

Jul 2026 – present

Foreign Law Expert Witness and Litigation Consultant

Expert declarations, reports and testimony on questions of Kazakh and Russian law for United States federal and state proceedings. Litigation consulting to counsel of record on CIS corporate, financial and cross-border matters, including Russian-language document review, beneficial ownership tracing, sanctions exposure analysis and asset-recovery mapping.

Stam Fiduciary *San Diego, California*

Feb 2026 – present

Founder; Professional Fiduciary, License No. 1601

Trust administration, probate estate settlement, conservatorship and agency under durable power of attorney, with emphasis on estates holding foreign-situs assets.

Adams & Martin Group *San Diego, California*

Aug – Dec 2022

Contract Specialist

Lease contract review and amendment analysis for telecommunications clients; verification of rent calculations and contract-compliance database remediation.

Scripps Research *La Jolla, California*

Oct 2021 – May 2022

Legal Intern, Legal Department

Legal research and memoranda on patent, copyright and trademark questions.

Synergy Partners Law Firm LLC *Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Aug 2011 – Sep 2019

Attorney / Partner

- *Mergers & acquisitions.* Domestic and cross-border transactions: tax and transaction structuring, negotiation, legal due diligence, governmental and antimonopoly approvals, and post-closing arrangements.
- *Taxation.* Tax optimization and risk mitigation with emphasis on capital gains, corporate income tax, transfer pricing and international taxation of acquisitions.
- *Litigation.* Represented corporate clients in Kazakh state courts in tax, environmental, trademark, employment and consumer protection disputes.
- *Contracts.* Drafting, negotiation and amendment of principal agreements across mining, transportation, telecommunications, healthcare, construction, distribution, e-commerce, solar and logistics.
- *Finance and opinions.* International loan transactions; preparation of *Kazakh law legal opinions*, memoranda and client notes.

GRATA Law Firm International *Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Nov 2009 – Dec 2010

Senior Associate

Mergers and acquisitions for mining and oil & gas clients: pre-sale work, deal negotiation, legal due diligence, international tax planning, transaction approvals, closing and post-closing arrangements. KYC on corporate clients; assisted domestic clients with international external auditors, law firms, banks and registered agents on KYC and compliance matters. Prepared client notes, memoranda, client alerts, legal news updates and presentations; supervised quality of work.

VISOR Holding LLC *Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Dec 2007 – Nov 2009

Senior Counsel

In-house counsel to a Kazakh investment holding company. International M&A: non-disclosure agreements, definitive sale and purchase agreements, loan and loan assignment agreements, master and call option agreements. In-house legal due diligence on targets; corporate resolutions and minutes, including for *offshore holding companies*; KYC documentation for external auditors, law firms, banks and registered agents; data room and pre-sale asset transfer work.

KPMG Kazakhstan LLC *Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Nov 2006 – Nov 2007

Senior Legal Counsel

Review and approval of audit, advisory and tax engagement contracts; compliance supervision and monitoring; supervision of legal risk across all Kazakhstan country engagements, reporting to the Country Risk Manager; legal advice to audit and tax teams.

Michael Wilson & Partners, Ltd. *Almaty, Kazakhstan*

Sep 2005 – Nov 2006

Associate

Advised on mergers and acquisitions, international finance and taxation; legal due diligence on M&A transactions. Prepared the *Kazakh law legal opinion* for an US\$800 million bridge loan facility. *Conducted a group of approximately thirty related matters before the Supreme Arbitrazh Court of the Russian Federation in Moscow* — the Russian state commercial court of last instance for disputes between legal entities, distinct from the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, and since merged into it in 2014.

Counsel, Legal Department

Cross-border finance documentation for one of Kazakhstan's largest commercial banks. Negotiated terms of international syndicated loans under English law on LMA documentation; reviewed and advised on ISDA agreements, international bank guarantees, cross-border loan agreements, confidentiality agreements, finance proposals and financing RFPs. Trade finance, SWIFT international transfer systems, foreign currency and Kazakh customs regulation.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- **Supreme Arbitrazh Court of the Russian Federation — enforcement of a disputed commercial arbitral award.** Won the lead case in 2006 in *Arduina v. South-Verkhoyansk Mining Company*, concerning execution of a Russian commercial arbitral award that had been disputed. The remaining twenty-nine related matters in the group followed the determination in that case. Aggregate value of the group approximately US\$5 million.
- **Russian arbitrazh (state commercial) court system.** Practice before the Supreme Arbitrazh Court of the Russian Federation, the court of last instance for disputes between legal entities and entrepreneurs. Notwithstanding the name, the arbitrazh courts are state commercial courts and not arbitral tribunals — a distinction that recurs in United States proceedings involving Russian judgments and awards. The Supreme Arbitrazh Court was abolished and its jurisdiction transferred to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation by constitutional amendment effective August 2014.
- **Kazakh law legal opinion, US\$800 million bridge loan facility.** Prepared the opinion of Kazakh law delivered as a condition of a cross-border syndicated bridge financing.
- **International syndicated loans, US\$610 million and US\$400 million.** Negotiated LMA-based English law syndicated facilities *without external counsel*. Improved lender protections including conversion of lump-sum thresholds to percentile thresholds on cross-default and legal proceedings covenants, and negotiated no-issue-of-shares provisions relating to the bank's IPO.
- **US\$250 million AAA future-flow securitization (New York law).** Participated in the structuring of a monoline-insured future-flow securitization.
- **US\$100 million bank guarantee, KazakhTelecom.** Advised on the guarantee facility. Reviewed and supervised more than one hundred financing agreements with foreign financial institutions.
- **TeliaSonera acquisition of 50% of SEA Telecom, US\$500 million.** In-house counsel on the transaction.
- **Cement holding restructuring for London Stock Exchange IPO.** Completed the corporate restructuring for a planned May 2008 listing; the offering was withdrawn owing to the 2008 financial crisis.
- **Kazakh M&A practice.** Closed more than twenty mergers and acquisitions with aggregate value exceeding US\$1 billion; acquired and served more than fifty corporate clients. Won significant tax and environmental disputes in the Kazakh state courts.

PRIOR EXPERT TESTIMONY

No prior testimony as an expert witness as of the date of this curriculum vitae. I have not previously been designated, deposed, or given trial or hearing testimony as an expert in any United States or foreign proceeding, and I have not previously submitted an expert declaration or report in any proceeding.

My courtroom experience is as counsel rather than as an expert: a group of approximately thirty related matters before the Supreme Arbitrazh Court of the Russian Federation, and representation of corporate clients in the state courts of the Republic of Kazakhstan in tax, environmental, trademark, employment and consumer protection disputes.

References from United States and CIS counsel are available on request. Available for first-chair expert designation.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Client alerts, legal news updates, client notes and memoranda prepared for circulation to corporate clients during practice at GRATA Law Firm International and Synergy Partners Law Firm LLC. No academic or peer-reviewed publications to date.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Professional Fiduciary Association of California. Additional bar section and association memberships in progress; a current list is available on request.

ENGAGEMENT AND FEES

Engagements are undertaken by written engagement letter with counsel or with the party. Conflicts are cleared before any case material is reviewed. Hourly rates apply to consulting, research and report preparation, with a separate rate for deposition and trial testimony subject to a half-day minimum; flat fees are available for defined-scope written opinions and immigration declarations. A written declaration ordinarily requires ten business days from receipt of materials, with expedited work available at a surcharge.

Fee schedule furnished on request or with the engagement proposal following conflict clearance.

This curriculum vitae is furnished for the purpose of evaluating a prospective engagement as an expert witness or litigation consultant. Al Stam is not admitted to practice law in California or in any other United States jurisdiction, does not render United States legal advice, and does not hold himself out as an attorney in the United States. Litigation consulting engagements are performed for and under the supervision of counsel of record.