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Mid-Size Law Firms are Better Adaptable to Rapid Changes

This is a full version of the Article, which was published in a short version in Ukrainian language in the year-end issue of one of the leading legal newspapers of Ukraine – "Yurydychna Gazeta" on 20 December 2011.

RULG – Ukrainian Legal Group is a full-service law firm specializing in rendering comprehensive legal support to international corporate clients doing business in Ukraine and other CIS countries. We also frequently serve as local counsel to international law firms.

In general, we may say that current tendencies in legal market amid the economic crisis stimulate law firms to constant development, strengthening of relations with clients, serious work on internal reforms and improvement of the efficiency of work along with strict control over costs, as well as more careful hiring policies, giving preference to universal lawyers as opposed to lawyers with narrow specialization because rendering of effective and timely legal services can be only based on high professional skills and broad experience. As we see it, mid-size firms (15-25 experienced lawyers) are the most adaptable to rapid changes, in particular those related to crisis in current Ukrainian economy. We also prefer to hire lawyers with at least 7-year professional experience, and we note that despite the seeming availability of legal professionals on the labor market, it is still difficult to find a senior counsel with extensive universal experience.

Our team began its legal practice in the Ukrainian market almost 20 years ago. During this period we have gone through various economic and political circumstances with our clients, entered the global market, promptly responded to new tendencies in the legal practice, developed our practice areas, made constant investments into our major intellectual asset –

highly skilled lawyers - and we may proudly say that we have been a reliable and competent partner to our clients throughout the entire period of our existence.

Despite the ongoing economic crisis, summarizing the results of 2011 we are pleased that in many ways it was successful for our company.

During the last year we have been strengthening our practice in various areas of law such as investments, mergers and acquisitions, pharmaceutical sector and healthcare, agriculture, real estate, construction, land, labor, intellectual property protection, antimonopoly and anti-corruption law, personal data protection and many others. We continually develop one of our key practices in the energy sector (focusing on oil and gas and production sharing agreements).

RULG – Ukrainian Legal Group continues to be a co-chair of the CIS Leading Counsel Network (LCN), a professional regional network of nine leading law firms from CIS countries which offer their clients complex legal services and advice in various areas of law. Thus, this year LCN has received many awards and, in particular, has been shortlisted for British Legal Awards 2011 in the category "Best European Team of the Year". This nomination shows the prominent professional level of LCN, excellent team work, high common standards and approach, to the best satisfaction of our clients.

With LCN we took part in a number of joint cross-border projects and represented Ukraine at workshops that were held by LCN jointly with leading local host law firms in Milan, Paris, Kiev, Düsseldorf, Moscow as well as at the ABA International meetings. We also prepared sections on Ukraine and wrote a foreword to LCN's three joint publications: Comparative Summary of Anti-Corruption Laws in the CIS Economic Region, CIS Antitrust Guide and CIS Tax Compass.

This year our attorneys participated more actively in various professional events, spoke at international conferences and seminars. Also, RULG – Ukrainian Legal Group itself organized several important professional events including open workshops on anti-corruption laws in Kiev and Moscow and numerous special trainings for our clients in various areas of law.

And finally, we should particularly mention the CIS Local Counsel Forum – an annual meeting of managing partners of law firms from all countries of the CIS region and partners of international law firms from all over the world, which has been the main platform for wide-scale professional gathering in the CIS economic region, exchange of ideas, experience and contacts for almost seven years. Thus, in 2011, the sixth Forum was successfully held in Almaty where for the first time in six years of Forum's history we crossed the Caspian Sea and focused on the exciting professional and business opportunities in the Asian part of the CIS economic region. We are very pleased that the Forum is always attended by leading Ukrainian law firms and take this opportunity we invite managing partners of Ukrainian law firms that have international ambitions (from all regions of our country!) to take part in the 7th CIS Local Counsel Forum which will be held on 6-8 June in Yerevan. Detailed information may be found at <http://www.rulg.com/cisforum/>

RULG – Ukrainian Legal Group wishes everyone prosperity and well-being in 2012!