

QUESTIONNAIRE/APPLICATION

For the CIS Local Counsel Law Firms
in preparation for the First CIS Local Counsel Forum to be held in Kiev on June 29 & 30, 2006

28 April 2006

Section 1: Law Firm

1. Name and country of the law firm: Law Firm Aequitas
2. Contact Information:
 - Primary Firm Location: Kazakhstan
 - Office address: 47/49 Abai Avenue, Office 2,
050000, Almaty

 - Telephone: +7(3272) 58 16 91; 58 16 92; 58 16 86

 - Fax: +7(3272) 50 38 73
 - e-mail: aequitas@aequitas.kz
 - website: www.aequitas.kz

 - Other Offices: Astana Branch
 - Office address: 2 Zheltoksan Street, Office 19,
010000, Astana,
Kazakhstan

 - Telephone: + 7(3172) 32 37 78
 - Fax: + 7(3172) 32 37 78
 - e-mail: aequitas_astana@nursat.kz

 - Primary Contacts:
 - Name: Ms. Asel T. Suleimenova
 - e-mail: aequitas_astana@nursat.kz

 - Atyrau Branch
 - 27 Momysh-Uly Street, Office 8,
060000, Atyrau,
Kazakhstan

 - Telephone: + 7(3122) 58 61 10
 - Fax: + 7(3122) 58 61 10
 - e-mail: aequitas_atyray@nursat.kz

 - Primary Contacts:
 - Name: Ms. Zukhra G. Kaiyrmukhanova
 - e-mail: aequitas_astana@nursat.kz
3. Year of establishment: 1993

Section II: Lawyers and Support Staff

4. Number of Partners: 5
5. Number of Associates : 9
6. Number of Paralegals : 3
7. Please indicate number of lawyers with the advanced degrees: LL.Ms: 4
Candidate of Legal Sciences: 1

Languages spoken at the Firm: Kazakh, Russian, English

8. How many lawyers speak
English: all German: 0 Russian: all French: 1 Spanish: 0
9. Interpreters on the staff: 3 (English)
(please indicate the languages)

Section III: Client Details

14. Classify your clients (in percentage):
Corporate Clients 70 % International Law Firms 30%
Non-Corporate clients - %
15. Please indicate up to five major corporate clients (if your firm's policy is not to disclose client names, please provide brief description on a no-name basis):
 - 1) ExxonMobil Corporation;
 - 2) General Electric International, Inc.;
 - 3) AIG Kazakhstan;
 - 4) LLP «Corporation Kazakhmys»;
 - 5) Citibank Group;
 - 6) Volvo Group;
 - 7) LLP «Tengizchevroil».
16. Please indicate up to five international law firms you serve as a local counsel to (if your firm's policy is not to disclose client names, please provide brief description on a no-name basis):

Norton Rose;
Debevoise & Plimpton;
Linklaters;
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld;
Allen & Overy;
LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae;
Freshfields.
17. What percentage of your work is dedicated to international corporate clients:
 0% (the law firm has no international clients)

- to 70% (two-thirds of clients are international)
- up 30 % (each third client is international)
- up to 100% (almost all clients are international)
- up to 50% (half of clients are international)

18. What percentage of your work is dedicated to serving as local counsel to international law firms:

- 0% (none)
- up 30 % (each third client is an international law firm)
- up to 70% (two-thirds of clients are international law firms)
- up to 100% (almost all clients are international law firms)
- up to 50% (half of clients are international law firms)

19. Method of payment (choose all options that apply):

- per hourly rates
- contingency (percentage of the value of the contract/claim)
- fixed (fixed budget)
- other

20. Illustrative projects in 2005:

- 1) Advice as to the matters of Kazakhstan laws to Kazakhmys, the largest producer of copper in Kazakhstan and in the world, in connection with its IPO on LSE;
- 2) Advice to Victoria Oil&Gas in connection with acquisition of subsoil utilization right for the oil field in Kazakhstan;
- 3) Advice to AIG Kazakhstan Insurance Company in relation to increase of its equity capital;
- 4) Advice to ALB Finance B.V. and JSC Allinace Bank in connection with the ALB Finance B.V. USD 200 million bonds issuance guaranteed by JSC Alliance Bank;
- 5) Advice to Credit Suisse First Boston (Europe) Limited, ABN Amro N.V., BNP Paribas, Deutsche Bank AG, London Branch, Dresdner Bank, AG, HSBC Bank plc, ING Bank N.V., Merrill Lynch International и Nomura International plc in connection with establishment by JSC Bank TuranAlem and TuranAlem Finance B.V. of the USD 3 billion Medium Term Notes Programme and issuance by the TuranAlem Finance B.V. of the debut tranche of USD 200 million Notes under the Programme.



Section IV: Law Firm Profile

21. Law Firm Profile (500 words):

Aequitas Law Firm was founded in January 1993, a year after proclamation of Kazakhstan independence. During that time the country was in a very difficult economic situation and there was a very few law firms in the market. Under such circumstances, the establishment of a law firm was rather risky, however, owing to academic knowledge and practice of work in the state agencies, foreign trade companies, and scientific institutions, the lawyers of the firm were able to offer to the clients an adequate resolution of their problems and gained a very worthwhile experience of providing legal services during the period of Kazakhstan's transition to the market economy.

Due to a terrific self-devotion and strict compliance with the principle of high professional level of services, the firm gained a leading position among the law firms in Kazakhstan.

Recently, the worldwide law directories *European Counsel 3000* and *Global Counsel 3000* named Aequitas as one of the most recommended law firms of Kazakhstan, and in 2003-2005 the *Chambers Global – The World’s Leading Lawyers* edition recognized Aequitas as a leader in the corporate and commercial law sector and in the energy and natural resources section. The prestige of the firm is also confirmed by close professional contacts with the major international law firms, including Norton Rose; Debevoise & Plimpton; Freshfields; Linklaters; Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; Vinson & Elkins; Allen & Overy; LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae; Baker Botts.

The potential of the firm allows providing our clients with a full range of legal services: we can render assistance in almost every matter which may arise with our clients in Kazakhstan, whether a legal support of complex projects, advising, establishment of new ventures, licenses pursuing, or representation in the court of any level.

22. Describe your cooperation or affiliation with law firms in other countries (International Law Firms), indicating the level, including exclusive or non-exclusive:

non-exclusive

Please provide references (name of the firm, contact person and his/her contact information) of one or more International Law Firms, which we may contact for a recommendation of your firm.

1) “Norton Rose” – Mr. Simon Cox, Partner, simon.ft.cox@nortonrose.com;

tel. + 44 (20 7) 444 35 48;

2) “LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae” – Mr. Jonathan Hines, Partner, jhhines@llgm.com;

tel. +7 (495) 737 50 00

3) “Debevoise & Plimpton” –Mr, Dmitriy Nikiforov: dvnikiforov@DEBEVOISE.COM

tel. +7 (495) 926 55 55

23. Details of membership in local and international law firm networks, databases, alliances, or associations:

1) EUROBAK [European Business Association of Kazakhstan] –corporate membership;

2) International Bar Association (Ms. O.Chentsova, Ms.T.Suleyeva);

3) KPLA [Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers Association] (Ms.O.Chentsova, Ms. N.Braynina, Ms.Yu.Chumachenko);

4) AIPN [Association of International Petroleum Negotiators] (Ms.O.Chentsova).

24. Practice Areas:

Please mark the practice areas of your firm from the list below. Also please indicate other practice areas and areas of special expertise of your firm that are not included in the list.

Administrative Law

✓Admiralty and Maritime Law

✓Advertising and Marketing

✓Agency and Distribution

- √Agricultural Law
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution:
- √Arbitration, Mediation
- √Antitrust and Competition
 - Aviation and Aerospace
- √Bankruptcy
- √Banks, Banking and Financial Services
- √Business Law
- √Commercial Litigation
- √Commercial Real Estate, Zoning, Planning and Land Use
- √Communications and Media
 - Construction Law and Litigation
- √Consumer Law
 - Contract Law
- √Corporate Finance
- √Corporate Law
 - Criminal Law
- √Energy
 - Entertainment and the Arts
- √Environmental Law
- √Finance
- √Foreign Investment
- √Franchise and Franchising
- √Government Procurement and Contracts
 - Immigration and Naturalization
 - Information Technology
- √Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)
- √Insurance Law
- √Intellectual Property:
 - Copyright
 - Trademarks
 - Patents
 - Other
- International Public Law
- √International Litigation and Arbitration
- √International Trade
- √Labour/Employment
- √Media Law
- √Mergers & Acquisitions
- √Mortgages Property Funding and Security
- √Natural Resources
- √Oil and Gas

✓Privatization Law

Product Liability

Regulatory Law

✓Securities and Stock Exchange

Taxation

Technology and Science

✓Torts

Transportation

Other practice areas:

Areas of Special Expertise:

Subsoil Use; Energy Sector; Corporate Law and Securities; Banking; Finance; Capital Markets; Telecommunications; Construction; Litigation; International Arbitration; Grain Industry; Consumer and Industrial Goods; Trade.

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