

QUESTIONNAIRE/APPLICATION

**For the CIS Local Counsel Law Firms
in preparation for the 6th CIS Local Counsel Forum in Almaty on 22-24 June 2011**

4 April 2011

Section 1: Law Firm

1. Name and country of the law firm: **Asters, Ukraine**
2. Contact Information:
Primary Firm Location:
Office address: **Leonardo Business Center, 19-21 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.,
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Marketing Contact:
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Email: olga.pikulska@asterslaw.com

5. Year of establishment:

The firm was established as Shevchenko Didkovskiy & Partners in 1995. Asters is the new name of the firm of 21 February 2008.

Section II: Lawyers and Support Staff

6. Number of Partners: **8**
7. Number of Associates : **41**
8. Number of Paralegals : **6**
9. Please indicate number of lawyers with the advanced degrees: LLMs: **WND**
Candidate of Legal Sciences: **WND**
10. Languages spoken at the Firm: **Ukrainian, Russian, English, French, German, Spanish**
11. How many lawyers speak
English: **40** German: **4** Russian: **37** French: **5** Spanish: **2**
12. Interpreters on the staff: English
(please indicate the languages)

Section III: Client Details

13. Classify your clients (in percentage):
Corporate Clients **50 %** International Law Firms **30 %**
Non-Corporate clients **20 %**
14. Please indicate up to five major corporate clients:

Major international corporations in many industries: The Coca-Cola Company, Chevron Corporation, News Corporation, The Boeing Company, Nissan Motor, Renault Ukraine, VELUX, Damen Shipyards Group, Telenor ASA, Sopharma AD.

The world's leading financial institutions: IFC, EBRD, Barclays Capital, ABN Amro, Morgan Stanley, Citibank, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, ING Bank N.V., SEB Group, Merrill Lynch, Swedbank, JP Morgan.

15. Please indicate up to five international law firms you serve as a local counsel to:
Allen & Overy, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Dewey & LeBouef, White & Case, Jones Day, Skadden Arps
16. What percentage of your work is dedicated to international corporate clients:
- 0% (the law firm has no international clients)
- up 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)

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

- 0% (none)
 up to 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)

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

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

19. Illustrative projects in 2010-2011:

- Advised **European Refreshments (member of Coca-Cola Group)** on acquisition of assets of soft drinks plant, including due diligence of the seller's company, drafting and negotiation of transactional documentation (including assets purchase agreements, transitional documents, etc.), participation in negotiations on contractual terms, obtaining of merger clearance, closing of the transaction.
- Advised **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)** in connection with USD 50 million loan to support Obolon in restructuring its balance sheet and funding energy efficiency investments in its production facilities.
- Advised **Swedbank AB** in connection with merger of its Ukrainian subsidiaries JSC Swedbank (public) and JSC Swedbank Invest (private).
- Advised leading **Russian aluminium producer** in connection with restructuring of its multibillion debt to international lenders in particular in connection with its Ukrainian subsidiaries.
- Advised **Telenor**, a major shareholder of a leading Ukrainian mobile operator Kyivstar G.S.M. on corporate governance issues and litigation instigated by Alfa Group and its affiliates in Ukraine; on Ukrainian law aspects of multi-billion transaction on creation of a largest emerging market mobile operator; on corporate, tax and regulatory issues in connection with multimillion dividend payout from Kyivstar G.S.M; on a large variety of telecom regulatory issues, including 3G licensing issues.
- Advised **Renaissance Insurance Group**, a leading Russian insurance provider, on various issues of Ukrainian insurance and corporate law, including legal advice and legal assistance in connection with incorporation of a life insurance company in Ukraine, as well as obtaining the status of a financial institution and a life insurance license for the company.
- Advised **Damen Shipyards Group**, a major Dutch shipbuilding company, on various corporate and commercial, contracts, corporate finance and restructuring, taxation, insurance and environmental issues in connection with activities of Damen Shipyards Okean, a major Ukrainian shipbuilding plant.
- Advised **eBay, Inc.** in connection with obtaining merger clearance from the Ukrainian competition authority for indirect acquisition by **eBay Inc. (USA)** of 35% shares in **Springboard Group S.à r.l.** (Luxembourg); and indirect acquisition by **Springboard**

Group S.à r.l. of 100% in **Skype Inc.** (USA), **Skype Luxembourg Holdings S.à r.l.** (Luxembourg), **Sonorit Holding, AS** (Norway), and **Camino Networks, Inc.** (USA).

- Advised **Amcor Limited** in connection with obtaining merger clearance from the Ukrainian competition authority for acquisition by **Amcor Limited** (Australia) of control over certain business-units of Alcan Packaging, a division of **Rio Tinto Alcan Inc.** (Canada): Global Tobacco, Global Pharmaceutical, Food Europe and Food Asia operations.
- Advised **Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation** in connection with obtaining merger clearance from the Ukrainian competition authority for acquisition by **Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings Corporation** (Japan) of sole control over **Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd.** (Japan).

Section IV: Law Firm Profile

20. Law Firm Profile (500 words):

Asters, a Kyiv-based Ukrainian law firm founded in 1995 as Shevchenko Didkovskiy and Partners, is now one of the leading law firms in Ukraine. For more than a decade the firm remains among the most recommended law firms for Ukraine according to the most authoritative international publications *The Legal 500*, *PLC Which Lawyer?*, *Chambers Global and Chambers Europe*, *IFLR 1000*, and *Who's Who Legal*. Asters' partners are noted as outstanding by world's best peer review-based surveys *The Best Lawyers* and *Expert Guides*. For the last eight years the Firm has been consistently named among the top five law firms in Ukraine in the annual ranking *Top 50 Ukrainian Law Firms*, by *Yuridicheskaya Praktika Publishing*, Ukraine's premier legal weekly. The firm is the first and only Ukrainian recipient of the prestigious *Client Choice Award* in 2007 and 2010 from the *International Law Office* which is based on the anonymous surveys of clients.

The firm has established a Western-style legal practice that consistently meets the highest international standards of our clients. A number of the firm's lawyers received LL.M degrees at prominent US and European universities, and have gained substantial international experience working at the leading international law firms in the US, UK and Ukraine.

Asters' attorneys provide representation and legal advice in a broad range of areas, including M&A, foreign investments, corporate and commercial, international trade, antitrust and unfair competition, banking and finance, capital markets, securities, intellectual property, contracts, labour, taxation, customs, telecommunications, real estate, oil & gas, environment, privatization and restructuring, advertising, litigation etc.

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

We regularly serve as local counsel to the leading multinational law firms including Allen & Overy; Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton; Dewey & LeBoeuf; Eversheds; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Hogan & Hartson; Jones Day; Lovells; Linklaters; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; White & Case. The firm successfully cooperates with the leading independent law firms throughout the CIS and CEE on a wide range of matters involving advice under Ukrainian law.

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.

WND

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

Asters is an exclusive member for Ukraine of the World Services Group (WSG) (www.worldservicesgroup.com), the largest multidisciplinary network. There are more than 130 member firms representing worldwide clients. Members operate in more than 115 countries and throughout the United States.

WSG members are selected based on strict objective standards including being among the leading local, national or international business in their service area, having the highest professional reputation within the professional community and having unparalleled depth of practical experience in their region.

Asters also recently became the only Ukrainian member of Biolegis - International Network of the leading independent European law firms with extensive expertise in life sciences, including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and related fields of law.

23. Practice Areas:

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

Shipbuilding
Corporate restructuring

Privatization Law
Product Liability
Regulatory Law
Securities and Stock Exchange
Taxation
Technology and Science
Torts
Transportation
Other practice areas:

Areas of Special Expertise: