

ÆQUITAS



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## about us

**AEQUITAS** Law Firm was organized in 1993 and is one of Kazakhstan's leading law firms whose reputation is widely appreciated in the global market of legal advisory services. For many years **AEQUITAS** has been one of Kazakhstan's law firms most recommended by the leading international legal guides and publications, including Chambers & Partners, Who's Who Legal, Legal 500, Asialaw Profiles, Best Lawyers and IFLR1000.

**AEQUITAS** provides a full spectrum of business legal support services and enjoys a high professional reputation amongst its clients and colleagues. The firm's clients are major international and local companies and corporations.

**AEQUITAS** lawyers have been actively participating in the development and improvement of the most important legislative acts governing market relations and business activities in Kazakhstan, which allows the firm not only to keep abreast of potential amendments in legislation, but also to influence, to a certain extent, the making of the rules of the game.



## our values

Our values are the key principles of our practice and team relationships are built upon. We take pride in unswervingly discharging our responsibilities when helping our clients and business partners achieve their goals. We take pride in being trusted. We are appreciated for high quality services, honesty, transparency and efficiency. We aspire for leadership, upholding traditions and finding new solutions, and seek to meet and exceed the expectations.

We value our people and care about them. We trust each other. We believe in each one's personal contribution to the general cause.

Our firm is blessed with an atmosphere of mutual respect, team spirit and everybody's high involvement, which are the fundamentals of our continuing success.

# practice areas

## BUSINESS LAW

A large portion of AEQUITAS's day-to-day practice comprises services relating to the legal support of its clients' business. The firm's lawyers are assisting clients on most diverse matters — from drafting of contracts to due diligence of companies.

## CORPORATE LAW

AEQUITAS corporate law practice started together with the adoption of the new Kazakhstan's legislative acts on legal entities, as well as with the establishment of Kazakhstan's first joint ventures with foreign capital participation in 1993.

## FINANCE & CAPITAL MARKETS

AEQUITAS's long-standing clients are the world's leading investment and commercial banks, state-owned organizations, international payment systems, institutional investors and other players in the capital markets.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

AEQUITAS environmental practice is one of Kazakhstan's strongest. The key clients using AEQUITAS environmental legal services are the leading local and international companies active in the construction, industrial production and subsoil use sectors in Kazakhstan.

## SUBSOIL

AEQUITAS is particularly proud of its subsoil use practice. AEQUITAS's experience in the natural resources area is domestically unique, as the firm partook in the national-significance projects and projects completely new to Kazakhstan.

## LABOR LAW

AEQUITAS labor law practice is the best in Kazakhstan. The firm's lawyers are advising on most intricate issues unregulated by local legislation. AEQUITAS possesses extensive experience of defending both employers and employees, in and out of court.

## M&A

AEQUITAS M&A practice was launched together with the privatization of the key entities of Kazakhstan's economy in the early 90s. The firm's legal support accompanied the largest subsoil deals in Kazakhstan.

## CONSTRUCTION & REAL ESTATE

Construction & Real Estate is one of AEQUITAS's oldest and most active areas of practice, accumulating the firm's impressive experience. AEQUITAS has contributed its legal support to projects involving construction of major industrial and social facilities and large residential compounds in Kazakhstan.

## HEALTHCARE, MEDICINE & PHARMACEUTICALS

Legal services in the field of healthcare are AEQUITAS's actively developing area of practice. The firm's lawyers are rendering all-round support to large pharmaceutical companies coming to the Kazakhstan market in their business establishment and development.

## INDUSTRY AND TRADE

AEQUITAS has amassed noteworthy expertise advising clients active in the production, distribution, marketing and sale of consumer and industrial goods, including contract drafting and negotiation, client representation before governmental agencies and dispute settlement.

# practice areas

## TRANSPORT & MERCHANT SHIPPING

The firm regularly advises clients on a variety of issues pertaining to legal regulation of transportation activities in Kazakhstan. AEQUITAS is one of a few local law firms possessing experience in the merchant shipping area.

## AGRICULTURE

In the past several years, AEQUITAS lawyers have been advising the leading banks and financial companies, such as BNP Paribas, Société Générale, HSBC France, as well as major local agricultural producers, on various issues of trade finance secured by grain and cotton collaterals in Kazakhstan.

## ARBITRATION, LITIGATION & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

AEQUITAS has successful dispute resolution practice, representing clients in the Kazakh courts of all levels, including in cases involving financial instruments, debt restructuring, construction contracts, employment, transportation and insurance.

## IT & COMMUNICATIONS

AEQUITAS clients in different IT and communications projects have been the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and major international cellular, landline and postal operators.

## LAW-MAKING

AEQUITAS partners and associates are being engaged, on a regular basis, to participate in the law-making activities to develop new acts and improve the current legislation. The Civil Code, Foreign Investment Law, Privatization Law and Petroleum Law and other Kazakh legislative acts have been developed with AEQUITAS participation.



# aequitas — a leader on the kazakhstan's legal services market

**AEQUITAS**, a Kazakh national law firm, was founded in 1993. One of the persons to found AEQUITAS was Professor Yuri G. Bassin, Doctor of Law, a forefather of civil law science in Kazakhstan.

In the early 90s, AEQUITAS was one of the first counsel to provide legal support both to foreign investors coming to Kazakhstan's market and to the starting domestic businesses. First joint ventures with foreign participation in Kazakhstan were organized with **AEQUITAS** legal support.

**AEQUITAS** is one of Kazakhstan's leading law firms acknowledged in the global legal services market. For many years, authoritative legal guides, including Chambers & Partners, Who's Who Legal, Legal 500, Asialaw Profiles, Best Lawyers and IFLR1000, are rating **AEQUITAS** and its partners

and associates as the country's most recommended in the Energy & Natural Resources, Corporate & Finance, M&A, Dispute Resolution and other areas. Many publications specifically acclaim the firm's Labor, Environmental and Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals practice.

**AEQUITAS**'s clients are companies active in the leading sectors of economy from more than 50 countries, including major international corporations, companies representing world famous brands, banks and financial institutions, most of them working with **AEQUITAS** for years. According to the rating agencies and the firm's clients and business partners, **AEQUITAS** is one of the most client-oriented law firms in Kazakhstan. Alongside with providing legal services of invariably high quality,

*"An excellent customer-oriented team of lawyers."*  
Chambers  
Global 2013

*"They consistently deliver good service and good quality, year in year out."*  
Chambers Asia Pacific 2014

*"AEQUITAS is a reliable and well-regarded local firm with broad experience."*  
Legal 500, 2015

**AEQUITAS** is regularly informing its clients of the business-relevant changes in legislation and practice, organizing trainings and seminars and annually holding a Client Day.

**AEQUITAS** reputation is supported by close professional ties with the world's largest international and national law firms, such as Allen & Overy, Clifford Chance, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Linklaters, Debevoise & Plimpton, Baker Botts, EPA&P, Pepeliaev Group, ALRUD and others. The firm's lawyers are well informed about the legal service markets of Russia, UK, USA and CIS countries. Thanks to cooperation with its international and national partners, **AEQUITAS** is prepared to provide services in different jurisdictions, without lowering their quality and timeliness.

The firm's long presence in the legal market, reputation and extensive professional ties allow **AEQUITAS** engaging the leading

Kazakh and foreign experts in all areas of law to participate in its projects and preparation of legal opinions. **AEQUITAS**'s consultants are renowned scholars, specialists from different sectors of economy and representatives of international organizations.

**AEQUITAS** team of lawyers is a team of professionals perfectly versed in the Kazakh legislation and specifics of the national market. The firm's partners and associates are recognized experts both in Kazakhstan and abroad.

**AEQUITAS** and its lawyers are members in different professional organizations and unions, including International Bar Association (IBA), American Bar Association (ABA), Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN), European Business Association of Kazakhstan (EUROBAK) and Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers' Association (KPLA).

**AEQUITAS** partners are among the founders of Kazakhstan Bar Association (National Public Association) set up on the initiative of the leading Kazakh law firms, including **AEQUITAS**. Olga Chentsova, the firm's Managing Partner, is one of the founders of Kazakhstan Bar Association and a member of its Management Board.

**AEQUITAS** partners and associates are on the lists of arbitrators for the following courts of arbitration and domestic arbitration tribunals: Center for Arbitration and Domestic Arbitration Tribunal Proceedings under the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan International Arbitrage (KIA), International Arbitration Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan (IAC), International Court of Arbitration of IUS Legal Center, International Commercial Arbitration Court of Eurasian Mediation Center and Arbitration Tribunal of Eurasian Mediation Center. **AEQUITAS** lawyers act as local law experts in disputes reviewed by the leading international courts of arbitration.

**AEQUITAS** is widely known for its research and analytical work. The firm is annually engaged to prepare reviews on different local law areas for IBA and World Bank. Analytical articles and reviews on different aspects of the Kazakh law and legislation by **AEQUITAS** lawyers are published in specialized magazines and analytical-and-legal compendia in Kazakhstan and abroad.

**AEQUITAS** experts have been actively participating in the development and improvement of the most important acts of Kazakhstan's civil and economic legislation, including the Civil Code and such laws of key importance to the country's economy as the Foreign Investment Law, Petroleum Law, Subsoil Law, Law on International Commercial Arbitration and a number of other regulatory legal acts.

The firm's potential allows providing services to embrace practically all issues its clients may have arising, be it legal support in complex projects, advice on various civil law matters, establishment of new companies, or representation in courts at any level.

The firm has a head office in Almaty and offices in Astana and Atyrau (Kazakhstan).

# ratings

*One of the top local firms, AEQUITAS has a full-service practice, and has 'excellent knowledge' as well as 'absolute integrity, compliance and competence'.*

Legal 500 2013

# membership

*"They work well together as a team, they are proactive, their communication is higher than simply professional — they definitely belong in the category of 'trusted adviser'!"*

Chambers Asia Pacific 2015

*"They give us competent experts who make practical recommendations and who are thoroughly committed to their clients."*

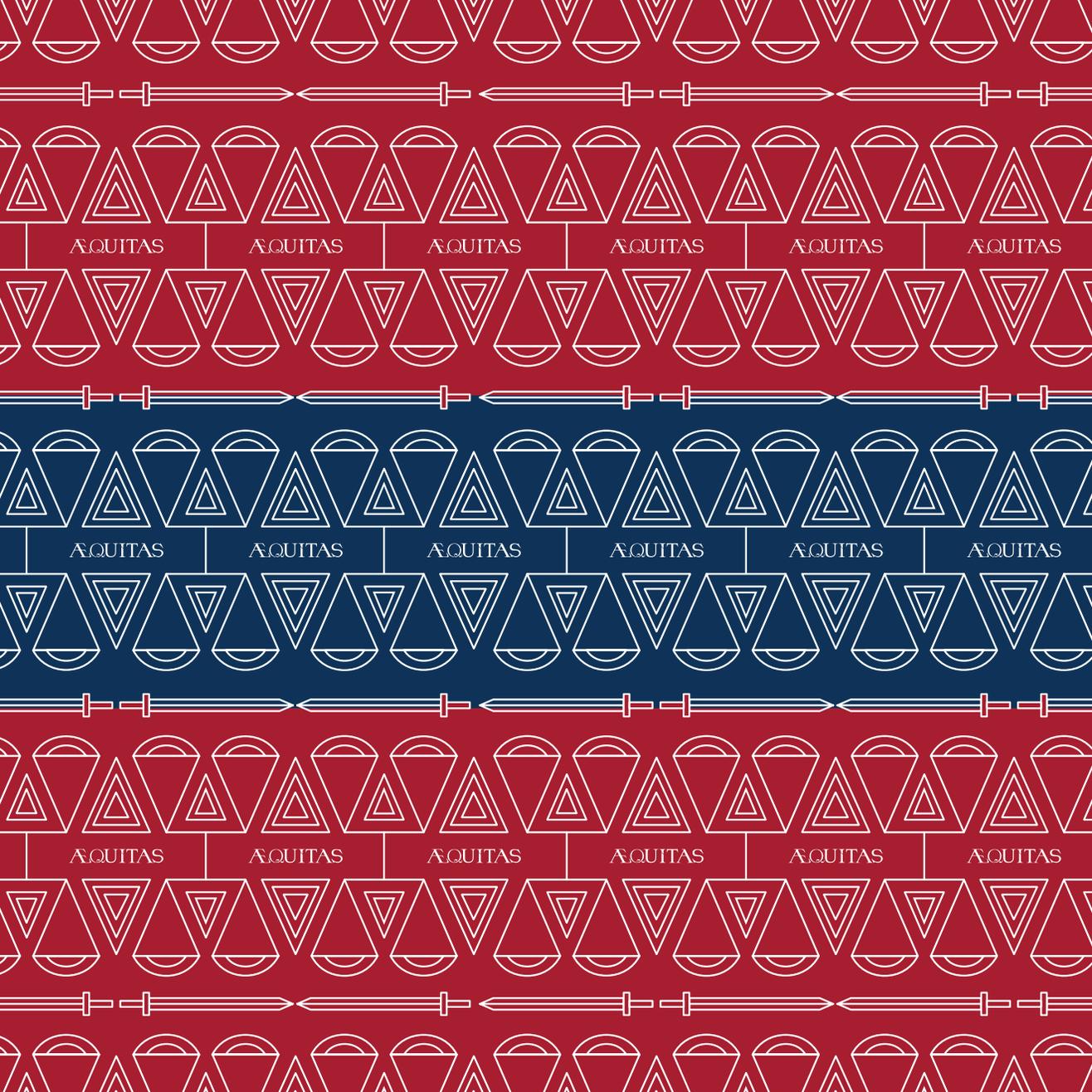
Chambers Asia Pacific 2015



ASSOCIATION  
OF INTERNATIONAL  
PETROLEUM NEGOTIATORS



СОДЕЙСТВИЕ  
РАЗВИТИЮ  
КОНКУРЕНЦИИ  
— В СТРАНАХ СНГ —



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