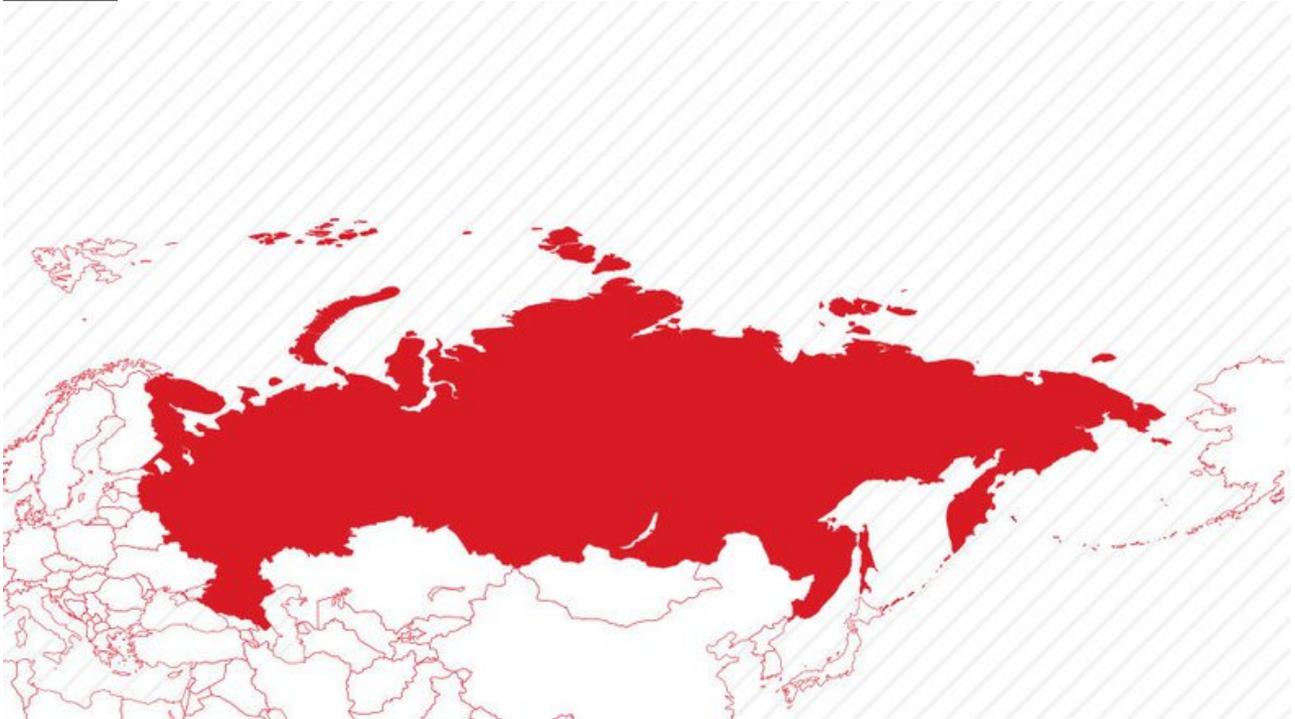


GCR 100 - 19th Edition

Russia

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Elite

Highly Recommended

Recommended

Russia boasts an impressive antitrust bar, which has been important in recent years as the Federal Antimonopoly Service has stepped up its aggressiveness.

Elite

ALRUD ranks among Russia's largest competition practices, with five partners and 15 associates working in close cooperation with the dispute resolution, corporate/M&A and commercial groups on a host of antitrust issues. Partner and practice head Vassily Rudomino is also the head of the Commonwealth of Independent States Competition Support Association, and has been recognised for his contributions to the development of competition legislation. Alrud boasts an impressive client roster, which in addition to Bayer, LG, Praxair, Maersk, NYK Line and Shire includes several companies that have newly retained its services in the past couple of years: Uber Technologies, Siemens and Michael Kors, among others. Alrud remains one of the go-to references for international law firms without a significant Russian presence, such as Slaughter and May, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Gleiss Lutz and Sullivan & Cromwell.

The firm's workload has been impressive in recent years. It counselled Bayer through its \$66 billion merger with Monsanto, Shire through its \$32 billion acquisition of Baxalta and Praxair in its merger with Linde – a deal that would create a company with a market value of more than \$75 billion. The Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) demanded

significant commitments from *Bayer/Monsanto* that were not agreed until April 2018, but cleared the *Praxair/Linde* deal unconditionally in October 2017. Alrud also counselled Uber in its joint venture with Yandex, a technology conglomerate that includes Russia's largest online taxi booking service. The firm also represents Siemens in its merger with Alstom, a deal that will create a major company in the transportation industry.

Alrud's success in mergers is complemented by strong representation of clients on the behavioural side. This past year, the firm represented LG Electronics during an unscheduled FAS inspection and subsequent examination of potential coordination among smartphone resellers. In past years, Alrud was the antitrust counsel for Maersk Line against FAS allegations that the shipping company violated the country's anti-monopoly laws. The firm secured a settlement in that case, under which Maersk did not admit guilt.

Torsten Syrbe receives almost unanimous praise from his peers for his work leading CLIFFORD CHANCE's Russian antitrust practice. He and a team of five associates handle an impressive slate of competition work, keeping the firm solidly in the elite category with a multinational client list that includes the likes of Abbott Laboratories, Mastercard, Pfizer, Monsanto and General Electric. Unfortunately, most of its Russian matters have been too confidential to disclose in recent years.

The firm was able to acknowledge its "tricky" work for Monsanto. It counselled the agrochemical company in its merger with Bayer, a merger that faced substantial concerns from the FAS but was ultimately conditionally cleared. Clifford Chance worked alongside Baker McKenzie on the deal, which saw the participation of several law firms in Russia. Syrbe's work focused on antitrust compliance, potential merger remedies and strategic advice for business separation and transactional structuring options. The team also counselled Pfizer regarding its investment in and collaboration with Russian pharmaceutical company NovaMedica.

Clifford Chance advised luxury goods company Ferragamo in the structuring of its distribution arrangements in Russia and counselled New Zealand-based medical device company Fisher & Paykel Healthcare on competition and procurement in the country. Sybre and his colleagues also represent electronics retailer Media-Saturn-Holding on the sale of its Russian business to the Safmar Group – which controls Russia's largest consumer retailers M.Video and Eldorado – in exchange for a 15% share in the combined business operated by M.Video.

EGOROV PUGINSKY AFANASIEV & PARTNERS (EPAM) has the largest antitrust practice in the country and a strong relationship with the FAS. Natalia Korosteleva heads the practice of five partners – including firm chairman Dmitry Afanasiev – six counsel, 16 associates and four other fee-earners. She and counsel Denis Gavrillov joined the Commission on Competition Law and the Improvement of the Anti-monopoly Legislation of the Association of Lawyers of Russia; Anna Numerova and Gavrillov were re-elected to the General Council of the Antitrust Experts Association; and Numerova remains on the FAS's Competition Council.

In the past year, the firm worked for Yandex, Uber, Sakhalin Energy, the Mediterranean Shipping Company and others. EPAM was the main legal adviser for Uber in the transportation platform's joint venture with Yandex. The firm also counselled Yandex – a conglomerate with many business interests – in alleging both at the FAS and in court that Google abused its dominance in relation to preset mobile applications for the Android operating system. EPAM counselled the oil and gas operator Sakhalin Energy before the FAS in a multibillion-dollar dispute with Rosneft, the country's largest state-owned oil company, over access to the Trans-Sakhalin gas pipeline.

EPAM successfully represented Mondi Syktyvkar before the FAS against claims the paper producer imposed monopolistically high prices, and counselled EVRAZ Group against allegations by the FAS that it imposed monopoly prices on the rebar market. Due to its prominence in government-facing investigations, the firm also has a slew of confidential clients for which it has done antitrust work in the past year.

BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER emerged in the survey this past year after Berwin Leighton Paisner – including its Russian practice Goltsblat, a mainstay in the elite category – completed a merger with US law firm Bryan Cave. Nikolay Voznesenskiy remained at the helm after the transition, and he leads a team that includes partner Vitaly Dianov, two senior associates, one associate, two junior associates and a paralegal. The group often works closely with partner Anton Sitnikov, who is the head of the corporate/M&A group, and dispute resolution partner Elena Trusova, who heads the firm's intellectual property/digital group. The team counsels a variety of international and national clients, including Mars, Federal Freight, Philips, HP, United Metallurgical and Teva Pharmaceutical.

Bryan Cave counselled Vimpelcom regarding allegedly unfair pricing claims, convincing the courts that the telecommunications company does not hold a dominant position and thus the FAS's claims were unjustified. The firm also secured a victory for new client Sberbank of Russia at the appellate court level in a dispute with the FAS, which had taken issue with the bank's purchase of more than a million point-of-service terminals and cancelled the tender. The Bryan Cave team restructured the client's strategy, collected new evidence and convinced the appellate judges that the FAS's decision was unlawful.

The firm also continued its representation of Federal Freight Company in an antitrust case launched by the FAS at the end of 2016. The enforcer has accused the company of abusing its dominant position and setting excessive prices for railway

freight services. After a 10-month investigation, the FAS found the company guilty and issued a binding order, but Bryan Cave has challenged that decision and order in the courts, claiming that the authority did not prove the company's dominance. The team also represented HP Russia and convinced the FAS that the company did not engage in a cartel arrangement, but it still was charged with price coordination. Bryan Cave continues to represent HP in a separate administrative case to determine the amount of the fine and review the validity of the FAS's decision.

Highly Recommended

Three partners, one of counsel, one senior associate and six other associates handle the workload at the ANTIMONOPOLY LAW OFFICE. The firm has an impressive client roster that includes long-time clients Samsung Electronics Rus Company, Nestlé Russia, and aluminium producer Rusal; new additions include Gazprombank Leasing, Sputnik Group and others. Evgeny Voevodin continues to lead the practice, joined by fellow partner Karen Gukasyan and newly promoted partner Andrey Zakataev.

The firm has been active in the behavioural space, but the most prominent recent work has been for clients in the transactional area. The AML advised Anheuser-Busch InBev Ukraine, or SunInBev, throughout the antitrust clearance of subsidiary's joint venture with EFES – the other big brewery in the country. The FAS cleared the deal due to the positive effects, including consumer benefits and a growth in investment opportunities. The firm also counselled both Solnechnie Produkti and EFKO on their joint venture in the fats and oil products manufacturing industry, which the FAS cleared. The team advised both NPF Blagosostoyanie and Renaissance Insurance Company on their joint venture, which combined one of the country's largest pension funds and insurance companies. The FAS approved the deal after careful consideration by the enforcer's financial markets division. On the behavioural side, the AML defended restaurant chain Shokoladnica against claims of monopolistic pricing at two Moscow regional airports.

Partners Evgeny Khokhlov and Alexander Egorushkin continue to lead the three-partner, seven-associate practice at the ANTITRUST ADVISORY, which experienced another busy year working on several high-profile deals and antitrust investigations. Several international law firms refer work and instruction to the antitrust boutique. Those firms and a large portion of Antitrust Advisory's clients remain confidential, however, but they include impressive names. Francisco Partners, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal, Pamplona Capital, SPAR and Tenneco were among the new clients this past year. The firm worked for Yandex on the Uber joint venture, serving as the coordinating competition counsel. It also secured the antitrust work for Yandex on a joint venture with Sberbank, which closed in April 2018. In yet another joint venture, the team advised Sibur through the clearance of its deal with Gazprom regarding the production of butyl acrylate, which close in May 2018.

Turning to behavioural matters, the firm successfully represented Procter & Gamble in its unfair competition claim against Russian fast-moving consumer goods producer Stockeast. The US giant challenged Stockeast's business model of allegedly imitating the design of P&G products. The FAS reviewed the case for two-and-a-half years, which is much longer than the usual six-to-nine-month investigation period; the enforcer ultimately issued an infringement decision against Stockeast in August 2018. Antitrust Advisory had a couple of other cases where it acted for a complainant alleging unfair competition practices, while other cases remain confidential. Finally, the firm represented SPAR in a court case challenging a decision by the FAS's Tomsk regional division. The enforcer accused the food retailer of discriminating among food suppliers and manufacturers in its commercial terms, but the courts found that the FAS failed to show that food suppliers and manufacturers selling their products to SPAR effectively competed with each other.

Anton Subbot heads the antitrust practice at the Moscow-based BAKER MCKENZIE, working with three other partners and a team of associates that he draws from across the office. One key addition to the team was Dennis Lim, who joined the competition group after 14 years working in the Moscow dispute resolution practice. He focuses on contentious matters in the competition and procurement areas, including antitrust disputes with the FAS and the Eurasian Economic Union, making him a welcomed addition to the group.

Baker McKenzie's representation of Monsanto in connection with the Bayer deal did not become public until recently, but the team was involved at every stage of the complex review. Several other big cases are currently confidential as the Monsanto deal once was. Now in its second year as a highly recommended firm, Baker McKenzie is certainly living up to the reputation it has built in recent years, with an impressive client list that includes Ford, Philips, Eli Lilly, AstraZeneca, Walgreens Boots Alliance and others.

Peers praise Marat Mouradov, who heads the Russian competition practice at DENTONS, as a top lawyer in the country's antitrust bar. As part of a major international law firm, the Russian antitrust group handles competition issues for global companies, but also has domestic clients. Mouradov works alongside partners including Vladimir Sokov and Sergey Klimenko and counsel Radmila Nikitina, who came to Dentons with a team of lawyers from the Pepeliaev Group in June 2018.

Due to the nature of the matters, most of the clients – which include large international and domestic companies – remain confidential, with only Gazprom made public. But Dentons is heavily involved in anti-monopoly compliance systems, which the firm assists clients in developing and implementing. The Dentons network also provides almost unparalleled

access in the former Soviet region, with expertise that covers Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Georgia. The Russian practice, which works closely with the firm's Brussels office, also has unique experience with anti-bribery, which often overlaps with competition matters.

FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER in Russia has no partners, but counsel Alexander Viktorov does good work. His team is made up of another counsel and three associates, including litigators working on competition law-related FAS and court cases who are not full-time antitrust lawyers. The firm counselled Japan Tobacco International, the top tobacco product manufacturer in Russia, on the local antitrust aspects of its \$1.6 billion acquisition of the Donskoy Tabak group, which is the fourth-largest. Viktorov also advised Knauf, a manufacturer of construction and insulation materials, construction equipment and tools, through the purchase of Armstrong's modular suspended ceilings business. The firm's work, through a Phase II review, secured unconditional clearance from the FAS.

Freshfields also works for American Express GBT on the Russian antitrust and foreign investment aspects of its recommended public takeover offer to acquire Hogg Robinson. They are two of the top business travel management companies in the world, and the firm secured unconditional clearance from the FAS. On the behavioural side, Freshfields acts for Bashkirdorstroy, a construction sector participant, in a high-profile case in the Russian courts. The case challenges the FAS decision to cancel a public bid for the financing, construction and operation of the \$300 million Sterlitamak–Kaga–Magnitogorsk toll highway in the Bashkortostan Republic under a concession agreement.

Igor Ostapets runs the Russian competition practice at WHITE & CASE, alongside senior associates Ksenia Tyunik and Anton Vasin, and two other associates. The team handles several major cases before the FAS, including representing the largest global software producer on abuse of dominance claims and a multinational technology company in an FAS cartel and bid-rigging case. Most of the clients are confidential, but the firm names Evergreen Marine and Nestlé Russia as two public ones.

The team also advises several large companies on merger control issues, including assisting with a proposed high-profile privatisation of shares in major Russian oil and gas company, a deal that has drawn the scrutiny of the government. White & Case is appealing against an FAS cartel decision, on behalf of a major container transportation and shipping company that the enforcer found in violation of the antitrust laws after a three-year investigation.

Recommended

Maxim Boulba heads the practice at CMS RUSSIA, which does impressive antitrust work. Hasbro, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line), Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha, Mitsui OSK Lines and others lean on CMS for its competition expertise. The team secured unconditional merger clearance for the establishment of a joint venture between its client K Line and three other container shipping companies. CMS also obtained full clearance for SüdBG, a fully owned subsidiary and special-purpose vehicle of LBBW, in relation to the German commercial bank taking control over the Janoschka Group. For toy company Hasbro, CMS advises on distribution and unfair competition issues, including conducting a mock dawn raid. It does similar work for Boehringer Ingelheim, advising on distribution and public procurement, obtaining rulings from the FAS and representing the client before the competition authority on public procurement matters.

| Firm | Head(s) of competition | Size | No. WWL nominees | Clients |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---|------------------|---|
| | | | Elite | |
| Alrud | Vassily Rudomino | 5 partners 15 associates | 2 | Bayer, LG, Praxair, AGC Glass, Armstrong World Industries, Maersk, NYK Line, Shire, CEFC China Energy Company Limited, Uber Technologies, Auchan, Siemens, Michael Kors |
| Clifford Chance | Torsten Syrbe | 1 partner 5 associates | 1 | Abbott Laboratories, Huawei, Mastercard, Ferragamo, General Electric, Henkel, Pfizer, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Mondy, CMA CGM |
| Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners | Natalia Korosteleva | 5 partners 6 counsel 16 associates 4 other fee earners | 2 | Yandex, Uber, Sakhalin Energy, Mediterranean Shipping Company |
| Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner | Nikolay Voznesenskiy | 2 partners 2 senior associates 1 associate 2 junior | 2 | Mars, Federal Freight Company, Philips, HP, United Metallurgical Company, TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries, NPK Katren, Zeppelin Russland, John Deere Agricultural, Johnson & Johnson, Vimpelcom, MasterCard Members' Association |

| Firm | Head(s) of competition | Size | No. WWL nominees | Clients |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| | | associates 1 paralegal | | |
| | | | Highly recommended | |
| Antimonopoly Law Office | Evgeny Voevodin | 3 partners 1 of counsel 1 senior associate 6 associates | None | Schlumberger, Fortum OJSC, Vypelkom, Burger King, Union of Russian Sugar Producers, Spectrum Vision, Samsung Electronics Rus Company, Sputnik Group, Gazprombank Leasing, Gallery, EFKO Company |
| Antitrust Advisory | Evgeny Khokhlov Alexander Egorushkin | 3 partners 7 associates | 1 | Canon, OBI, Procter & Gamble, PRODO, Sanofi, Sibur, SPAR, Tenneco, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation, Francisco Partners |
| Baker McKenzie | Anton Subbot | 4 partners Team of associates | 1 | Monsanto, Ford, Philips, Eli Lilly, MAN Truck and Bus, AstraZeneca, Walgreens Boots Alliance, National Oilwell Varco, Adidas |
| Dentons | Marat Mouradov | 6 partners 3 counsel 3 associates | 1 | Gazprom |
| Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer | Alexander Viktorov | 2 counsel 3 associates | 1 | Knauf, China National Chemical Corporation (ChemChina); London Stock Exchange Group; Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec (CDPQ); Russian Railways; LANXESS; Rexam PLC; Siemens AG; LafargeHolcim Ltd; Solvay SA; Canada Pension Plan Investment Board |
| White & Case | Igor Ostapets | 1 partner 2 senior associate 2 associates | 1 | Evergreen Marine Corp. (Taiwan) Ltd., Cott Corporation, Naspers Limited, Nestlé Russia, OBI |
| | | | Recommended | |
| CMS Russia | Maxim Boulba | 1 partner 5 associates | None | Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line), Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK) Hasbro, LBBW, Ascencia Diabetes Care, Franke Group, STOLOTO, BIC CIS |

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