

Sergei Vataev is an advocate and a member of the Almaty City Advocates' Bar. His practice focuses on arbitration, civil law litigation, corporate and project finance, and white-collar criminal law issues. A significant part of his work is acting as an arbitrator in domestic and international arbitration institutions. He also provides legal opinions as a Kazakhstan law expert in international arbitrations and foreign litigations.

Mr Vataev's extensive experience includes corporate, commercial, tax, customs, regulatory issues, contractual and regulatory litigation, and arbitration. He has advised foreign investors in litigation and arbitration proceedings on expropriation issues relating to their investments and has defended clients in commercial and regulatory lawsuits.

Mr Vataev has also advised clients on complex project transactions involving the innovative use of payment and debt instruments, including municipal financing, securitization, and securitization restructuring.

Mr Vataev was the third of Kazakhstan's lawyers whom the AIFC International Arbitration Centre included in its panel of arbitrators. In 2021, the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) admitted Mr. Vataev to its Panel of Arbitrators.

Mr Vataev sits on the Board of the Arbitration Chamber of Kazakhstan. He is a listed arbitrator in the International Arbitration Court "IUS," Kazakhstan International Arbitrage, and the International Arbitration Court (IAC), where he held the position of Chairman until July 2024.

On 1 July 2024, the International Chamber of Commerce announced that its International Chamber of Commerce World Council appointed Mr Vataev as a member of the ICC Court representing Kazakhstan for 2024-2027.

Mr Vataev acted as a co-arbitrator or the sole arbitrator in cases resolved under the rules of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, CIETAC, IAC AIFC, and under the UNCITRAL Rules.

Before his practice as an advocate, Mr Vataev was a partner in the Kazakhstan practice at major international law firms. For many years, he has been recognized as one of the leading lawyers in Kazakhstan by Chambers Global, The Legal 500, Best Lawyers (in arbitration, mediation, and litigation), and PLC Which Lawyer (in dispute resolution). He also has been ranked in Band 1 and Band 2 in Dispute Resolution – Kazakhstan practice by Chambers Global for more than ten years in a row. Mr Vataev has been recognized as a leading lawyer in Kazakhstan by Best Lawyers since 2009 and named by Best Lawyers the "Lawyer of the Year" in 2017-18 for Arbitration and Mediation.

Before entering private practice, Mr Vataev served as a legal counsel in a Kazakhstan governmental agency and the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where he co-drafted several laws.

He is fluent in English and Russian.

## **Education**

Kazakh State University School of Law, Law Degree, 1992  
University of Virginia School of Law, LL.M., 2001

## **Admissions/Qualifications**

Admitted to practice in Kazakhstan as an Advocate, license No 0000047 of 15 June 1998  
CEDR Accredited Mediator, 2020  
A member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), Membership No. 28482

## **Professional Activities**

A member of the Court of the International Chamber of Commerce (Paris, France)  
A member of the Presidium (Board) of the Almaty City Advocates' Bar  
A member of the Board of the Kazakhstan Arbitration Chamber  
A member of the IAC Arbitrator and Mediators Panel (AIFC Court & International Arbitration Centre)  
A member of the Supervisory Board of KazBar (Kazakhstan Commercial Lawyers Association)  
A member of the Board of the Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers Association  
A member of the CIETAC Panel of Arbitrators