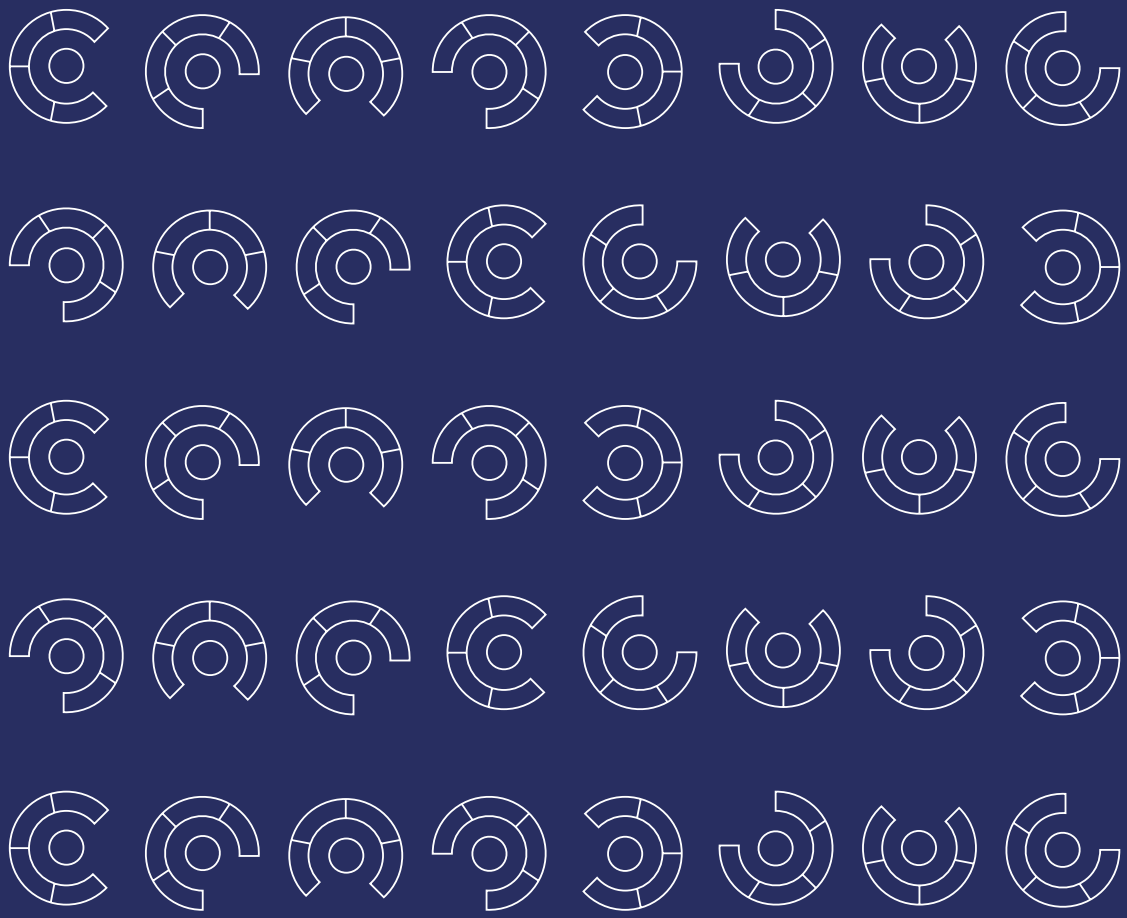


# AEQUITAS

LAWS OF THE ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

# Laws of the Astana International Financial centre

The interest of business to the Astana International Financial Centre ("AIFC"), a special jurisdiction based on the principles of commercial laws of England and Wales, has been growing steadily over the past years.

In 2019, AEQUITAS became a participant of the AIFC. In 2024, AEQUITAS won the Excellence in Ancillary Services award as part of the AIFC Best Awards at the AIFC Astana Finance Days 2024 where prominent experts were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the AIFC development.

The firm's lawyers possess great experience and profound knowledge in the application of the current laws of the AIFC, its legal acts, and regularly undergo trainings organized by the AIFC Academy of Law. Our lawyers actively participate as the volunteer lawyers of the AIFC Law Pro Bono Office.

The firm's portfolio covers registration of major companies in the AIFC, obtainment of required licenses, successfully closed M&A projects, including benchmark cross-border transactions. Our M&A support includes full range of services starting from comprehensive legal due diligence up to registration of rights to acquired shares and assets.

Yekaterina Khamidullina, AEQUITAS Partner and Director of AEQUITAS AIFC Branch, studied at King's College London where she acquired knowledge in the sphere of laws of England and Wales, international financing, regulation of cryptocurrencies, blockchain, financial technologies, and data protection.

In 2024, Tair Kulteleev, AEQUITAS Partner and Head of Registrations, was awarded a letter of appreciation by the AIFC management for the AIFC laws awareness raising activities. Tair is registered as a legal adviser for the AIFC laws issues and was included in the official list administered by the AIFC Legal Services Board.

Kirill Greshnikov, AEQUITAS Senior Associate, is highly experienced in advising clients on the issues of setting up and registering companies, doing business in the AIFC, advertising of cryptocurrencies, anti-money laundering, obtainment of the AFSA licenses, membership of the AIFC participants in the Astana International Exchange (AIX). In 2024, Kirill was accredited by the AIFC and now acts as AEQUITAS employee responsible for anti-money laundering and financing of terrorism.

Yerbol Almen, AEQUITAS Associate, is experienced in advising on the issues of registration of companies, labor laws of the AIFC, including the issues of cancellation of labor relations. He also published certain articles regarding the AIFC laws.

# services

Full legal support of registration of companies in the AIFC and provision of all types of post-registration services.

Advising on the issues of corporate management in the AIFC, licensing, pledge of shares of the AIFC resident companies and AIX.

Drafting of corporate/constituent documents for the companies registered in the AIFC.

Advising in the sphere of personal data protection, digital assets, activities of cryptocurrency exchanges, digital mining, turnover and advertising of cryptocurrencies.

Advising on the issues of acquisition of companies in accordance with the current laws of the AIFC.

Issuing the good standing legal opinions regarding the legal capacity of legal entities registered in the IFC.

Advising on the issues of re-domiciliation of foreign legal entities to the AIFC territory.

Legal support of liquidation of legal entities and their structural subdivisions. Provision of services of an Official Liquidator under the AIFC laws.

Drafting of the partnership agreements under the AIFC laws.

Drafting of employment contracts governed by the AIFC laws and advising on any issues of the labor laws of the AIFC.

Checking companies in the sanction lists of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), lists of the European Union, and checking the goods as to absence in the lists of double-purpose goods.

Due diligence.

Advising regarding registration of currency contracts.

Advising regarding the issue of shares by the companies registered in the AIFC.

Drafting of legal opinions regarding applicable sanctions and complex verification of information relating to shareholders, beneficial owners and entrepreneurial activities, which will be carried out in the AIFC, including the type of goods and/or services.

Services of a process agent.

# most representative projects

Advising Chevron on the issues of setting up a direct investment fund. This project was connected with establishment of one of the first captive funds in the AIFC.

Advising an investment fund registered in the AIFC on the issues of acquisition of shares of several companies active in the field of renewable energy sources. For the purposes of the transaction, AEQUITAS lawyers drafted complicated documents governed by the laws of England and Wales (framework investment agreement, shareholders agreement, subscription agreement, articles of association, etc.).

Comprehensive support of the process of registering and changing the shareholders of Playrix Kazakhstan Limited, one of the world major companies developing mobile games.

Support of registration and increase in the charter capital for SNURDC Astana Mining Company Limited.

Advising DataArt, an international company developing software, on the issue of acquisition of a company in the AIFC, change of name, address and a director.

Provision of services to several international broker companies as a procedural agent to obtain the status of a Recognized Non-AIFC Member, among which there are such major players as Cifra Broker, BCS, Atonline, AMBROK, and others.

Advising Huadian Kazakhstan Energy Ltd., a company set up in the AIFC, on the issue of acquisition of participatory interests in a local LLP holding wind power plants in the South of Kazakhstan. Support of the process of obtaining consent of the antitrust agency to economic concentration in connection with the above transaction.

Support of registration of Bitfury KZ Limited, a multi-profile blockchain company, largest industrial miner outside China, developer of software and hardware for the work with Bitcoin. AEQUITAS lawyers supported re-registration of this company in connection with changes in the composition of shareholders, directors, change of address, change of the company name to Blockrose DC 2 Limited, and drafted a set of labor documents under the laws of the AIFC.

Advising a foreign investment holding in connection with a transaction involving acquisition of shares of a holding company registered in the AIFC and holding a number of industrial enterprises in Kazakhstan. The work of AEQUITAS lawyers covered due diligence of the company and industrial enterprises, drafting of numerous transaction documents, and active participation in negotiations with the parties to the transaction.

Advising Neo Crystal Holdings Ltd. on the issue of acquisition of a company set up in the AIFC, which holds several legal entities providing micro-finance services. The work of AEQUITAS lawyers included due diligence and drafting of a number of documents subject to the best common law practices and adaptation of documents in accordance with the AIFC's acts.

# most representative projects

Comprehensive support of the process of registration of HFSE Technologies Ltd. and drafting of the required corporate documents.

Legal support of registration of Rumus Success Ltd, one of major players on the Forex market. AEQUITAS lawyers provided services involving obtainment of the In-Principle Approval for Dealing in Investments as Agent and Arranging Deals in Investments.

Legal support of termination of activities and liquidation of a representative office of Hungarian Export-Import Bank Private Limited Company carrying out its activities through a representative office of Eximbank registered in the AIFC. Provision of services as the Official Liquidator under the laws of the AIFC.

Advising foreign cryptocurrency exchanges and cryptocurrency exchange offices on the issues of launching business in Kazakhstan, setting up a stock exchange in the AIFC, obtainment of relevant licenses, advertising, including on other issues relating to cryptocurrency and other digital assets.

Advising a foreign financial organization on the issues of carrying out activities in the AIFC, regulatory and licensing requirements.

Comprehensive support of the process of registration of a Branch of Reliance Petrochem Industries (Pvt.) Limited and drafting of the required corporate documents.

Advising Solidcore Resources plc (former name—Polymetal International) on legal issues pertaining to the sale of business, share buyback, and doing business in the AIFC.

Advising Turkish Aerospace Limited on corporate issues relating to the laws of the AIFC.

# membership

# ratings

*"Exceptional research and practical background, extremely experienced team. The questions raised were covered in full, the consultants even went outside the scope and the direct questions and considered it as a complex matter, which allowed us to have a more complete opinion".*

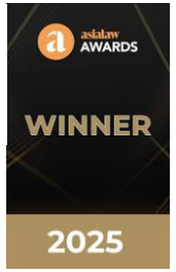
**The Legal 500 2026**

*"AEQUITAS provides rigorous and professional advice in a short time".*

**Chambers 2026**

*"AEQUITAS demonstrates a keen understanding of business needs and an ability to provide pragmatic legal advice aligned with commercial objectives".*

**Chambers 2025**

*"They are very commercial, have hands-on transactional experience, provide great client service and are generally very pleasant to deal with. The quality of advice is consistent and of very high standard – timely, accurate and commercial".*

**asialaw 2025**