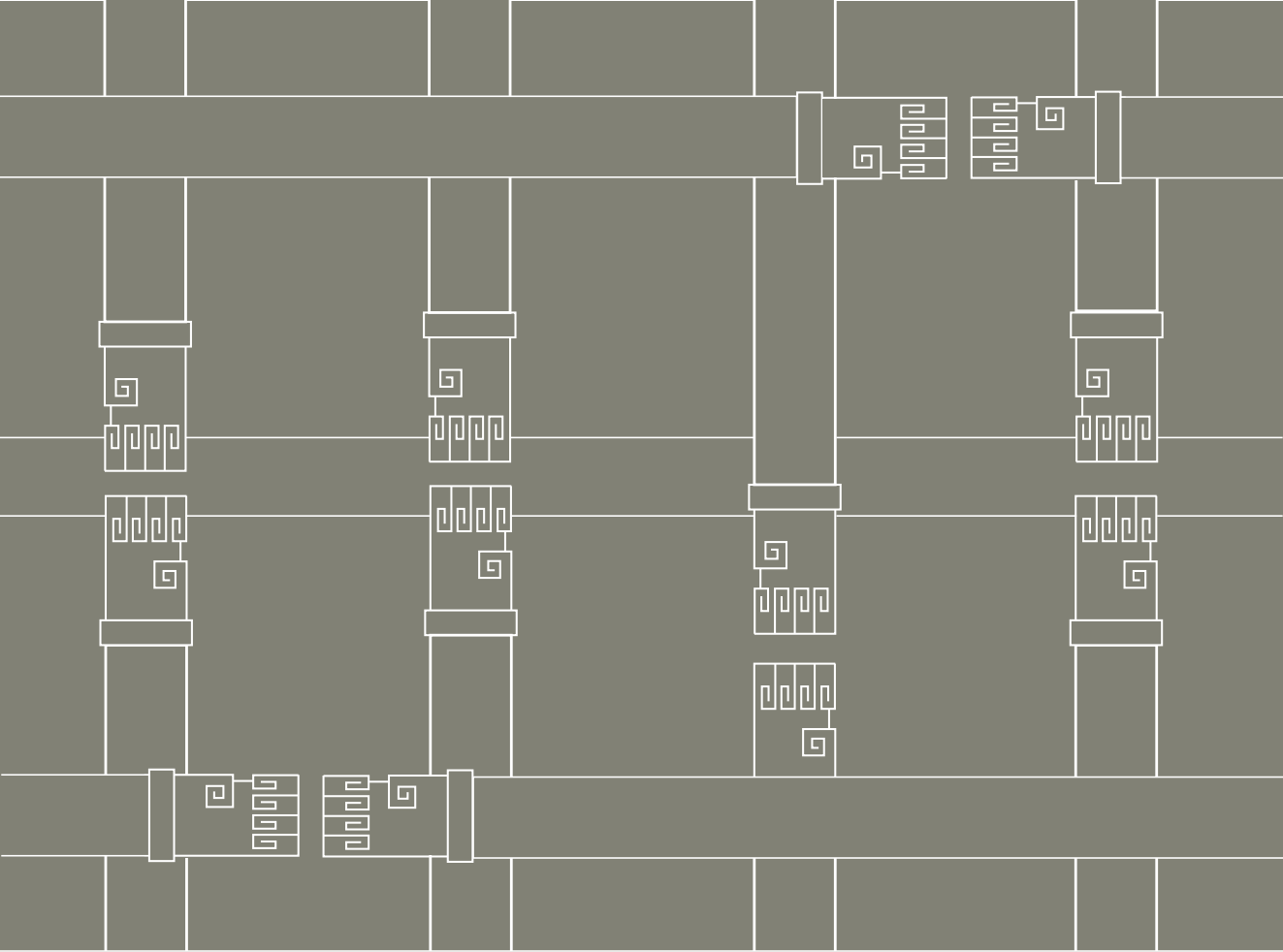




AQUITAS

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

dispute resolution

“AEQUITAS is efficient in preparing answers to questions”.

Chambers 2026

“AEQUITAS is a great firm with great capabilities”.

The Legal 500 2026

For many years, **AEQUITAS** Dispute Resolution practice has been one of the leading practices in Kazakhstan, specializing in support of complicated litigations, international commercial and investment arbitrations. Special attention is paid to support of complicated cross-border litigations and commercial arbitrations (with the venues mostly outside Kazakhstan), including projects involving foreign investors, international financial institutions, and major industrial companies.

Another key area of practice is investment arbitration. The firm's lawyers ensure comprehensive preparation and support of such projects at all stages from development of the client defense strategy and representation in local courts to formation of an international team, fund-raising (third-party funding), and protection of interests in investment proceedings.

The firm's lawyers possess significant experience in representing clients in international commercial arbitrations and before state courts, they regularly act as party representatives and arbitrators in commercial arbitration; they are experienced in litigations held under the rules of LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL, GAFTA, SCC, International Commercial Arbitration Court (ICAC) under the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, and others.

AEQUITAS partners and advisors often act as experts before foreign courts and international commercial and investment arbitrations. The practice team focuses exclusively on dispute resolution, which allows offering clients profound industry expert examination, effective procedural strategies, and comprehensive approach to protection of interests at both judicial and extrajudicial conflict settlement procedures.

legal services

The practice is headed by Partner **Yekaterina Khamidullina** who is highly experienced in support of complicated cross-border litigations and international commercial and investment arbitrations.

For many years, such international rating agencies as **Chambers & Partners**, **The Legal 500**, **asialaw**, **IFLR**, and other top international legal guides have been recommending **AEQUITAS** as a leading law firm in Dispute Resolution, recognizing high level of expertise of its team, successful support of the most complicated disputes, and firm's leadership position on the Kazakhstan legal market.

The practice team specializes and possesses dispute resolution expertise in the following areas:

- contract law and commercial contracts
- construction (including FIDIC contracts)
- labor (firm is a Ius Laboris affiliate)
- intellectual property, including patent and copyright
- advisor professional liability
- antitrust regulation and competition
- banking and financial activities
- corporate law
- anti-counterfeiting
- financial leasing
- subsoil use and other projects in the sphere of natural resources
- proceedings in bankruptcy
- bankruptcy, rehabilitation and debt restructuring (including financial organizations).

Pre-trial dispute settlement (preparation of claims, negotiations to settle the dispute in an extrajudicial procedure, and drafting of dispute settlement agreements and amicable agreements).

Advice and assistance in the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Client representation in all judicial instances and in all kinds of civil and administrative disputes.

Advice on enforcement proceedings and legal support in judicial acts enforcement.

Preparation of all types of court documents (statements of claim, amicable agreements, appeals, motions, statements of defense, rebuttals, etc.).

Preliminary legal analysis of a disputable situation and preparation of a legal opinion regarding its resolution prospects.

Client representation in arbitral tribunals and international commercial arbitrations.

Client representation in the course of different inspections by governmental agencies.



client representation in local courts

COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

Representing a foreign client in a dispute considered by the Arbitration Center Atameken in connection with recovery of debt under a distribution agreement, forfeit, and transfer of the retained goods. Partner Yekaterina Khamidullina and Senior Associate Anton Alexeyev analyzed the case circumstances and developed the defense strategy on the issues of performance of contractual obligations and application of the rules of contractual and civil law of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Represented a local subsidiary of a major Indian company performing design and construction operations at the Kashagan field in civil and criminal proceedings against a security organization in connection with a large-scale theft of property at a construction site.

Represented a world-leading architectural firm in connection with a dispute over default on obligations to design a sports and leisure complex at the Burabay resort area in Kazakhstan.

Rendered legal support to a Zurich-based holding subsidiary of the Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation in connection with a claim of one of the minority shareholders under a loan agreement with a complicated security mechanism. It was necessary to take a number of procedural actions in several jurisdictions for the court to issue a judgment. The firm's lawyers developed an intricate strategy to refer litigation to Kazakhstan to efficiently protect the rights of the firm's client, which would not be possible, for a substantive legal reason, in another jurisdiction.

Represented a large distributor company in a dispute over recovery of more than USD 500,000 in insurance payment for short delivery of goods by railway.

Successfully represented a Lithuanian forwarding company in a dispute stemming from a freight forwarding contract. The claim for subrogation damages in connection with a loss of cargo was filed against the client (a freight forwarder registered in Lithuania) in a Kazakh court, based on the jurisdiction provision. AEQUITAS lawyers managed to convince the court that Kazakh courts had no jurisdiction over the dispute, referring to an international agreement on legal assistance and a precedent in a similar dispute resolved by a foreign court.

Participated in court proceedings on the side of Johnson & Johnson Medical Ltd. claiming unenforceability of the arbitration clause and recovery of a large debt from a local company for the goods supplied.

Represented Siemens AG in court to establish the legal fact of legal entity activities termination.

Successfully represented in court a local company, member of a global construction technology and automation concern, in a dispute arising from a construction contract. The subcontractor filed a claim for payment for work performed against the customer under the contract. The dispute's complexity was due to the general contractor's (AEQUITAS client) being liable under Kazakh legislation to the subcontractor for the customer's default on obligations.

Represented Estonian export credit agency in a dispute over a transaction involving insurance of potential damages, which could arise due to customer's failure to pay for work under a construction contract. The customer's performance security was an immovable property provided in breach of the legislation on state property.

Successfully represented Siemens LLP before all instance courts in a dispute to recover indebtedness under a construction contract and rendered legal support in enforcement proceedings, resulting in the client's receiving the adjudged amounts in full.

Successfully represented PetroKazakhstan Inc. in connection with recovery of debt for supplied oil products and damages from an offshore company.

Successfully represented the local subdivision of a globally famous cosmetics manufacturer in debt recovery disputes stemming from contracts with the company distributor.

Successful representation of a major client accused of illegal disclosure of personal data, against whom a claim was filed for compensation for moral damages. Partner Yekaterina Khamidullina and Senior Associate Anton Alexeyev conducted prompt analysis of the situation and developed the defense strategy, which allowed to win the case. They identified crucial procedural violations committed by the claimant and stated regarding lack of jurisdiction over the dispute.

Represented foreign companies — Greenwhale Company Ltd., Sovex CJSC and Siberian Cement Holding Company OJSC — seeking recognition of foreign judgments and awards in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Represented in court SCJ EurAFNE Ltd. and SC Johnson LLC in a case for collection of a large debt from a local company.

Represented a local subsidiary of a major Indian company performing design and construction operations (as a subcontractor under the contract with Agip Kazakhstan North Caspian Operating Company N.V.) in several litigations over different contracts related to construction (including design and procurement) of an oil export pipeline in the framework of the Kashagan field pilot development program. Besides, AEQUITAS represented the client in a dispute over arbitration clause invalidity, which prevented dispute submission to foreign arbitration under LCIA Rules.

CHALLENGING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

Advice to defend Tengizchevroil LLP before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan in a case for collection of large damages for environmental legislation violations.

International taxation advice to the foreign company and successful representation of the company before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan in a tax dispute resulting in the cancellation of the tax authority's unreasoned notification assessing more than KZT 77 million in fines and penalty interest.

Successfully represented Kazakhstan's largest oil refinery, ShNOS JSC (currently, PetroKazakhstan Oil Products LLP), before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan in connection with a tax dispute against the Financial Police Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Participated in litigations on the side of Bogatyr Komir LLP, Kazakhstan's largest coal mining company, against the antimonopoly agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the client claiming invalidation of the agency's ordinance to rectify antimonopoly legislation violations.

Represented a major local company, Kazakhstan Kagazy JSC, following prosecutor's claims for invalidation of changes in land plots designation.

Partner Yekaterina Khamidullina and Associate Kristina Mychka represented two global major companies in a dispute with Astana Financial Services Authority considered by the AIFC Court. When working on the project, they provided the client with advice regarding the laws of Kazakhstan and the AIFC, drafted the required procedural documents in accordance with the Rules of the AIFC Court, and successfully negotiated with AFSA for the purpose of amicable dispute settlement.

Represented PetroKazakhstan Kumkol Resources JSC in court following the prosecutor's claim for collection of large gas flaring damages in favor of the state.

Successfully represented in court White & Case Kazakhstan LLP (a Kazakh office of White & Case international law firm) in a tax dispute. Following a tax inspection, White & Case Kazakhstan LLP was charged with unlawful payment of the parent company's income without deducting the applicable taxes, as well as misapplication of the Convention on the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Kazakhstan and the USA. The Tax Committee's claims amounted to more than USD 1,300,000.

FINANCIAL DISPUTES

Represented major international banks and investment funds before local courts in a multimillion dispute related to a local bank's debt restructuring.

Partner Yekaterina Khamidullina and Senior Associate Shayakhmet Zharkimbayev represented a client in the major cross-border arbitration proceedings considered by the International Arbitration Centre of the AIFC. The dispute dealt with loan agreements, guarantee agreements, and failure to perform obligations by the guarantors. When working on the project, they provided advice on the presence of legal grounds with the client to claim from the borrower and the guarantor for the loan amount, interest and default interest for loan repayment delay under the loan agreement.

Represented ShalkiyaZinc LLP in a dispute against a governmental agency over a claim to invalidate termination of a complex ores exploration and mining contract and advised to protect the client's interests in a litigation regarding collection of a large amount in waste disposal environmental damages.

Represented Oil Transportation Institute OJSC in court in connection with a claim disputing tax authority's denial of income tax refund from the state budget.

LABOR DISPUTES

Represented in court AIG Kazakhstan Insurance Company JSC (Chartis Kazakhstan Insurance Company JSC) and its client (branch of Parker Drilling Company International Ltd.), the respondents in a dispute over employee's claim for health and moral damage compensation.

Successfully represented Reckitt Benckiser in Kazakh courts of all instances in a dispute over reinstatement of an employee whose position (head of representative office) was displaced in the process of management structure reorganization, also claiming a large sum from the employer.

Successfully represented in court a local company, a member of an international power-saving equipment manufacturing concern, in a labor dispute over the company CEO dismissal. The CEO deemed his dismissal unlawful, since it occurred during his illness and in breach of the statutory notification timeframes.

Successfully represented Granite Services International Inc. in connection with a labor dispute involving dismissal of an employee of a Kazakh branch of the company. The branch employee challenged the dismissal, referring to the fact that his absence at work was caused by the police detention and imposition of a restraint — recognizance not to leave.

Represented in court Tyco Electronic Raychem GmbH in a labor dispute over salary collection (ended in an amicable agreement on conditions favorable for the client).

Successfully represented in court Nova Zink LLP, a local mining and metallurgy enterprise, in a labor dispute regarding collective agreement invalidation.

Comprehensive support of a large international trading and investment company in a labor conflict with the Chief Accountant in connection with systematic absence from the workplace and doubts in justifiability of the stated temporary work incapacity. AEQUITAS lawyers conducted legal analysis of the situation, developed the dispute settlement strategy, drafted the required documents, and ensured a conflict-free termination of labor relations with the employee.

Represented Medcom Kazakhstan LLP in court in a labor dispute over the collection of salary for the time of forced absence from work (ended in an amicable agreement, as elected by the client).

IP RIGHT DISPUTES

Successfully represented in court a world-leading motor oil manufacturer in a dispute to protect trademark owner's rights, which was made possible due to preliminary collection of evidence to support infringement of the client's rights. The case ended in an amicable agreement, which best met the client's interests.

Represented in courts of all instances Sanofi Aventis and Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. holding patents for certain medicines in a number of disputes over medicines registration matters against a Kazakh LLP.

CORPORATE DISPUTES

Represented PetroKazakhstan Oil Products LLP before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan in a case regarding invalidation of a joint stock company's corporate resolutions and a share buyout transaction.

Represented in courts a minority shareholder in a dispute over coerced buyback of shares against a major Kazakh investment management company.

Represented in court an oil servicing company in a dispute over an LLP management body's resolution, claiming violations of the board of directors' competence and the general meeting of participants' convocation procedure.

ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS

Successfully represented an oil and gas company in connection with the recognition and enforcement of a foreign judgment for debt collection in Kazakhstan.

Legal support services in enforcement proceedings to recover debts in favor of Kazakhstan Kagazy JSC based on a court decision adjudicating material damages compensation.

Enforcement of a foreign arbitral award rendered in favor of a major grain trader under GAFTA Rules.

Legal support services in connection with enforcement proceedings to recover debts in favor of Siemens LLP.

client representation in foreign courts and courts of arbitration

Representing a foreign client in an arbitration dispute in connection with the recovery of debt under a distribution agreement, forfeiture for late performance of monetary obligations, and transfer of the retained goods. Partner Yekaterina Khamidullina and Senior Associate Anton Alexeyev conducted a prompt analysis of the case circumstances and developed the defense strategy for application in arbitration proceedings. The team elaborated comprehensive legal reasoning on the issues of performance of contractual obligations, evaluation of the body of evidence, and application of the rules of contractual and civil law of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Legal assistance to a specialist merchant of agricultural commodities, trading specifically in sugar, molasses and coffee in Kazakhstan, in connection with an ongoing arbitration under the LCIA rules in London against one of Kazakhstan's largest grain producers. It has become a popular tactic in Kazakhstan to howsoever avoid the receipt of arbitration documents, including notices of arbitration, to later claim in Kazakh courts absence of proper notification as a ground to reject recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards under the 1958 New York Convention.

Advised and participated as local law experts in a case upon claim by a group of individual participants in a Kazakh LLP against a group of large US oil companies tried by the court of general jurisdiction of the State of Texas.

Represented Can Agri, a major Europe-based animal feedstuff manufacturer, in arbitration in connection with debt recovery and further recognition of the award by a Kazakh court. In view of the fact that the permanent arbitral institution specified in the arbitration agreement was liquidated as of the date of claim, the firm's lawyers applied for the appointment of an authority to consider the dispute in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration. The appointed arbitration considered the case and satisfied the client's claims in full.

Represented Bazis-A, Kazakhstan's largest construction corporation, in The Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration in a dispute for arbitration clause invalidation against Michael Wilson & Partners Limited, an international law firm.

Participated in arbitration on the side of Zalvand Trading, Iran gas trading company, before the Arbitration Commission (then having the status of international arbitration) of the Union of Chambers of Industry and Commerce of the Republic of Kazakhstan in a case for debt collection from a local company.

Participated as a local law expert in a case tried by a Texas court, USA, in connection with a dispute over a prenuptial contract, including Kazakh law applicability to various inheritance and property issues and choice of applicable law.

Participated as a local investment law expert in the famous investment arbitration Ruby Roz Agricol and Kaseem Omar vs. Kazakhstan, UNCITRAL. Among other things, the project was complicated because it involved the application and historical interpretation of legislation previously in effect. Dr. Olga Chentsova's contribution was particularly interesting to the client, since she is one of a few authors of the RK Law on Foreign Investments, which was to be interpreted.

ratings



What the team is known for
AEQUITAS^{Band2} is a highly reputed domestic law firm in Kazakhstan, which represents clients in a broad range of commercial disputes, including contractual and debt recovery cases, as well as domestic enforcement work. The legal practice is also frequently engaged to provide Kazakh law expertise in international arbitrations seated overseas. The law firm regularly handles tax and construction disputes. AEQUITAS often acts for international and

domestic clients from the professional services, construction and consumer goods sectors.

Work highlights. AEQUITAS represented Saipem in resolving employee compensation disputes during the closing of its Kazakhstan branch, negotiating settlements and defending against claims for lifelong annuity payments.

Olga Chentsova^{Eminent Practitioners} is well regarded for her expertise in international arbitration and domestic litigation matters.



AEQUITAS remains a top-tier choice for local counsel.

Client feedback. *"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."*



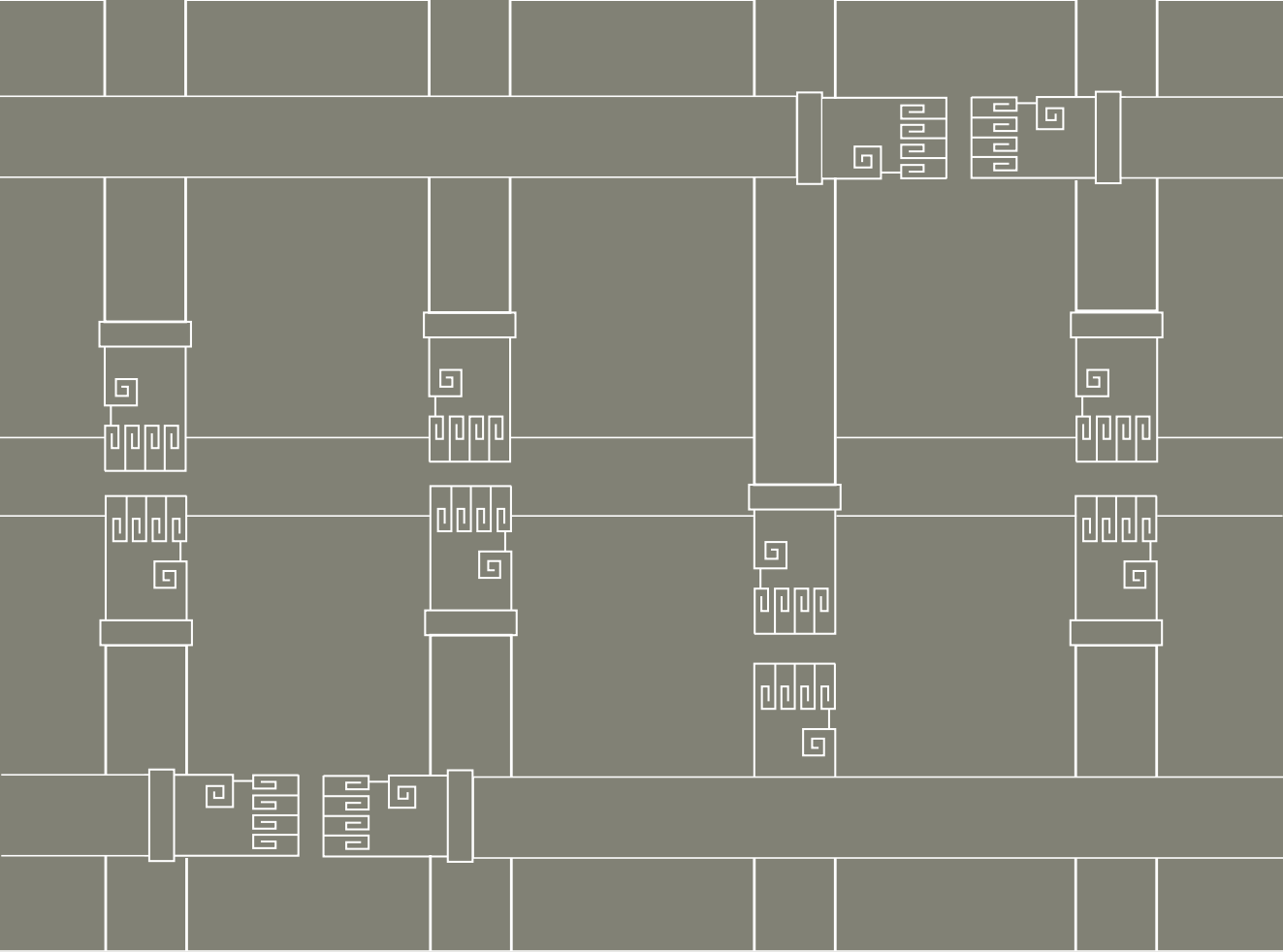
AEQUITAS's ^{Tier2} dispute resolution practice assists clients in complex, cross-border commercial disputes and offers experience and expertise in the rules of ICC, UNCITRAL, GAFTA, SCC, ICAC and more. **Olga Chentsova** is an experienced lawyer who advises on commercial matters and provides expertise in oil and mining. **Yuliya Chumachenko**^{Recommended} is an expert in civil law and labour law in particular. **Yekaterina Khamidullina**^{Next Generation Partner} is experienced in advising on AIFC-related matters.

Work highlights.

Rendered legal support to SAIPEM SpA Kazakhstan Branch in connection with termination of activities of its branch in Kazakhstan with respect to regulation of the employer's obligations on compensation for harm to the health of employees who got on-the-job injuries.



AEQUITAS is recognized as a leading domestic law firm. Chairman of the Board of Partners **Olga Chentsova** was named *Highly regarded Lawyer* and included into the *IFLR1000 Women Leaders* elite ranking.



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