GRATA International's Banking & Finance Group is a leading legal counsel in the area of capital markets, project finance and infrastructure projects development, and financial transactions in Central Asia and in Kazakhstan in particular.

GRATA's rapidly growing Banking & Finance Group currently comprises professional lawyers, almost all with second law degrees from the UK, USA, or other leading Western universities.

Our aim is to become a leading finance practice in the legal market of Central Asia. This means that GRATA's Banking & Finance Group aims to set the standard for legal support in capital markets, and in general for the finance sector, to monitor the needs of our clients online and to provide them with individualized legal solutions in order to help them carve out a leading market niche.
The ability to provide legal services at the best value and our understanding of the local cultures of Central Asia are some of our strengths.

We are proud that our clients, some of the largest local and international banks and companies from different industry sectors, have trusted GRATA’s knowledge and expertise for more than 20 years now. Prominent international legal rankings, such as Chambers & Partners, Legal 500, IFLR1000 and Asialaw profiles, regularly acknowledge GRATA’s Banking & Finance team as one of the leading practices in the region.

GRATA’s Banking & Finance Department has established effective cooperation with financial regulators across Central Asia and the Caucasus and with local and international stock exchanges, investment banks, international law firms, and consultants. This allows us to provide our clients with best-in-class solutions for their needs.
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EXPERIENCE

- Producing a legal opinion on aircraft finance transactions under the guarantee of state-owned company. Preparation of aircraft mortgage agreements as in accordance with legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Advising a client as local legal counsel for large European Financial Institution in connection to multi-million unsecured Loan Transactions provided to a number of Azerbaijani banks;
- Advising a major Japanese bank on the acquisition of a share in the loan and agreeing with the main export pipeline as collateral. Conducting a legal audit and preparing a number of memoranda, advising on the effectiveness and proper registration of relevant land and property mortgage agreements, etc.;
- Advising a Polish manufacturer of paints and varnishes on the payment of quarterly and annual bonuses to Belarusian distributors: assessing tax risks, formulation of proposals for the legal formalization of payments;
- Structuring transactions between parent and subsidiary companies on debt offset and restructuring, as well as the corporate governance system;
- Legal support in a transaction for the sale of shares of a Belarusian bank for a total amount of over USD 11 mln;
- Advising an entity providing services in the field of agro eco-tourism on the organization of settlements with consumers (individuals and legal entities) through the website;
- Advising a large European dairy producer on the issue of granting company’s shares to employees, as well as the procedure for registering shares as foreign securities under Belarusian law;
- Review of several facility agreements on compliance with mandatory provisions of the Laws of Georgia to be entered by one of the largest Chinese financial Institutions with Georgian entities;
- Review of an aircraft operating lease draft agreement on its compliance with mandatory provisions of the Laws of Georgia;
- Providing legal assistance with IPO prospectus for energy company operating one of the hydro power plants in West Georgia, reviewing and drafting the document further to the applicable laws of Georgia;
- Compliance analysis of products of one of the international providers of payment services on their compliance with the Laws of Georgia;
- Advised First Heartland Jusan Bank on indirect acquisition of a major stake in Optima Bank OJSC, one of the leading banks in the Kyrgyz Republic. Advised the client on obtaining National Bank’s preliminary consent for the indirect purchase of bank’s shares;
- Advising the EBRD on the assessment of corporate governance legislation in the Kyrgyz Republic. Filling in an extensive questionnaire on regulation pertaining to the state-owned enterprises in Kyrgyzstan;
- Advised a US investor on M&A a local bank with further merger with the investor’s bank in Kyrgyzstan. The deal now is on structuring stage;
- ACDI/VOCA instructed us to conduct a legal research of the current banking laws and regulations to identify opportunities to fit variable payment obligations (VPO) in the financial institutions’ product range without any reforms in legislation;
Advising one of the top Central American investment funds in connection with the acquisitions of two local Moldovan private state companies in two transactions exceeding EUR 42 mln. Legal assistance covered conducting an extensive due-diligence of the targets;

Representing banks and Banking Association of the Republic of Moldova in the Economic Counsel of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova and providing advice on money laundering and personal data protection issues;

Advising a leading Moldovan Construction company in connection with a PPP project with Leova Municipality and The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), regarded as one of the most complex integrated greenfield projects developed in Moldova to date. Project valued at EUR 3.5 mln;

Zarafshan wind project financed by EBRD and IFC performed by Masdar. Advising the project’s Lenders (EBRD, IFC and ADB) and carrying out analysis of applicable legislation regulating energy and investment sectors, review and analysis of draft GSA/investment agreement and draft power purchase agreement (PPA), preparation of table of non-compliances and risks arising from draft agreements and preparing the recommendations to mitigate risks (2021);

Assistance to CGGC International main contractor to ACWA Power in structuring their turn-key EPC contract for construction of the biggest in Central Asia 1,500 MW Syrdarya TES (combined cycle power plant). Our work constitutes advising on various licensing and regulatory issues, settling business migration issues, organizing works with subcontractors (2021);

Advising and acting for a consortium of leading French financial institutions on banking and finance and security matters in relation to a sovereign financing involving sale and purchase of European goods;

Advising a consortium of leading Chinese banks in connection with USD 3.5 bln syndicated secured loan transaction under the Central Asian Gas Pipeline project in Uzbekistan;

Advising on Uzbek law security matters in a major USD 4 bln oil and gas project finance transaction aiming to support upstream and downstream capacity under Surgil Gas Chemicals Project;

Legal support of the largest Chinese banks’ lending transactions with Russian banks, including due diligence of borrowers and issuing legal opinions on transactions;

Advising an international financial services company on the offering of non-registered shares of a US corporation in Russia;

Advising a major Chinese bank in connection with the proposed financing of construction of a manganese refining plant in Russia, including the due diligence of a corporate status and good standing of the borrower and the owner of the plant, the required approvals for construction and subsoil use;

Advising the international payment system on issues related to the launch of a new program of privileges for bank card holders;
• Consulting a Swiss bank on ensuring the financing of export transactions in the Russian Federation. Assistance in initiating a criminal case for non-repayment of a loan and loss of collateral collection of evidence for initiating a criminal case in Switzerland;

• Representing the interests of a consumer credit cooperative in legal disputes arising from investment contracts for the construction of a residential complex;

• Consulting of German bank on guarantees and sureties;

• Representing the interests of a German bank in the Russian arbitration court on countering the recognition of a security obligation as invalid;

• Advising on a regular basis major global development finance institutions such as European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Finance Corporation, Asian Development Fund, China Development Bank, as well as international banks, investments funds, and private companies on various financing instruments advanced to leading banks and major industrial enterprises in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan;

• Advising a local bank on refinancing granted to one of the largest manufacturers of confectionery products in Ukraine (including drafting transactional documentation and issuing the legal opinion in favor of the creditor);

• Advising one of the largest Ukrainian banks in connection with attracting a trade finance line from the International Financial Organization;

• Advising a client in the process of withdrawing an insolvent Ukrainian bank from the market with a view to its further acquisition by the group;

• Advising the Management Board and the Supervisory Board of the bank on current activities and regulatory aspects of banks' activities in Ukraine.
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</table>
GRATA International is a dynamically developing international law firm which provides services for projects in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: full coverage of the entire region with network of offices, highly qualified team of professionals suited for cross-border projects. Firm’s reputation and expertise are confirmed by testimonials from transnational clients and leading international ratings.

A wide network of office operating under one system and platform delivers great convenience for our clients. Any office can act as a “one-stop-shop” for its clients and provide them with access to services in other cities and countries. If necessary, inter-office teams with relevant experience are assembled to provide solutions to complex tasks. Service quality is assured by a clear system of organisation of this process.

GRATA International is present in the following jurisdictions: Azerbaijan (Baku), Armenia (Yerevan), Belarus (Minsk), Georgia (Tbilisi), Kazakhstan (Aktau, Almaty, Atyrau, Nur-Sultan, and other cities), Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek), Moldova (Chisinau), Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar), Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Rostov-on-Don, Samara), Tajikistan (Dushanbe), Turkey (Istanbul), Uzbekistan (Tashkent), Ukraine (Kyiv).

In addition to its offices, GRATA International has representatives in the UK (London), Germany (Frankfurt), the USA (New York), China (Beijing, Hong Kong), UAE (Dubai), Russia (Kazan), Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur) and Switzerland (Zürich), Turkmenistan (Ashgabat).

GRATA International is regularly acclaimed by leading international rankings: Chambers Global, Chambers Asia-Pacific, Legal 500, IFLR1000, WWL, Asialaw Profiles, and is featured in Deals of the Year Awards by China Business Law Journal.
Global Presence

Integrated Offices

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Georgia
Tbilisi

Kyrgyzstan
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Kuala Lumpur

Switzerland
Zurich

UAE
Dubai

UK
London

USA
New York

Local Knowledge for Global business