Intellectual property (IP) is one of the most valuable assets of any firm. Nevertheless, in a world of widespread piracy and strong tendencies for the unlawful use of intellectual property, the registration and protection of IP are strategically crucial to reducing unfair competition.
Our IP experts combine both the theory and the practice-based expertise to protect the rights of our clients. We have significant experience in IP rights protection, including assistance with national and international registration of trademarks (brands, trade names) on behalf of local and foreign companies; advising on license and franchise agreements, and drafting of IP rights contracts.

Moreover, we have extensive experience in patenting inventions, utility models and industrial designs. Furthermore, our services also cover patent researches, protection of IP rights through the pre-trial process and representing international companies at the courts of various instances and state agencies.
Experience

- Registration of the license agreements for trademarks belonging to an international fast-food chain and elevator manufacturer in the United States with the competent authority, including addressing of requests of the state authority that could have prevented the registration;
- Providing comprehensive legal support in the registration of license agreement for trademarks with the competent authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan for elevator manufacturer;
- Advising on termination of the license agreement for the trademarks of a well-known brewing company, assisting with the registration of amendments on termination of the license agreement with the competent authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Successful pre-trial protection of the exclusive trademark rights of a large manufacturer of tobacco through sending claim letters to the infringers;
- Registration of goods containing well-known trademarks of a vodka company into the Customs Registry for the prevention of counterfeit goods imported into the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Successful appeal against the decision of the Intellectual Property Agency to the Appeal Board on the invalidation of the trademark registration in favour of a leading beverage company;
- Consultations on trademark invalidation and further protection of the IP rights of a famous Georgian lemonade company before the Board of Appeal and the local courts;
- Providing comprehensive legal support to a well-known international manufacturer of electrical equipment on the protection of a trademark and brand name in Belarus, including in the Appellate Council at the Patent Authority, in connection with unfair actions of a Belarusian manufacturer of similar equipment;
- Advising a major German waste management company, drafting an agreement on software development to automate the client's business processes in the field of logistics and waste processing;
- Legal support of the client in the preparation and approval of a license agreement to provide a non-exclusive right to use the software;
- Legal examination of a complex contract providing for the transfer of rights to software, its installation and adaptation and subsequent service support, as well as the supply of telecommunications and computer equipment;
- Registration of trademarks on local and international levels;
- Drafting and reviewing of license agreements;
- Representing clients' interests in litigation on intellectual property rights;
Experience

- Reviewing the status of trademarks registered in Georgia;
- Legal support in obtaining a patent for a computer system owned by an American company providing video, e-commerce and digital advertising services;
- Drafting and registration of franchise agreements for foreign companies, including an American franchisor of retail frozen yoghurt stores, a French clothing retailer, and an international manufacturer of designer clothing;
- Preparation of a legal opinion for an international manufacturer of musical equipment and other household and audiovisual devices on the legality of a requirement to pay remuneration for the free reproduction of phonograms and audiovisual works for personal purposes;
- Protecting trademarks of a large foreign FMCG company in the administrative court with further seizure and destruction of counterfeit goods;
- Advising the world’s largest brewing company on the exhaustion of trademark rights placed on metal kegs (‘parallel/grey imports’);
- Representing a foreign pharmaceutical company in a case of violation of exclusive rights to a trademark and recovery of compensation;
- Advising an American multinational company, one of the leaders in the global consumer goods market on registration of its trademarks in the customs register of intellectual property of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Advising a manufacturer of shaving and body care accessories on registration of its trademarks in the customs register of intellectual property of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Advising a British multinational company manufacturing cigarettes, tobacco and other nicotine products on registration and amendments to its trademark sub-license agreement in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Advising various foreign and national companies on trademark registration in the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Informational search for trademarks for foreign and national companies;
- Due-diligence of trademarks registered in Moldova;
- Advising on trademark protection procedure in Mongolia;
- Drafting a cease and desist letter for protection of trademark owner interests;
- Registering the license agreement between Oriflame Mongolia and Oriflame Kazakhstan;
Experience

- Acting for a leading Chinese construction equipment manufacturer and assisting in drafting and negotiating a Joint Venture Agreement with the Uzbek Railways to establish a joint venture on production of modern hydraulic excavators, drafting and negotiating a Trademark and Tradename License Agreement and Technology License agreement;
- Advising an American company, a leading chain of public catering restaurants, on intellectual property issues in violation of the exclusive right to a trademark;
- Representing the interests of an international bottled mineral water producer before the Uzbek antitrust authority and courts of Uzbekistan against manufacturers and sellers of counterfeit products;
- Representing and successfully defending a leading global group of alcohol producers in a lawsuit against the takeover of trademarks by a leading local importer, producer and seller of alcohol, as well as representing a client before the Agency on Intellectual Property of Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Development of franchise agreements and creative work agreements for new software for an IT startup (virtual reality);
- Facilitating a general franchise agreement between a fast-food restaurant chain (USA) and a Russian franchisee;
- Assisting with the inclusion of trademarks of a European medical equipment manufacturer in the customs register of intellectual property objects;
- Advising on state registration of a license agreement for trademarks of a European manufacturer of industrial equipment;
- Legal support for the transfer of assets of Planfix Inc (one of the largest platforms for creating an enterprise management system) from a legal entity of one jurisdiction to a US-based legal entity;
- Providing evidence of the origin and existence of the client's copyright on the objects that have been infringed (copyright courses and databases), as well as ensuring the confidentiality regime of objects for an international IT-company specialising in software development for automation and digital business transformation;
- Developing license options for inventions and utility models of a large production company, as well as building legal relations with a business partner on the issue of joint management of IP objects for the purpose of further joint project implementation;
- Obtaining proof of illegal use of the trademark in promotion of the site by a competitor and recovery of compensation for infringement of rights for a large manufacturing company in court to protect intellectual property rights;
Experience

- Representing a major confectionery manufacturer in a dispute on the protection of exclusive trademark rights;
- Drafting and registration of a franchise agreement, and preparation of a sub-franchise agreement for a local chain of Italian restaurants;
- Advising a local travel company on trademark registration;
- Assisting with registration of combined trademarks (service marks) for one of the largest operators of electric and thermal energy transmission services in the Rostov region;
- Protecting interests of Line LLC in a dispute with a competitor challenging the client’s rights to a patent in the Federal Institute of Industrial Property;
- Challenging violation of the exclusive rights of LLC “Line” in a dispute with two competitors in three court instances;
- Advising on the acquisition of a trademark and the implementation of settlements under the contract and state registration of the transfer of exclusive rights in the Federal Service for Intellectual Property;
- Advising on patenting the development of [PB1] in the field of nuclear energy with verification of a new technical solution for novelty and inventive level, as well as preparation of primary and auxiliary documents for filing an application with the Federal Service for Intellectual Property;
- Advising Yalla Classifieds OU international company on the violation of their copyright and the registration of their trademark “LALAFO” in Tajikistan;
- Advising Tetra Pak International S.A. on trademark license agreements and registration of license agreement with the Tajik Patent Office;
- Advising Procter & Gamble on the inclusion of its trademarks in the customs register of intellectual property of Tajikistan.
## KEY CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nune Hayrapetyan</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Yerevan, Armenia</td>
<td>T +374 9460 0210 E <a href="mailto:nhayrapetyan@gratanet.com">nhayrapetyan@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabnam Sadigova</td>
<td>Senior Associate</td>
<td>Baku, Azerbaijan</td>
<td>T +994 50 567 5295 E <a href="mailto:ssadigova@gratanet.com">ssadigova@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natallia Zhuk</td>
<td>Head of Legal Support of Foreign Economic Activity</td>
<td>Minsk, Belarus</td>
<td>T +375 29 373 5500 E <a href="mailto:nzhuk@gratanet.com">nzhuk@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofia Roinishvili</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Tbilisi, Georgia</td>
<td>T +995 32 292 1878 E <a href="mailto:sofia.roinishvili@gratanet.com">sofia.roinishvili@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timur Berekmoinov</td>
<td>Counsel</td>
<td>Almaty, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>T +7 701 731 2714 E <a href="mailto:tberekmoinov@gratanet.com">tberekmoinov@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurbol Kissembayev</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Aktau, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>T +7 701 718 3964 E <a href="mailto:aktau@gratanet.com">aktau@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elvira Maratova</td>
<td>Counsel</td>
<td>Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>T +996 312 31 4050 E <a href="mailto:emaratova@gratanet.com">emaratova@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liya Akzhanova</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan</td>
<td>T +7 701 523 8468 E <a href="mailto:lakzhanova@gratanet.com">lakzhanova@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolormaa Volodya</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar</td>
<td>T +976 990 850 31 E <a href="mailto:bvolodya@gratanet.com">bvolodya@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igor Popa</td>
<td>Senior Partner</td>
<td>Frankfurt, Main, Germany</td>
<td>T +49 69509565401 E <a href="mailto:ipopa@gratanet.com">ipopa@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasile Gherasim</td>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>Chisinau, Moldova</td>
<td>T +373 69 999 931 E <a href="mailto:vgherasim@gratanet.com">vgherasim@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igor Stepanov</td>
<td>Managing Partner</td>
<td>Rostov-on-Don, Russia</td>
<td>T +7 928 229 9596 E <a href="mailto:istepanov@gratanet.com">istepanov@gratanet.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Yana Dianova
Counsel
Moscow, Russia
T +7 906 734 6817
E ydianova@gratanet.com

Dmitry Samigullin
Managing Partner
Samara, Russia
T +7 927 692 0522
E dsamigullin@gratanet.com

Pavel Balyuk
Counsel, Advocate
Saint Petersburg, Russia
T +7 812 384 4838
E pbalyuk@gratanet.com

Valeriy Savva
Partner
Kiev, Ukraine
T +38 098 411 6611
E vsavva@gratanet.com

Gökmen Başpınar
Senior Partner
Turkey, Istanbul
T +90 212 465 6699
E gokmen.baspinar@gratanet.com

Atabek Sharipov
Partner
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
T +9 9890 370 1847
E asharipov@gratanet.com

Kamoliddin Mukhamedov
Counsel
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
T +992 44 620 4163
E kmukhamedov@gratanet.com
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**

- Azerbaijan
  - Baku
- Belarus
  - Minsk
- Georgia
  - Tbilisi
- Kazakhstan
  - Aktau
  - Almaty
  - Atyrau
  - Nur-Sultan, etc.
- Kyrgyzstan
  - Bishkek
- Moldova
  - Chisinau
- Mongolia
  - Ulaanbaatar
- Russia
  - Moscow
  - Rostov-on-Don
  - St. Petersburg
- Tajikistan
  - Dushanbe
- Turkmenistan
  - Ashgabat
- Uzbekistan
  - Tashkent
- Ukraine
  - Kyiv

**Associate Offices**

- Armenia
  - Yerevan
- Russia
  - Samara
- Turkey
  - Istanbul

**Representatives**

- China
  - Hong Kong
  - Beijing
- Germany
  - Frankfurt
- Malaysia
  - Kuala Lumpur
- Switzerland
  - Zurich
- UAE
  - Dubai
- UK
  - London
- USA
  - New York

Local Knowledge for Global business