



ABA Section of  
**International Law**  
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## Russia and Eurasia Committee Legislation Updates and News

June-August 2016

Dear Committee Members:

We are pleased to present to you this edition of the Russia and Eurasia Committee Newsletter – the first under the stewardship of a new newsletter Editorial Board. To begin, we would like to thank the outgoing Editorial Board – Anastasia Kovalevskaya, Michael Shapiro, and Vladislav Zabrodin – for all the hard work they have invested in the Newsletter, and to congratulate Anastasia and Michael on their new roles as Co-Chairs of the Russia and Eurasia Committee.

This edition of the Newsletter highlights two upcoming events that may be of interest to our Committee members: the Eighth Annual ABA Conference on the Resolution of International Business Disputes will take place in Moscow on September 30, 2016, and the Fourth Annual Eurasian Business Forum will take place in Chicago on November 3, 2016. Both events are organized by or with the participation of the ABA Section of International Law (SIL) and our Committee, and we hope that Committee members will be able to attend.

Recent events of interest include the Committee-sponsored seminar on US-Russia Business Relations and the SIL Leadership Retreat, both of which successfully brought together a number of attendees, the first in St. Petersburg and the second in Half Moon Bay, California. You can find the highlights of both events below.

As usual, this edition of the Newsletter discusses some recent developments in Russian corporate law. These include a new corporate requirement to identify and maintain records of beneficial owners, as well as amended definitions of “large-scale transactions” and “interested-party transactions” and the rules governing their approval. Another hot topic is the new data collection requirements imposed by the so-called “Yarovaya Law,” enacted in July of this year. Below, you will learn about compliance challenges for companies in the telecommunications industry stemming from the technical burdens of the new requirements, while another article highlights how public commentary regarding the Yarovaya Law relates to critiques of similar laws in several other countries.

The Newsletter ends with a round-up of several other recent legal developments in or affecting the Russia and Eurasia region.

We would like to thank our contributors to the current edition: Dmitry Lysenko, Baker & McKenzie – CIS, Anastasia Herasimovich, Baker & McKenzie LLP; Michael A. Shapiro, Bazelon Less & Feldman, P.C.; David Fishman, Visiting Scholar, George Mason University School of Policy; and Roman Buzko, Buzko & Partners. Our editorial board members, Evgeny Krasnov of Buzko & Partners, Michael Skopets and Ann Sultan of Miller & Chevalier Chartered, and Amanda Weir also contributed materials to this edition.

We encourage Committee members worldwide to contribute to upcoming editions of the Newsletter!

Evgeny Krasnov  
Michael Skopets  
Ann Sultan  
Amanda Weir

## **Eighth Annual ABA Conference on the Resolution of International Business Disputes in Moscow, September 30, 2016**

**Who Should Attend?** Litigators, Corporate Counsel, Arbitration Practitioners, Judges, Academics, Business Executives and Policy-Makers.

**Network:** Meet colleagues from around the world and expand your network during networking breakfast, networking breaks, luncheon and reception, all of which are included with the registration fee.

**CLE:** Earn up to 7.5 CLE credit hours. For delegates from other countries where CPD/CLE is mandatory, the ABA will be pleased to provide a Uniform Certificate of Attendance which, subject to the exact CPD/CLE requirements of your bar association/law society, may be used to obtain the equivalent accreditation in your jurisdiction.

**Register:** Visit [ambar.org/ilmoscow16](http://ambar.org/ilmoscow16) to register.

**Hotel Accommodations:** The Section has reserved a special nightly rate at The Radisson Royal Moscow. To request a copy of the booking form, please email [here](#) to secure your room online.

Join the conversation online with the hashtag #ABAMoscow16

## **Fourth Annual Eurasian Business Forum in Chicago, November 3, 2016**

*(Anastasia Herasimovich, Baker & McKenzie LLP)*

On November 3, 2016, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eurasian Business Forum will take place in Chicago as part of a series of business forums organized by the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International and Baker & McKenzie LLP to address issues affecting business relations between the United States and countries of the former Soviet Union. The ABA Section of International Law has confirmed its partnership status for the event.

The main purpose of the program is to exchange ideas about U.S. companies doing business in former Soviet Union countries. While realistically assessing the current political and economic climate, the program will focus on positive trends and sectors that continue to attract U.S. business interests, such as infrastructure and technology. The panelists will discuss key issues and trends of the investment climate in the Eurasian region as well as challenges and opportunities of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Finally, the program will also provide an opportunity for reputable Eurasian companies with a U.S. presence to share their successes and lessons learned.

Following the Eurasian Business Forum, guests are invited to a black-tie Gala hosted by the Moscow Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Aleksandra Efimova at [ae@aleksandra.com](mailto:ae@aleksandra.com) or 312-678-5000. Information on individual tickets for the Eurasian Business Forum and the Gala can be found here: [http://chicagosistercities.com/upcoming\\_event/4th-annual-urasian-business-forum/](http://chicagosistercities.com/upcoming_event/4th-annual-urasian-business-forum/).

## **Successful Committee-Sponsored Seminar on US-Russia Business Relations in St. Petersburg in June**

On the heels of the Philadelphia forum in May, the second event in the series of Committee-sponsored seminars on U.S.-Russia business relations took place in St. Petersburg on June 16, 2016. The seminar, titled "New Opportunities for National and Foreign Companies in Russia in Light of Import Replacement and Global De-Offshorization," was organized by Committee members, Vladislav Zabrodin and Elena Beier, and their respective law firms, Capital Legal Services and Beier and Partners. The seminar was co-sponsored by the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia and the St. Petersburg International Business Association.

The Seminar, which took place on the first day of the St. Petersburg Economic Forum, was a great success and attracted about 50 attendees, including lawyers, business representatives, and members of academic institutions. The two panels, moderated by Vladislav and Elena, included prominent Russian attorneys and business executives. The panelists discussed practical issues of localization in the pharmaceutical and automotive industries, as well as in information technology. They also discussed the issue of global de-offshorization and its effect on Russia, the European Union, and the United States. Pictures from the St. Petersburg seminar are available [here](#).

## **ABA Section of International Law Leadership Retreat in Half Moon Bay, California**

*(David Fishman, Visiting Scholar, George Mason University School of Policy, Gov't & Int'l Affairs)*

Approximately 150 ABA SIL leaders, along with people intending to or considering becoming more active in the Section, gathered from literally all over the world at the Ritz-Carlton on August 3-5. The agenda combined learning about the operation of SIL with professional networking in formal meetings and informal receptions, plus social events – opportunities for horseback riding, coastal beach touring, wine-tasting, tennis, and various lawn games in the mixture of sun and fog that make Half Moon Bay special.

The primary purpose of the Retreat's program, which provided information-sharing and context for both veterans and first-time attendees, was to inform participants about how the various Section Committees and other components of the ABA work. Outgoing SIL Chair Lisa Savitt, incoming SIL Chair Sara Sanford, and other key SIL Bar leaders from the House of Delegates, various functional areas – Liaisons, Policy Membership, Programming, and Publications – and issue areas such as rule-of-law and diversity, gave excellent informative presentations. Even those who have attended these Retreats in the past gained new ideas about how we, as SIL members and also Russia and Eurasia Committee participants, can advance professional objectives we may have organizationally while building our Committee in terms of membership and programs and strengthening SIL and the Bar as a whole.

The Russia and Eurasia Committee was represented at the Retreat by Co-Chairs Pamela Egan, Anastasia Kovalevskaya, Michael Shapiro, and the author of this note, a vice-chair of the Committee. Our Committee's level of participation was quite respectable among the 60 + regional and practice-specific committees, task forces, and working groups that make up the Section. Meeting in person also allowed Pam, Anastasia, and Michael to further flesh out the Committee's vice-chairs' roster and business plan for 2017, building on an already significantly expanded set of Committee panels at regular meetings; special events in both the U.S. (Philadelphia) and Russia (St. Petersburg), with others pending; and other efforts of which we can all be proud. Special kudos to Anastasia for traveling all the way from Moscow for the Retreat!

Leadership Retreat attendees were also afforded the opportunity to sit in on the ABA SIL Council meeting discussions of policy at the Annual Meeting on Friday morning in San Francisco at the St. Regis Hotel. Included among the debates on a variety of policy matters scheduled to come before the ABA House of Delegates for possible formal action were discussions on recent troubling developments in the rule-of-law area in China and in Turkey.

## **Developments in Russian Corporate Law**

*(Roman Buzko, Buzko & Partners)*

The first half of 2016 witnessed two important developments in Russian corporate law. First, Russian companies are now required to identify their beneficial owners. Second, the rules for approval of large-scale and interested-party transactions were rewritten. A brief overview of these developments follows.

### *Beneficiaries*

Russian companies are now obliged to identify and keep a record of their beneficial owners. A beneficial owner is defined as "a person who ultimately directly or indirectly owns (possesses a major participation interest of more than 25% of the share capital of) a legal entity, or is able to control its actions." In particular, companies are now required to: (1) possess information on the company's beneficial owners; (2) undertake all reasonable and available measures to obtain complete information on their name, citizenship, date of birth, passport data and immigration documents, address, and taxpayer identification number; (3) update such information not less than once a year; (4) retain such information for a minimum of 5 years; and (5) provide supporting documents upon the request of competent authorities.

This general duty of identification has been strengthened by introducing penalties for failure to comply in the form of a fine of up to RUB 500,000 (approx. USD \$8,000)

The respective amendments have been introduced into Federal Act No. 115-FZ “On Combating Legalization (Laundering) of Illegally Gained Income and Financing of Terrorism” by [Federal Act No. 424-FZ dated December 30, 2015](#), and will enter into force on December 10, 2016.

#### *Approval of Large-Scale and Interested-Party Transactions*

Rules for approval of large-scale and interested-party transactions have been amended and harmonized for Russian limited liability companies and joint-stock companies. The new rules are effective January 1, 2017.

##### (1) Large-Scale Transactions

The definition of large-scale transactions has shifted from a firm threshold of 25% of a company’s assets to a more sophisticated combination of criteria: a transaction is deemed large-scale if it is outside the company’s ordinary course of business, i.e. it results in the business being terminated or materially altered, as well as exceeds the 25%-threshold. The law also now clearly states that large-scale transactions may be entered into on the condition that approval would subsequently be granted either by the board or shareholders. As before, the board is only entitled to resolve on a large-scale transaction not exceeding 50% of a company’s assets. A transaction that was not approved may be challenged by the company, a member of the board, or the shareholders themselves. In the absence of clear criteria, practitioners are well-advised to monitor the developing case law on this issue.

##### (2) Interested-Party Transactions

The scope of interested-party transactions has also been adjusted. In contrast to the currently applicable criterion of “affiliation,” the new law designates “control” as a qualifier. In practical terms, this will significantly limit the scope of interested-party transactions, since control is only established by a 50% threshold, as opposed to a lower threshold of 20% in the case of affiliation. In addition, the law has abolished the requirement of prior approval and shifted its focus to reporting and subsequent control.

For both types of transactions, the rules on challenging transactions have been amended. To bring a claim, a shareholder (or group of shareholders) must hold no less than 1% of the company’s share capital. Prior to the new law, there was no such threshold. Other amendments relate to the burden of proof and the cause of action. For instance, the claimant must now prove that the other party to a transaction was aware or should have been aware of the required approval, whereas before that such awareness was presumed and the lack thereof could have been invoked by the respondent.

The respective amendments have been introduced into Articles 45 and 46 of Federal Act No. 14-FZ “On Limited Liability Companies”, as well as into Chapters X and XI of Federal Act No. 208-FZ “On Joint-Stock Companies” by [Federal Act No. 343-FZ dated July 3, 2016](#).

#### Text of the Law:

[Federal Act No. 424-FZ dated December 30, 2015](#), amending Federal Act No. 115-FZ “On Combating Legalization (Laundering) of Illegally Gained Income and Financing of Terrorism” (Russian);

[Federal Act No. 343-FZ dated July 3, 2016](#), amendment to Articles 45 and 46 of Federal Act No. 14-FZ “On Limited Liability Companies” and Chapters X and XI of Federal Act No. 208-FZ “On Joint-Stock Companies” (Russian);

#### Selected Resources and Publications:

CMS Client Alert: [The Amendments to the Corporate Law](#) (2016) (English).

## The Yarovaya Law: Comparative Law Perspective

(Amanda Weir)

On July 7, 2016, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law new counter-terrorism [legislation](#) commonly referred to as the “[Yarovaya Law](#),” after its principal sponsor, Duma member Irina Yarovaya. Key provisions of the legislative package ([Federal Law No. 374-FZ](#)) include [requirements](#) for telecommunications providers to retain communication data for up to six months and metadata for up to three years, provide authorities with [information](#) on users, and assist authorities with [decoding](#) the data provided. The legislation also places [restrictions](#) on religious activities outside of designated places of worship. The Yarovaya legislation raises concerns regarding [civil liberties](#) and religious freedom in Russia, and is viewed by many as a crackdown on freedom and an attack on [political dissension](#) in the guise of a counter-terrorism measure. However, many provisions of the Yarovaya Law, particularly those related to data collection, echo legislation enacted in other countries, reflecting a broader tension between civil liberties and national security concerns.

In response to the increasing threat of terrorism at home and abroad, many nations have passed counter-terrorism legislation paired with extensive data collection and monitoring programs, which have been the subject of extensive criticism. For instance, [China’s 2015](#) counter-terrorism bill, with its authorization of expanded electronic surveillance, cell phone monitoring, and a broad definition of “terrorism,” was [viewed with concern by Western nations](#) because of the law’s potentially adverse effect on civil liberties. The debate over mandatory retention of call records by telecommunications companies is certainly well known to citizens of the [United Kingdom](#), where the passage of the [Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014 \(DRIPA\)](#) was met with a robust legal challenge, followed by rulings from the [UK High Court of Justice](#) and the [European Court of Justice](#) curtailing the reach of the law. Similarly, in Australia, a [Telecommunications Bill](#) passed in March 2016 [requires telecommunications firms](#) to retain data for two years, [eliciting concerns](#) by human rights and civil liberties advocates. And, in the United States, the National Security Agency’s (NSA) [surveillance efforts](#), including programs such as [PRISM](#) (a mass data collection program revealed by Edward Snowden), caused outrage and resulted in an ongoing [debate](#) over the [legality](#) and [efficacy](#) of such methods.

Much of the existing commentary on the Yarovaya Law largely seems to ignore this international trend, instead singling out Russia as a bad actor. Undoubtedly, Russia’s new legislation is concerning, ripe for abuse that may further undermine freedom in a country often criticized for its repressive measures. However, even a brief review of similar legislation in other nations, as set forth above, reveals that this focus on data surveillance is not unique to Russia. Instead, the concerns raised by Russia’s new law should serve to reinvigorate the debate regarding the global trend in counter-terrorism legislation that is steadily undermining civil liberties worldwide.

### Text of the law:

Russian Text of [Federal Law No. 374-FZ](#), “Yarovaya Law”

### Legislative history of the Law

### Selected Publications:

Latham & Watkins LLP Global Privacy & Security Compliance Blog: Ksenia Koroleva, [“Yarovaya” Law – New Data Retention Obligations for Telecom Providers and Arrangers in Russia](#) (2016);

The Moscow Times: Hannah Berkman, [Federation Council Approves Controversial Anti-Terrorism Laws](#) (2016);

CP World: Brandon Showalter, [Christians in Russia Fear KGB-Style Crackdowns After Putin Signs Law Banning Evangelism](#) (2016);

Reuters: Ben Blanchard, [China passes controversial counter-terrorism law](#) (2015);

ProPublica: Lauren Kirchner, [What’s the Evidence Mass Surveillance Works? Not Much](#) (2015);

CNN: Michael Clarke, [Why China's tough, new terrorism legislation could misfire](#) (2015);

The Guardian: Jemima Kiss, [Academics: UK 'Drip' data law changes are 'serious expansion of surveillance'](#) (2014);

The Guardian: Alex Hern, [British government 'breaking law' in forcing data retention by companies](#) (2014);

International Business Times: Aditya Tejas [Australia Authorizes Data Retention Law, Requires Telecom Companies To Store Data For 2 Years](#) (2015);

The Guardian: S. Ackerman, S. and D. Roberts, D., [NSA mass phone surveillance revealed by Edward Snowden ruled illegal](#) (2015);

Computer Weekly: Warwick Ashford, [US telecoms companies say proposed NSA reforms fall short](#) (2014);

Washington Post: Timothy Lee, [Here's everything we know about PRISM to date](#) (2013);

AFP: Michael Mathes, [Obama signs new curbs on NSA surveillance into law](#) (2015);

The Huffington Post: Tanya Lokshina, [Draconian Law Rammed Through Russian Parliament](#) (2016);

The New York Times: Ivan Nechepurenko, [Russia Moves to Tighten Counterterrorism Law; Rights Activists See Threat to Freedoms](#) (2014).

## **The Yarovaya Law: Compliance Issues in the Telecommunications Industry**

*(Amanda Weir)*

As discussed above, the Yarovaya Law ([Russian Federal Law No. 374-FZ](#)), a legislative package designed to combat terrorism, has met with opposition from human rights advocates and business interests alike. The telecommunications industry is especially affected by the law, which imposes onerous requirements for data retention and access to user data. Under the law, telecommunications providers (which include [licensed entities](#) that send, receive, process, or store communications) must [maintain user data](#) for Russians on servers physically within Russia, retain user content (including pictures, texts, audio, and video) for six (6) months, [store metadata](#) (the details on when, where and to whom calls, texts and e-mails were sent) for up to three (3) years, provide [user information](#) to state authorities as deemed necessary by the authorities, and provide the Federal Security Service (FSB) with the means to access user data that has been encrypted. The law affects internet providers, mobile phone operators, and [social media](#) platforms. The law has been met with pushback from the industry, with many companies pointing out that they [lack the technical capability](#) to comply and, in some cases involving third parties, companies may be unable to comply. Other companies have balked at providing the government with access to user data. Non-compliant telecommunications providers could find their services blocked within Russia or [face a fine](#) of approximately USD \$15,000 USD.

Implementing the law will be costly and require telecommunications firms to invest in significant expansion of their technical infrastructure. The cost of implementing the law, including new equipment and support costs, is uncertain at this stage, with [estimates](#) by industry insiders ranging from USD \$35 billion to \$80 billion. Adherence to the law may result in increased [prices](#) for consumers, with rates for mobile [telecom companies](#) seeing as much as a 300% increase.

Lawmakers have acknowledged that there is a current lack of [infrastructure](#) necessary to comply with the [new regulations](#), and discussions regarding possible revisions to the law may already be underway. Although several of the key provisions are not scheduled to take effect until 2018, the [effective date](#) may be pushed back even further to allow time for the necessary infrastructure to be put in place.

## Selected Resources and Publications:

Electronic Frontier Foundation: Eva Galperin and Danny O'Brien, [Russia Asks For The Impossible With Its New Surveillance Laws](#) (2016);

JD Supra: Ksenia Koroleva, "[Yarovaya" Law – New Data Retention Obligations for Telecom Providers and Arrangers in Russia](#)." (2016);

The Global Legal Monitor: Peter Roudik, [Russia: New Electronic Surveillance Rules](#) (2016);  
Real Russia Today: [Putin signed the "Yarovaya's law"](#) (2016);

Russia Beyond the Headlines: Yekaterina Sinelschikova, [Russia's strict new anti-terror laws: What is the debate about?](#) (2016).

## **Eurasia and Russia Legal Round-Up** (Amanda Weir)

### Russia alleges price fixing by Apple, Inc. and Apple resellers

In August, Russia's Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) announced that it is formally [investigating](#) Apple, Inc. to determine if it violated Russian price fixing laws, specifically Part 5, Article 11 of the Law "On Protection of Competition." The FAS claims that Apple's model 6s and 6s Plus iPhones were [priced](#) identically at resellers in Russia. While Apple denies the accusations, if the FAS determines that Apple engaged in price fixing, Apple may face substantial [fines](#). This action by [the FAS](#) comes on the heels of its USD \$6.75 million fine levied against Google for engaging in anti-competitive behavior related to the [Google](#) search engine, apps, and other services on its Android platform. That fine was upheld by the Moscow Arbitration Court in March 2016.

### Moldovan banks under greater scrutiny

Moldova's [banking system](#) is in the spotlight as questions regarding the role of Moldovan banks in money laundering and fraud gain attention. Claims outlined in recent news reports, as well as comments made in July by a former Moldovan [official](#), include [allegations](#) of offshore companies siphoning money from banks, the bribery of officials, and endemic corruption. Given that the Moldovan banking system has received significant financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), some are calling for an IMF [inquiry](#) into the allegations.

### Eurasian Economic Union (EEU/EAEU) seeks stronger trade ties with Iran

The Eurasian Economic Union continues to seek closer trade ties with Iran. In May 2016, representatives from Iran's Trade Promotion Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)—which includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia—[met](#) to discuss [promoting trade](#) between the EEU and Iran, including through the establishment of a free trade zone (FTZ).

### Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) in talks to establish a new Free Trade Zone

In May 2016, the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continued discussions regarding the establishment of a [free trade zone](#) (FTZ) to [facilitate trade](#) and relations among the groups' member states. The parties will first engage in a feasibility study, with Russian representatives from the EEU estimating that it will take about three (3) years to [establish](#) the FTZ.

The EEU comprises Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Armenia. ASEAN's member states are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Representatives from the EEU and ASEAN say that a [free trade zone](#) will make cross-border trade between member countries easier and cheaper.

## Kazakhstan: Romania freezes KazMunaiGas (KMG) shares in Petromidia

At the end of July 2016, KazMunaiGas (KMG), Kazakhstan's state oil company, mounted a legal challenge after Romania froze KMG's shares in the Petromidia refinery as Romanian officials probed [allegations](#) of wrongdoing by KMG. Allegations against KMG included tax evasion, fraud, money laundering, and outstanding debts related to its [acquisition](#) of Petromidia. KMG denies any wrongdoing in the matter.

### Selected Resources and Publications:

Bloomberg: Ilya Khrennikov, [Russia Fines Google \\$6.75 Million Over Android Mobile Dominance](#) (2016);

Daily Herald: [Kazakh state oil company starts legal case against Romania](#) (2016);

Digital Trends: Kyle Wiggers, [Russian court finds Google guilty of anti-competitive practices](#) (2016);

Eurasia News Online: [ASEAN considering Free Trade Deal with EAEU \(Eurasian Economic Union\)](#) (2016);

European Dialogue: [KazMunaiGas Threatens Action over Romania refinery seizure](#) (2016)

Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation (FAS): [FAS Russia initiated proceedings on price fixing for iPhones](#) (2016);

Federal Antimonopoly Service of the Russian Federation (FAS): [The Court: Google violated antimonopoly legislation](#) (2016);

Islamic Republic News Agency: [Iran, Eurasia Economic Union hold first meeting on free trade](#) (2016);

The Iran Project: [Putin indicates Russia wants Iran in EEU](#)(2016);

Radio Free Europe: [Former Anticorruption Official Calls For International Probe Into Fraud That Left Moldova Reeling](#) (2016); Tass Russian News Agency: [ASEAN, EAEU favor setting up free trade zone —minister](#) (2016);

The Times of Central Asia: [Russia and ASEAN take first step to create EEU-ASEAN free trade zone](#) (2016);

UK Parliament: Lord Astor of Hever. [Moldova: Banks: Written question - HL983](#) (2016);

The World Post: Luke Coffey, [IMF Caught in Moldova's Corruption Vortex, Time For The West To Wake Up](#) (2016);

Yahoo Tech: Kyle Wiggers, [Russian agency investigating Apple for alleged price-fixing on iPhones](#) (2016).



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We appreciate your comments and suggestions regarding the contents of this Newsletter.

If you would like to contribute or have any questions, please feel free to contact editorial board members:

[Evgeny Krasnov](#), [Michael Skopets](#), [Ann Sultan](#), and [Amanda Weir](#)

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The Russia and Eurasia Committee unites ABA members around the world who are interested in the countries of the Eurasian region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

The Committee focuses on issues relevant to the region and, through its activities, promotes dialogue and cooperation between legal professionals in business, academic, non-profit, and government spheres.

The Committee's current particular emphasis has been on legal issues relating to Russia and U.S.-Russian relations. However, the Committee welcomes a broad range of projects and members.

**Co-Chairs:**

[Pamela Egan](#)

[Anastasia Kovalevskaya](#)

[Michael Shapiro](#)

For more information, including access to the Committee's publications and other resources, please visit the Committee's [website](#).