Nikolai Lazarev



Year of Call: 2010
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Commercial

Nikolai Lazarev specialises in international commercial litigation, arbitration, corporate finance, capital markets and sovereign wealth, offering a broad range of specialist legal and transactional advice. He advises leading enterprises and financial institutions as well as ultra-high-net-worth individuals and family offices on complex, often high-value, multi-jurisdictional and culturally sensitive disputes, projects and transactions, with particular experience in claims arising across the technology, infrastructure and logistics sectors.

Nikolai has extensive experience in a broad spectrum of complex cross-border commercial litigation, in particular, including:

- Joint ventures
- Company and partnership disputes
- Contractual disputes
- Misrepresentation
- Civil fraud
- Banking and finance
- Asset tracing and recovery
- Trust and claims against fiduciaries

International Commercial Litigation

- Acting for a co-defendant in a $6bn dispute involving a state-owned Central Asian Bank.
- Acting for a leading German re-insurance company in various re-insurance claims.
- Advising an international entrepreneur in his claim against a trading house in respect of losses arising from FX trading.
- Acting for the owner of a leading Russian supermarket chain in a breach of contract action against former business partners, including advice on obtaining a worldwide freezing order and other interim relief.
- Advising a leading Irish bank in a dishonoured Letter of Credit dispute with an Indian counterparty.

International Arbitration

Nikolai is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb). He has advised and acted for clients across multiple industries and jurisdictions in matters requiring a high degree of commercial awareness in culturally sensitive environments. He accepts instructions to sit as arbitrator in commercial arbitrations or to act as arbitration counsel in ad hoc and institutional arbitrations (e.g. ICC, LCIA, SCC, SIAC) under the principal arbitral rules.

Corporate Finance

- Advising Kazakh and Chinese state oil firms on the acquisition of one of the largest Kazakh upstream enterprises in a deal valued at $2.6bn.
- Advising a multinational renewable energy enterprise on a $1bn IPO with a private placement and subsequent rights issue.
- Advising a $1bn+ investor on the takeover of a leading European football club.
- Advising a London-listed Russian mining and exploration company on the acquisition of a major gold mine in South-eastern Russia.
- Advising a London-listed South American petroleum production and development company on fulfilling compliance requirements on the London Stock Exchange.
- Advising a London-listed media technologies corporation on an issuance of loan notes.

Banking & Finance

- Advising a leading international bank on a €400m Sukuk issuance.
- Advising the government of Turkey on its sovereign note issuance programme.
- Advising on a major financing of twenty fixed-wing aircraft for a Middle Eastern airline.
- Advising a leading UK bank on the financing of three fixed-wing aircraft and two Eurocopters.

Art & Artefacts

- Advising an art collector on the sale of a painting by Amedeo Modigliani raising complex aspects of provenance.
- Advising an art investor on the acquisition of a painting by Anthony van Dyck and dealing with issues of attribution and provenance.
- Advising an art dealer on the sale of a famous Andy Warhol artwork.
- Advising an art dealer on the acquisition of several Old Masters, raising complex issues around Nazi-looted art, provenance and title.
- Advising a leading international art gallery in its joint venture with an art collector and artist.

Academic qualifications

- 2001-2004: LLB (Hons) (UCL, London) with First Class in final dissertation
- 2004-2005: LLM (UCL, London) with Distinctions in two final dissertations
- 2006-2007: LPC (BPP Law School, London) with Commendation

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Called to the Bar in 2010 (England & Wales)
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- Solicitor (England & Wales)

Professional bodies

- Inner Temple
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb); Fellow (FCIArb)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

- Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)
- Bar European Group (BEG)
- Law Society of England & Wales
- Law Society (International Division)

Direct Access

Nikolai Lazarev is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public, corporations, financial institutions and professional clients under the Direct Access scheme.