

'About us

VB partners is the #1 White-Collar Crime boutique law firm in Ukraine with a strong presence in Dispute Resolution. We have been implementing uncompromising standards of legal service in the national market for 18 years.

Twenty-five fully-qualified attorneys in our team advocate on behalf of our clients when interacting with law enforcement agencies at all stages of white-collar crime cases. In addition, we defend individuals entrusted with prominent public functions (PEPs) in anti-corruption cases subject to increased public and media attention.

Our key expertise also extends to extradition and Interpol matters across the entire spectrum of cross-border investigations.

Resolution of legal disputes in national courts and arbitration institutions of all levels and jurisdictions constitutes another priority for VB partners. Government and regulatory disputes comprise a substantial portion of ongoing projects. Modern challenges demand high-caliber expertise in sanctions law.

We were among the first in Ukraine who managed to lift sanctions against non-resident companies both in court and administrative proceedings.

Our client list encompasses industrial giants, shareholders and top management of banks, leading Ukrainian companies, and international corporations.

'Our clients

Q Partners	British American Tobacco	Shareholders and
Immer Group	Continental Farmers Group	management of banks:
Kovalska Group	Colliers International	Ukrsibbank
Comfy	Snel Energy	Sense Bank
Farmak	Scania	Privatbank
UAF	Volvo	Finance and Credit
	Metro Cash&Carry	Delta Bank
		Khreshchatyk

'Recognition

- > Best Lawyers: the Criminal Defense **Law Firm of the Year**
- > Chambers Europe: among the leaders in Dispute Resolution: White-Collar Crime
- > WWL: in the **TOP-3** companies in the field of Business Crime Defense
- > Legal 500: TIER-1 in White-Collar Crime and TIER-3 in Dispute Resolution
- > 50 leading Ukrainian law firms: in the **TOP-2** companies in Criminal Law
- > Market leaders, Yurydychna Gazeta: **TOP Law Firm** in White-Collar Crime, Criminal Law and Business Protection

'White-Collar Crime

VB partners is the #1 White-Collar Crime boutique law firm with significant accolades from key rankings, a trendsetter in Ukraine.

We defend both legal entities and individuals facing criminal charges. Our attorneys also represent clients accused of misconduct. We excel in providing legal support in the cases of fraud, money laundering, asset theft, tax evasion, abuse of power and illicit enrichment.

Our project portfolio encompasses:

- defense of interests of Privatbank's top management on the fact of alleged embezzlement of the bank's funds in the amount of **UAH 136.8 million** by unjustified payment of remuneration to a related company;
- defense of the President of the Ukrainian Football Association, a member of the UEFA Executive Committee, in a comprehensive criminal investigation regarding abuses in constructing a factory producing artificial turf for football fields;
- defense of one of the largest retailers in the Ukrainian market in criminal proceedings related to the alleged tax evasion totaling **USD 1.5 million**;
- representation of the Dnipro Metallurgical Plant, owned by DCH Group, a mining and metallurgical complex leader, in investigating probable air pollution leading to environmental damage;
- defense of the interests of shareholders and top management of Delta Bank, one of the country's largest private banks, in a series of criminal investigations related to tax evasion, fraud, and embezzlement of assets, resulting in significant losses.

'Dispute Resolution

Our firm specializes in a diverse range of commercial law matters, including corporate disputes, arbitration, and bankruptcy. In particular, we handle intricate cases involving the State Property Fund, re-privatization, appeals against the National Bank's decisions on bank liquidation, tax litigation, and subsoil use issues.

Our expertise is not confined by the national borders. We successfully represent our clients before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Our project portfolio encompasses:

- representation of interests of a foreign investor in the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) against Ukraine. The compensation claims for damages concerned the expropriation of assets exceeding **UAH 33.4 billion** by Ukraine;
- representation of interests of shareholders of Khreschatyk, Premium, and Misto Bank in legal disputes related to the annulment of decisions to liquidate banks enacted by the National Bank of Ukraine and the Deposit Guarantee Fund;
- representation of Scania, one of the largest European truck manufacturers, in legal disputes with dealers with the total amount surpassing **UAH 300 million**;
- successful protection of interests of one of Europe's largest non-ferrous metallurgy enterprises in Europe in a legal dispute related to recovering non-material damage in the amount of **UAH 9.2 billion**, purportedly caused by the adverse environmental impact of the client's economic activities;
- representation of interests of a shareholder of Bank Finance and Credit in a legal dispute initiated by the Deposit Guarantee Fund to recover damages amounting to **UAH 46 billion**.

'Interpol Extradition

The firm's attorneys have extensive experience in obtaining successful decisions to refuse to include clients into Interpol lists or to exclude their names thereof, both independently and in partnership with foreign colleagues.

We deal with a significant number of projects with an aim to prevent extradition. Our firm is widely recognized for our expertise in handling extradition arrest appeals and providing unparalleled courtroom representation throughout extradition proceedings. We have experience in key jurisdictions, including Poland, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, France and Cyprus.

Our project portfolio encompasses:

- › protection of interests of the beneficial owner of the Bank Credit and Finance during extradition initiated by the Prosecutor General. The French court further underscored the lack of a guarantee for a fair trial in Ukraine and denied extradition;
- › defense of the former Chairman of the Board of PrivatBank upon request from the National Anti-Corruption Bureau regarding an Interpol red notice. We demonstrated the political motives behind the persecution and the lack of purpose for the notice;
- › representation of interests of the former Deputy Minister of Justice in a case involving the refusal of extradition from Austria. We have proven the impossibility of extradition in a time of war and Ukraine's inability to ensure the right to defense;
- › representation of interests of the VIM Union's partner in a case pertaining to extradition from Ukraine. In court proceedings, we substantiated the client's Ukrainian citizenship, thereby eliminating the prospect of extradition.

'Anti-corruption

Attorneys of VB partners are highly experienced in navigating complex corruption investigations, handling matters relating to declarations of individuals entrusted with prominent public functions (PEPs), and delivering comprehensive anti-corruption compliance solutions. We effectively protect and represent clients' interests before anti-corruption authorities and the High Anti-Corruption Court.

Our project portfolio encompasses:

- › defense of the senior management of the Privatbank in criminal proceedings pertaining to the embezzlement of property by an official and resulting in losses amounting to **UAH 8.4 billion** investigated by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine;
- › defense of former employees of structural units of the National Nuclear Energy Generating Company Energoatom in criminal proceedings investigated by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. The proceedings pertain to the alleged misappropriation of state funds amounting to **UAH 5.5 billion** when purchasing equipment for nuclear power plants;
- › defense of the former Minister of Energy of Ukraine in criminal proceedings pertaining to the purported declaration of inaccurate information exceeding **UAH 35 million**;
- › defense of the former Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine in a criminal case relating to the suspected embezzlement of **UAH 54 million**;
- › defense of the Deputy Head of the Kyiv City State Administration in criminal proceedings regarding the alleged abuse of powers when allotting land plots which resulted in losses amounting to **UAH 1.5 billion**.

'Sanctions

Attorneys at VB partners are leading and acknowledged experts in sanctions law in Ukraine. The firm's unrivalled ability to successfully handle intricate sanctions cases is exemplified by a string of successful results.

After an exhaustive examination of the grounds for sanctions against a business, we meticulously devise an effective strategy of appeal either on the merits or procedural nuances.

Within our practice, we excel in lifting sanctions against foreign companies and non-residents in court. Our attorneys were one of the first in Ukraine to achieve a groundbreaking milestone by securing a favorable Supreme Court's decision to lift sanctions against an EU company in 2020.

In addition, we handle property confiscation and nationalization disputes. We safeguard business interests of companies inadvertently included in sanctions lists that **do not support the armed aggression of the russian federation**.

Our project portfolio encompasses:

- representation of the group of companies, a globally renowned international brand in the gaming business, which has been operating in the market for over 20 years, before the Supreme Court in a matter of lifting of personal special economic and other restrictive measures;
- successful defense of a Ukrainian resident, owner of 33.35% of the corporate rights of a company that possesses one of the largest shopping and entertainment centers in Ukraine, Ocean Plaza, in resolving the issue of recovering corporate rights for the benefit of the state;
- representation of the interests of a Cypriot company, part of an energy group and owning a network of gas stations and oil depots in Ukraine, in the Supreme Court regarding the cancellation of personal economic and other restrictive measures;
- representation of interests of a group of companies that provide fiduciary, trust and fund services to individual and corporate clients before the Supreme Court. This case pertains to the imposition of a non-exhaustive list of sanctions on five legal entities in a group over a period of fifty years;
- representation of interests of the former senior manager of the international financial group BNP Paribas in a lawsuit concerning lifting of sanctions imposed for a period of 10 years.

The key point: As a matter of principle, we refuse to cooperate with residents of the russian federation.

'Leaders of the firm



Denys Bugay, Co-Founding Partner, Head of White-Collar Crime Practice

He specialises in comprehensive criminal proceedings, business defence, anti-corruption investigations and complex litigation.

His key expertise lies in providing legal support in criminal investigations relating to assets misappropriation, fraud, money laundering, abuse of power, and tax evasion.

He is particularly focused on the banking sector. The expertise of Denys is exemplified by dozens of successfully handled cases of defending bank shareholders and top managers. His guidance is sought by shareholders and supervisory board members of the largest banks with major capital in their disputes with the National Bank of Ukraine, the Deposit Guarantee Fund, and law enforcement agencies.

Denys is an expert in extradition and Interpol matters who provides comprehensive legal support at all stages of cross-border investigations, regardless of the jurisdictional boundaries.

Key recognitions:

- › Best Lawyers: Lawyer of the Year in Criminal Defense 2022
- › Chambers Europe: among the TOP-5 White-Collar Crime lawyers in Ukraine
- › Legal 500: among the top-leaders of the White-Collar Crime practice
- › Ukrainian Legal Awards: Best Criminal Lawyer 2018; WCC & Anti-Corruption Lawyer of the Year 2021



Volodymyr Vashchenko, Co-founding Partner, Head of Dispute Resolution Practice

Volodymyr is an expert in complex litigation cases with a Ukrainian component in various legal forums, including domestic courts and international judicial bodies.

He has an extensive experience in providing legal support to investors in disputes involving the government, regulatory and law enforcement agencies, with an emphasis on protecting investments from expropriation and safeguarding corporate interests.

Of particular note is the unparalleled experience in successfully appealing to the Supreme Court against sanctions imposed on European companies.

He also advises and represents investors in cases related to criminal investigations, at general meetings of shareholders, in out-of-court disputes with the authorities and in special control commissions of the Parliament.

Key recognitions:

- › Best Lawyers: highly recommended in Litigation and Tax
- › WWL: recommended in Commercial Litigation
- › The Client's Choice: highly recommended in Litigation and Private Clients practice; ranked among the TOP-100 best lawyers in Ukraine
- › Ukrainian Legal Awards: Lawyer of the Year in Tax disputes 2019



Anna Monakhova, Business Partner

For over 10 years, Anna has been shaping the BD strategy of VB partners as a leading White-Collar Crime law firm and streamlining the firm's policies.

Anna is particularly focused on talent management. HR strategy of VB partners is meticulously created to ensure the growth of every team member. An individualized approach is paramount to exceptional customer service.

Previous work experience includes leading the Sales and BD departments at a premier law firm with offices in Ukraine, Great Britain and Kazakhstan, as well as at one of the world's largest audit companies.

Key recognitions:

- PLS TOP TEAMS 2019: best niche law firm promotion specialist
- PLS TOP TEAMS 2020: best expert in digital communications in the legal area
- PLS TOP TEAMS 2023: VB partners in the top list of the best PR active firms



Oleksandr Lukianenko, Partner

He defends clients at all stages of criminal proceedings related to economic and corruption offences. Being a distinguished legal practitioner, Oleksandr effectively safeguards foreign investors from unlawful actions by contractors and state authorities. His track record includes securing the successful release of clients' seized assets, defending against hostile takeovers, and many more.

His core focus revolves around brand and business model protection from infringement and imitation by competitors and fraudsters by implementing strategies and tactics to deter unauthorized use or counterfeiting, as well as providing legal support in case of committed violations.

Key recognitions:

- Chambers Europe: recognised as Up & Coming in White-Collar Crime
- Legal 500: recognised among the Next Generation Partners in White-Collar Crime
- Best Lawyers: among the best experts in Criminal Defense, M&A and Real Estate
- WWL: recommended in Commercial Litigation



Denys Shkarovsky, Partner, Head of Investigations

Denys defends clients at all stages of criminal proceedings related to economic and corruption offences. The primary goal is to effectively protect business shareholders and top managers in cases of potential or existing suspicion. He provides legal advice to clients from diverse industries, including banking, infrastructure and construction, pharmaceuticals, and alternative energy.

He is skilled in asset tracing in foreign jurisdictions, as well as in investigations related to fraud, corruption and insider trading. Denys advocates for businesses affected by both internal and external fraud. He is highly experienced in conducting corporate investigations.

Expert in Sanctions Practice, who has proven his unique experience in securing favorable outcomes for both foreign companies and individuals under sanctions in judicial and administrative proceedings.

Key recognitions:

- Chambers Europe: recognised as Up & Coming in White-Collar Crime
- Legal 500: recognised as Next Generation in Dispute Resolution and White-Collar Crime
- Best Lawyers: recommended in Criminal Defense and Litigation
- WWL: in the list of leading lawyers in Business Crime Defence