



Rustam Kurmaev
Managing Partner

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Specialization

Rustam Kurmaev specializes in the resolution of commercial disputes, real-estate and construction disputes, corporate disputes, as well as disputes involving the criminal defense of business, systematically mounting a comprehensive defense strategy for corporate executives and top managers at all stages of the criminal process.

Armed with a significant amount of experience representing the interests of Russian and foreign companies at the commercial courts and courts of general jurisdiction, including the RF Supreme Commercial Court and RF Supreme Court, Rustam is a widely-recognized specialist on issues involving the execution of court rulings, both through the procedures envisioned by law (enforcement proceedings and bankruptcy), as well as through the application of alternative instruments (mediation).

Rustam Kurmaev is one of the toughest lawyers on the market. He is known for his professionalism in the criminal defense of business and legal support for companies in disputes with governmental authorities, including law enforcement agencies, and is a highly-regarded expert on issues involving the observance of anticorruption legislation (compliance).

Rustam Kurmaev was the winner of the **Client Choice Awards 2015-2016** in the nominating category "Russian Litigation," and also the winner of the **2015 Global Corporate Livewire Awards** in the category "Combatting Corruption and Promoting Compliance." He is listed as a top-recommended attorney in corporate compliance and investigation according to the publication **Global Investigation Review 100** for **2015**. For many years, Rustam has been a top-rated attorney in the field of dispute resolution according to the leading global publications The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners. The **Legal 500 EMEA 2016** reports: "A key figure on the market is Rustam Kurmaev – an outstanding specialist in the handling of disputes at the Russian courts." **Chambers and Partners Europe 2017** recommends him as one of the best legal experts in his field: "Rustam Kurmaev represents the interests of large national companies in domestic corporate and commercial disputes, consults international corporations within the scope of financial disputes with their Russian partners. Yet another focus of Rustam's professional endeavors involves the criminal defense of business and internal investigations." As **Chambers and Partners Global 2018** emphasizes: "Rustam Kurmaev's expertise in the field of dispute resolution is highly valued on the market. He represents the interests of clients in both regulatory and commercial

disputes. Clients appreciate his practicality and pragmatism on business issues, adding that he “radiates calm.” He also represents the interests of corporate clients in the investigation of economic offences with criminal aspects.” The international legal directory Best Lawyers in Russia has from 2012 through 2018 consistently included Rustam Kurmaev on its list of the best Russian lawyers in the field of litigation, based on the consensus of the legal community of his peers.

Representative cases

Provided below are selected successful projects that Rustam has overseen:

- Successful representation of the interests of a Russian mining-and-metallurgical company in a dispute with its counterparty under consulting agreements and finished-product supply contracts for the total amount of RUB 12.7 bln;
 - Successful defense of the interests of an industrial enterprise in two disputes stemming from supply contracts for the total amount of RUB 11 bln;
 - Successful representation of the interests of a major construction company in a case involving the recovery from a contractor of USD 2.5 mln in damages and penalties arising from substandard construction work;
 - Successful defense of the general director of an industrial holding in a criminal case involving the suspected embezzlement of a RUB 2.7 bln loan;
 - Successful defense of the beneficiary of a large industrial holding in a criminal case involving charges of attempted commercial bribery in the amount of USD 300,000;
 - Defense of the interests of a Russian mining-and-metallurgical company and its beneficiary against claims of subsidiary liability in the amount of RUB 15 bln;
 - Consulting for a leading Turkish construction company (properties in Moscow City, Barrin House, Snegiri Eco, on Mosfilmovskaya Ulitsa, and others) across a wide spectrum of commercial and bankruptcy disputes;
 - Successful representation of the interests of a company engaged in the development, manufacture and promotion of a well-known brand of televisions in a case involving the recovery of an insurance payout in connection with the counterparty’s breach of contract;
 - Defense of the interests of the subsidiary of one of Russia’s largest gas producers under a challenge mounted against a Rosprirodnadzor directive demanding the correction of violations ostensibly committed in the construction of a gas pipeline;
 - Defense of the top management of a major construction company in the course of the investigation of a criminal case involving the counterparty’s alleged tax evasion;
 - Successful defense of a financial-investment company at the RF Supreme Commercial Court in a lawsuit against a major developer seeking the recovery of more than RUB 168 mln in debt under an interest-free loan agreement, plus interest for utilization of the loan, despite the obvious violations of law and defiance of the RF Supreme Commercial Court’s stated legal positions, as committed by the lower courts;
 - Representation of the interests of a prominent international candy-and-gum producer in dealings with Russian law enforcement agencies in different regions of the country in connection with the theft of freight destined for export, legal support for the client with the aim of preventing the onset of criminal liability within the territory of a foreign country;
- and other successful dispute resolution cases.

Education

Graduated in 2002 from Kutafin Moscow State Law University (MSAL) with a degree in jurisprudence.

In 2007, graduated from the Volgograd Academy of the Ministry of the Interior with a PhD in Law.

Rustam Kurmaev has been a practicing attorney since 2003.

In addition to his native Russian he is proficient in English and French.