



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION Асоціація Українських Правників Америки

Ukrainian American Bar Association 38th Annual Convention October 23-25, 2015 New York City

AGENDA



Friday Night at the Ukrainian Museum Caviar and Champagne Reception

October 23, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Ukrainian Museum

222 East 6th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Aves.)

New York, NY 10003

- Opening remarks by Peter Piddoubny
- Greetings from Amb. Yuriy Sergeyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN
- Greetings from Mr. James R. Silkenat, Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors of the World Justice Project; Partner, Sullivan and Worcester LLP. He has also served as the President of the American Bar Association

(In Mr. Silkenat's absence, J. Truman Bidwell Jr., Partner, Sullivan and Worcester LLP)



38th Annual Convention

The Roosevelt Hotel

45 E 45th Street, New York, NY 10017

Saturday, October 24, 2015 Conference Agenda

Morning Session

Moderator: Petro Kostiv

8:00 am Registration

8:00 am – 10:00 am Continental breakfast for full conference participants

9:00 am – 9:30 am UABA business session and elections

- Report of outgoing officers
- Nomination committee report and election of new officers and governors

9:30 am – 10:00 am Dr. Ulana Suprun, Founder of *The Patriot Defense Project*

10 am – 11:00 am *Current Options for Ukrainians under US Immigration Laws*

- Petro Kostiv, Kostiv and Associates (Los Angeles)
- Andy J. Semotiuk, Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP (New York), and Pace Law Firm (Los Angeles, Toronto)
- David Bagdasarian, Kostiv and Associates (Los Angeles)

11:00 am – noon *Human Rights on Occupied Territory: The Case of Crimea*

- Ivanka Bilych, Co-founder and President of Volya Institute for Contemporary Law and Society
- Bohdan Pechenyak, Co-founder and Secretary of Volya Institute for Contemporary Law and Society

NOON – 1:00 PM - Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

Moderator: Taras Rudnitsky

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lesia Vasylenko, Founder and Chairman, *'Legal Hundred'* Legal assistance project to Ukrainian War Veterans

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm Mykola Kovalchuk (Kyiv, Ukraine) *Ukraine after the Revolution: Problems of Reform and Future Perspectives*

Status of the rule of law in Ukraine: Ukrainian and Western viewpoints

2:00 pm - 2:40 pm Sergiy Meshcheriak, Ukrainian lawyer and former diplomat; served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 1990-1996

2:40 pm – 3:20 pm Bohdan Vitvitsky, Former Deputy US Attorney, Resident Legal Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine in 2007-09

3:20 pm – 4:00 pm Valentyn Gvozdiy, Deputy Head of the Ukrainian National Bar Association, Bar Council of Ukraine

4:00 pm – 4:15pm Closing Remarks: Taras Rudnitsky



Ukrainian American Bar Association 38th Annual Convention Banquet
Saturday, October 24, 2015

Ukrainian Institute of America

2 E 79th St, New York, NY 10075

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm -- cocktail hour

(open bar and hors d'oeuvres)

7:30 pm – 10:00 pm --- dinner (open bar)

Guest Speaker

His Excellency, Valeriy Chaly

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States of America

Speaker Profiles



Amb. Valeriy Chaly assumed his duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States of America in July 2015. In June 2014, Valeriy Chaly was appointed as Deputy Head of the Administration of the President of Ukraine following his role as foreign policy advisor to Mr. Poroshenko during his presidential campaign. As Deputy Director General of a leading Ukrainian think-tank in 2006-2009 and 2010-2014 – The Razumkov Centre -- Mr. Chaly supervised its foreign policy, international law and security programs. During the course of his NGO career with the Razumkov Centre, Mr. Chaly developed significant foreign policy expertise gaining wide recognition in Ukraine and internationally as well. In November 2009, Valeriy Chaly was appointed as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. He resigned in April 2010 in protest against the foreign and security policy pursued by the then President, Victor Yanukovich. Following his resignation, Mr. Chaly resumed his work at the Razumkov Centre and also was advisor to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine. Valeriy Chaly's earlier public sector career also included service as Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council (1997-1999); and Senior Consultant at the Assistants' Group to the President of Ukraine (1995).

In 1995, Valeriy Chaly graduated with a postgraduate international law studies degree from the Institute of International Relations, National Taras Shevchenko University, Kyiv, and in 1992, from Vinnytsia State Institute of Pedagogy, Faculty of History.



Yuriy A. Sergeev is a career Ukrainian diplomat who has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine, and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations in New York since April 2007. From March 2003 to April 2007, he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to France, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to UNESCO. He served as Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine from July 2001 to March of 2003 and as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine from in 2001. During his diplomatic career, Amb. Sergeev held various posts including Director-General, Directorate General for Foreign Policy of the Administration of the President of Ukraine (Dec. 2000 – Feb. 2001); Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Greece and Albania (Nov. 1997 – Dec. 2000); Minister Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Jan – Nov 1997); Director, Directorate for Information of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Director, Secretariat of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; and Director, Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Amb. Sergeev received his Ph.D. from T. Shevchenko Kyiv State University in 1981 and was Assistant, Docent at the Philological Faculty of T. Shevchenko Kyiv State University and Deputy Director of the Institute for Ukrainian Heritage from 1981 to 1992. In April of 2003 he was awarded The State Order of Ukraine "For Merit" for his service to his country.



James R. Silkenat is Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors of the World Justice Project. He has also served as the President of the 400,000 member American Bar Association (ABA). Mr. Silkenat is a Partner in the New York office of Sullivan & Worcester LLP, where he is a member of the corporate department. Mr. Silkenat has extensive experience in international mergers and acquisitions and joint venture transactions, particularly in the energy industry, and is a former Legal Counsel at the World Bank's International Finance Corporation. Mr. Silkenat is also a former Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. Mr. Silkenat has served as Chair of both the ABA Section of International Law and the ABA Section Officers Conference. He served on the ABA Board of Governors from 1994-1997 and has chaired the ABA's Latin American Legal Initiatives Council and the ABA's China Committee.



J. Truman Bidwell Jr. is a partner in the Corporate Department of the New York office of Sullivan & Worcester LLP. He is also the co-chair of the firm's Opinions Committee. His practice is focused in the areas of international asset financing, banking, structured finance and insolvency. Mr. Bidwell has represented lessees, lenders, developers, owners, underwriters and equity investors in infrastructure transactions. In addition, he has represented major banks, domestic and foreign corporations, investment banks, and domestic and foreign lenders in a broad spectrum of financial transactions.



Peter Piddoubny is a graduate of the City College of New York (BA, history) and the University of Bristol, England, (LLB, law). Currently he is a partner at Piddoubny & Pelekh, PC, Astoria, NY, where he practices in commercial litigation, real estate and private international law. He is credited with several leading appellate court decisions in the areas of corporate dissolutions, conflict of laws and real property. A long time member and supporter of UABA, Peter now serves on the Scholarship Committee and is a past President and Chairman of the Board of Governors

of UABA. He and his wife Elizabeth have three children and are active in the Ukrainian-American community. The firm of Piddoubny & Pelekh, PC is graciously hosting the Friday Night at the Ukrainian Museum Caviar and Champagne Reception.



Taras S. Rudnitsky has a unique background as an automotive safety engineer, expert witness and consumer justice attorney. Taras has limited his practice to representing consumers since first opening his law office in 1998. He has been a featured speaker before consumer justice attorneys, governmental investigators, and corporate executives, and has also been interviewed by several television station and newspaper reporters regarding consumer justice issues. His commitment to consumer justice began at the University of Michigan Law School, where he represented consumers in the Law School's Clinical Law program. Taras is active in Florida bar organizations, including serving as Vice-Chair of the Small Claims Rules Committee and serving on the Board of Directors for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida and the Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida. The Florida

Supreme Court has frequently recognized his contributions to the public for pro bono legal services and he earned the Seminole County 2012 and 2013 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year awards from Legal Services. Taras will be the Moderator of the Afternoon Session of the Saturday Program and of the gala UABA 38th Annual Convention Banquet.



Petro Kostiv resides in Los Angeles and runs the main office of Kostiv & Associates, P.C. Petro's areas of practice include various aspects of business law, bankruptcy, and immigration. Petro focuses on helping foreign investors to open and develop their businesses in the United States. Petro also advises American individuals and businesses on how to succeed in foreign business environments. For his undergraduate degree, Petro attended UC Berkeley. He later received an MA in Political Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. Thereafter, he completed his JD at the University of Michigan, School of Law in Ann Arbor. While at the University of Michigan, Petro spent a summer working at the Supreme Court of Argentina and studying Argentine law at a law school in Buenos

Aires. Petro is admitted to the California State Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Petro is the outgoing President of the UABA and Moderator of the Morning Session of the Saturday Program.



Dr. Ulana Suyprun is a Professional doctor, director of Humanitarian initiatives of the Ukrainian World Congress and founder of "Patriot Defence". Ulana was born to a Ukrainian family in Detroit, Michigan. After graduating from medical school, she worked and lived in the United States. In the fall of 2013, together with husband Marko, Ulana decided to move to Ukraine. From the 29th of November, both were already on the Maidan during the revolution in Kyiv. Ulana worked in medical services, which subsequently led to her position at the Ukrainian World Congress and later to the founding of "Patriot Defence".



Andriy Semotiuk has helped over 10,000 clients with various legal problems over the past four decades as an immigration attorney. His memberships in the bars of New York and California have helped him work with investors, executives, professionals and celebrities in the entertainment industry, looking after their immigration needs. In addition to his work as an attorney, he is a columnist for Forbes where he writes about investor immigration. A former United Nations correspondent and a published author, he is an associate of Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP, a national law firm with over 150 attorneys. Mr. Semotiuk is also a Canadian immigration attorney. He is married with two adult children. His office in Manhattan is at One Battery Park.



David Bagdasarian is an associate attorney at Kostiv & Associates. David's legal practice is fully devoted to immigration law. David helps foreign clients with their investor visas, student visas, Finance visas, H visas, B visas, citizenship, L visas, employment based immigrant visas, and many other immigration services. David has almost 20 years of experience as an attorney. Being an immigrant himself, David profoundly understands the needs of immigrants.



Ivanna Bilych is Co-founder and President of Volya Institute for Contemporary Law and Society (an organization dedicated to generating and promoting intellectual leadership in the field of civil society, human rights and the rule of law). Ivanna is a lawyer who represented Viktor Smalyk, an attorney from Ukraine prosecuted by the former regime and helped mobilize an advocacy campaign in support of him. Ivanna led the group of international lawyers and scholars in co-authoring the following reports: *The Crisis in Ukraine: Its Legal Dimensions* (April 15, 2014); *Human Rights on Occupied territory: Case of Crimea* (June 15, 2015). Ivanna Bilych holds a Masters in International

Affairs from Columbia University and LL.M. from NYU School of Law. She also received her LL.B. degree and LL.M. degree from Kyiv National T. Shevchenko University.



Bohdan Pechenyak is Co-founder and Secretary of Volya Institute for Contemporary Law and Society. He grew up in Lviv, Ukraine and emigrated to the U.S. after his graduation from high school. He graduated summa cum laude from Arcadia University (Glenside, PA, USA) in 2007 with a B.A. in Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, and an International Studies minor. In 2011, he graduated from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA, USA) with two degrees - Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health. He cultivates deep multidisciplinary scholarly interests, focusing particularly on social movements, social and cultural studies and public policy, historical issues related to liberalism, nationalism, and self-determination, particularly how these issues relate to democratization and reform, state- and nation-building

efforts, and civil society development in Ukraine. During the Euromaidan 2013-14 protest movement and subsequent crisis in Crimea and the East, he collaborated with several prominent Ukrainian Studies institutions in North America to compile a media list of experts working on Ukraine, along with a list of FAQs about the crisis. Most recently, he was invited as a guest lecturer to present on social movements in Ukraine and their impact on stability at Defense Intelligence Agency's "Ukraine Culture Seminar Series: Political Stability" in Washington, D.C.



Lesia Vasylenko is the founder and chairman of the *Legal Hundred*, an NGO which is dedicated to helping Ukrainian military war veterans and their families to get the support they need order to adapt to civilian life. She attended the National Taras Shevchenko University, where she completed a Master's Degree in Public International Law. She was awarded the World Wide Studies Scholarship from the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, which led Lesia to continue her legal education at the University College London (UCL), where in 2011 she completed an LL.M in International Human Rights and Environmental Law. After graduation, Lesia was recruited by B.C.Toms & Co. where she specialized in agriculture, energy law, oil and gas. Unable to stand by as Ukraine's future was being

decided in the winter of 2013-2014, Lesia was an active participant of the Maidan Revolution. In February 2014, she began working at the Civic Commission on the Investigation of Human Right Crimes in Ukraine. Thereafter, Lesia began volunteering at a military hospital in Kyiv, which treated the most severe casualties of military activities in the Donbas War zone. She soon understood that the wounded soldiers required information about their rights and needed guidance in the process of claiming the social benefits they were entitled to by law as a result of which experience she founded the *Legal Hundred* NGO.



Mykola Kovalchuk is a managing partner of law firm L.I. Group and manages its Kyiv office. The Firm provides legal services to the largest banks in Ukraine; Mykola successfully practices in the areas of commercial law, bankruptcy, debts collection, and banking and is co-founder of the NGO organization «Legal Initiative». Mykola also takes an active part in a social and political life in Ukraine. Mykola graduated from the National Aviation University in Ukraine as an aviation engineer, economist, and as a space and air law attorney. In 2013, he received a doctorate of law degree from the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management. Presently, he continues his

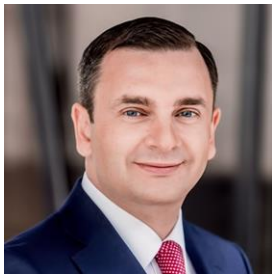
scientific work and tutors students in Bankruptcy Law and is he is continuing his education in the MBA program at the Edinburgh Business School (Heriot Watt University, The United Kingdom of Great Britain, Riccarton).



Sergii Meshcheriak is a Ukrainian lawyer and diplomat. He served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 1990-1996. He took part in many summits of the Heads of States and the Heads of Governments, bilateral and multilateral negotiations as member and the head of delegation of Ukraine at numerous conferences (strategic arms limitations, territorial disputes, energy, etc.), in the work of international organizations, including the UN and the EU. He served as a member of the Executive Council of International Law Association of Ukraine and member of the Executive Board of Union of Diplomats of Ukraine. He also occupied positions of Adviser to the Secretary of Security and Defense of Ukraine and Director of Economic Security Department in the Council of National Security and Defense of Ukraine, deputy CEO of State Export-Import Bank of Ukraine. Mr. Meshcheriak has a Ph.D. in law from Institute of State and Law Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, J.D. with honors from Institute of International Relations and International Law, Kyiv State University, and MBA from Kyiv National Economic University. He was awarded the title “Honored Lawyer of Ukraine” by the President of Ukraine.



Bohdan Vitvitsky is a former federal prosecutor as well as having served as a Resident Legal Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv in 2007-2009. He has both written and made numerous presentations in Ukraine, Western Europe and the U.S. on corruption and rule of law. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy and a J.D., both from Columbia University in New York.



Valentyn Gvozdiy is the Deputy Chairman of the National Association of Advocates of Ukraine, the Council of Advocates of Ukraine from 2012. He was Chairman of the Tax Committee of the Association of Lawyers of Ukraine from 2004 to 2010; Member of the Public Collegium of the State Tax Administration of Ukraine from 2008 to 2010; Head of the Kyiv branch of the Association of Advocates of Ukraine in 2009; Vice President of the Bar Association of Ukraine (2009); and Member of the Supervisory Board of the Bar Association of Ukraine (2014).