

## Andrey Gorlenko

Ivanyan and Partners LLP

Job title: Partner

Location: Russia

Number of years in practice: 14

Geographical areas of focus: Russia & CIS, International

Languages: Russian, English, German

Andrey Gorlenko is a leading expert in the field of arbitration in Russia, with vast experience in international disputes. For over a decade he has specialised in complex commercial and corporate disputes in Russia and abroad – representing clients in domestic litigation and arbitration and international arbitration – and also advised in connection with disputes in foreign jurisdictions.

He began his career at Reznik, Gagarin and Partners, one of Russia's oldest law bureaus, where he dealt with complex disputes, Russian litigation, cross-border disputes, and both domestic and international arbitration matters. The matters on which he worked typically spanned many jurisdictions and involved asset tracing, insolvency, enforcement and annulment proceedings. In many of these matters, Gorlenko worked closely with Debevoise & Plimpton's London and Moscow offices. In 2015, he moved to join Debevoise's Moscow office, where he was part of the team that represented global steel producer NLMK in its successful defence in the English High Court against an application to enforce a Russian arbitral award that had been set aside by the Russian courts (Nikolay Viktorovich Maximov vs Novolipsetsky Metallurgicheskyy Kombinat).

In the same year that Gorlenko joined Debevoise, The Russian Federation's Code of Administrative Procedure (the Administrative Procedure Code) entered into force. As a member of the special committee that was officially assisting the Russian Ministry of Justice to articulate and shape these new arbitration laws, Gorlenko played no small part in shaping these laws.

One consequence of Russia's arbitration reform was to significantly reduce the number of arbitral

institutions permitted to operate in the country, with more than one thousand previously existing centres reduced to just five approved institutions: the International Commercial Arbitration Court (ICAC) and Maritime Arbitration Commission (MAC) at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation; the Arbitration Centre at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; the Russian Arbitration Centre (RAC) at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration; and, most recently, the Sports Arbitration Chamber. The Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the Vienna International Arbitration Centre have since been granted permission to administer Russian-seated arbitrations.

One of these five licenced centres, RAC, owes its existence to Gorlenko. *'My involvement in the special committee gave me a great interest not only in how arbitration should work in Russia, but in how it would be administered',* says Gorlenko. *'As soon as the laws were adopted I had the idea to start a new centre. What was important to me is that this would be an absolutely greenfield project with no restrictions arising from history or tradition. It was an opportunity to create something truly new and world-class in Russia.'*

The demands of this new project meant that Gorlenko had to leave Debevoise, and for the next three and a half years he occupied himself solely with building RIMA into a major competitor to Russia's more established institutions. It has since developed one of the best sets of arbitration rules in the world, attracting more than 350 of the best Russian and foreign arbitrators. Its international board is composed of figures such as The Right Honourable Dame Elizabeth Gloster, Debevoise partner David Rivkin, and the much esteemed Neil Kaplan. It has also expanded from its base in Moscow to open three regional offices.

Gorlenko remains President of the Board at RAC. He joined Ivanyan & Partners on 1 December 2019 to work on building up its arbitration practice alongside Baiju Vasani.



### In conversation with...

**'I like challenging projects. The offer of moving** to Ivanyan & Partners to build an arbitration practice was exactly the sort of role I wanted. It gives me the chance to build an entirely new type of Russian law firm that will compete with international firms in the global market. Uniquely, we have teams in both Moscow and London that are working together to provide market-leading service. For now, we are involved heavily in investor-state cases, but the scope of our work will grow to support international clients in all commercial arbitration matters.

**The Russian Arbitration Centre (RAC) at the** Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration has already made a great impact on international arbitration, but its true legacy will not be the disputes it handles, but the new generation of lawyers it educates and inspires. We are investing in the future. In ten years' time, we will see Russian qualified lawyers competing with international firms.' ■