



Michael Kharenko

Managing Partner

Sayenko Kharenko

Biography

Michael Kharenko is a managing partner of Sayenko Kharenko and admitted to the bar in the State of New York (USA) and Ukraine. Michael focuses on cross-border corporate transactions, international financing and capital markets and has a wealth of experience developing legislation in a wide range of fields.

Michael is one of the most successful dealmakers in the region. For over two decades, he has been structuring major international investments and attracting capital to Ukraine. This has included some of the most complex deals in Ukraine's independent history involving capital totaling over USD 30 billion.

He is a member of the Ukrainian State Fiscal Service's Investment Council and a supervisory board member of the Ukrainian Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (UVCA), which focuses on IT sector investment.

Michael is internationally recognized as one of Ukraine's leading authorities on capital markets and finance (The Legal 500, Chambers Global, IFLR1000, Expert Guides, Best Lawyers International). He has ranked among Ukraine's leading senior managers by Ekonomika Publishing House's "TOP-100. The Best Top Managers of Ukraine 2017" ranking.

Education

- LL.D. in public finance law
- LL.M. with honors from Columbia University School of Law (Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar)
- LL.M. summa cum laude from Kyiv Taras Shevchenko University Law School

Michael also had an internship with the Honorable Bohdan A. Futey at the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington D.C

Why do you think Membership in the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine is important for business operating in Ukraine?

Running a successful business in today's Ukraine means much more than just making a profit and paying taxes. In order to run a business responsibly, it is vital to recognize that your company is part of a wider business community and your decisions will affect the country's broader development. This is equally true no matter how large or small your business may be. Everyone can make a difference. However, sustainable change in business environment is only possible through dialogue between the business community and the state. The American Chamber of Commerce is the ideal platform for this dialogue. The Chamber has a strong record of encouraging reforms and policymaking through constructive engagement. It has unrivalled credibility thanks to a membership engaged across the Ukrainian economy.

Ukraine now finds itself at a crossroads where challenges and opportunities loom equally large. The development of a better business climate will be one of the decisive factors determining the country's future trajectory. I believe the Chamber can play a key role in this transformation. As a Chamber member company, Sayenko Kharenko has firsthand experience of the important work the Chamber does to improve the business climate. Membership of the Chamber allows individual businesses to contribute to this process and benefit from the results.

What motivates you to be a Chamber Board Member?

Today's Ukraine has a unique opportunity to become a better country with a strong economy and values rooted in respect for the rule of law and democratic principles. I share the Chamber's commitment to these values. On a practical level, my role as managing partner at one of Ukraine's leading law firms has allowed me to acquire vast experience drafting legislation. This experience is directly applicable to the work of the Chamber.

Sayenko Kharenko is at the forefront of regulatory reforms, contributing wherever possible to the improvement of key legislation. Our attorneys participate in working groups established by the Parliament, the Administration of the President of Ukraine, various ministries and the Government as the whole. We engage with state regulatory authorities, international financial institutions (IFIs), business associations, industry associations, international donors, think tanks, influential NGOs, embassies and trade missions.

Sayenko Kharenko enjoys a unique positive at the nexus of state-business dialogue. We have long been involved in legislative reform and have a wealth of experience serving as the voice of the business community as the new Ukraine takes shape. I would like to share this valuable experience with the Chamber and feel the best way to do so is by becoming a Chamber Board Member.

**Why do you feel you are qualified to serve on the Chamber Board?
What skills would you bring to the Board?**

I believe I can bring a unique combination of skills to the Chamber Board based on my extensive experience working with the public and private sectors. I have spent many years attracting investments to Ukraine, facilitating dialogue between key stakeholders and policymakers along with international donors and international financial institutions (IFIs).

My background makes me confident that as a Chamber Board Member, I would be able to bridge the gap between business and policymakers while helping to communicate key issues in a productive manner that would be understandable to all parties. I am highly motivated and welcome the opportunity to make a positive contribution as a Chamber Board Member.

**How have you been active in the Chamber over the course
of the last two years?**

Over the last two years, Sayenko Kharenko has been heavily involved in the Chamber's activities. Sayenko Kharenko's experts participate in the Chamber's Working Group on International Trade, Antimonopoly Committee, Banking & Finance Committee, Legal Committee, Agriculture Committee, Energy Committee, Customs Committee, Food & Beverage Committee, ICT Committee, Tax Committee, Seeds Committee, Healthcare Committee, and HR Committee.

In 2017, Sayenko Kharenko worked with the Chamber to organize seminars and conferences covering a wide range of topics. Sayenko Kharenko's counsel Anzhela Makhinova and Eduard Zlydennyy (EY Ukraine) initiated the creation of the [Chamber Working Group on International Trade](#). Since its inception, this Working Group has organized a series of meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. On March 22, Sayenko Kharenko, in cooperation with the Chamber, held a [High-Profile Talk-In "Tax Litigation: Shaping New Content Together"](#) with participation of judges, leading experts, and representatives of the business community. Our lawyers were involved in shaping the legal framework for ESCO projects in Ukraine and conducted workshops on the Chamber platform for public and private sector delegates to raise awareness of ESCO projects in the country.

Sayenko Kharenko's cooperation with the Chamber also includes preparing summaries of draft laws for a series of Committee meetings, together with providing commentaries and expert opinions for the Chamber's publications including Business Ukraine magazine.

We are happy to be involved in both the Chamber's business and CSR activities. Most recently, Sayenko Kharenko supported the Chamber's Blood Donation program in support of Kyiv hospitals.

What activity or Committee would you participate in and be responsible for?

I feel my expertise would be most effective in the Banking & Financial Services, IT and Legal Committees. I would be happy to share my experience across the Chamber platform to help support positive change in Ukraine.