



**YOUR FULL NAME:**

Vladimir Vashchenko

**YOUR JOB TITLE:**

Partner-co-founder, Head of Dispute Resolution Practice

**YOUR COMPANY:**

VB PARTNERS law firm

**YOUR BRIEF BIOGRAPHY (250-300 words):**

**Professional Activities:**

Founder of VB PARTNERS boutique law firm (2005) which has been included for many years in TOP-50 of the Ukrainian most successful law firms and is recognized by key international and national ratings (Legal 500, Chambers Europe, Best Lawyers, etc.).

Experienced in domestic and international disputes, investigations carried out by regulatory and law enforcement authorities, with a special focus on re-privatization and sanction disputes as well as investment disputes. Most recent work includes the ICSID case and challenging sanctions imposed on European companies.

Has a broad Dispute Resolution Practice with substantial experience in complex commercial, corporate and shareholder/ownership litigation, typically with an international element.

Also advises and represents investors in criminal investigations, at shareholders' meetings, in out-of-court disputes with authorities and in public investigations held by parliamentary committees.

His practice encompasses a number of industries such as banking, energy, non-ferrous metallurgy, gas distributing and construction.

Experience: Inyurpolis law firm (now ILF), Kharkiv (Head of Department, Head of Services Sector, Board Member).

### **Additional Professional Activities:**

- Since 2004 – a Member of the Ukrainian Bar Association (UBA), which unites more than 7,000 lawyers. In the past - a Board Member of UBA in Kyiv, Chairman of the Audit Commission;
- One of the founders of the non-governmental organization - Tax Advisors Association;
- Certified expert on qualification development events for Ukrainian attorneys-at-law.

### **Recognitions:**

- Best Lawyers: among the leading Ukrainian experts in Litigation;
- Ukrainian Law Firms. A Handbook for Foreign Clients: recognized expert in the field of Litigation & Tax: Litigation;
- Legal Awards: the best lawyer in Ukraine in the field of Tax Disputes in 2019;
- The Legal 500 EMEA: recommends VB PARTNERS in White-Collar Crime (top-tier), Dispute Resolution, Tax, Commercial, Corporate and M&A;
- Chambers Europe: recommends VB PARTNERS in White-Collar Crime;
- Research conducted by Yurydychna Gazeta – “Client’s Choice. TOP-100 Ukrainian lawyers”: among the best lawyers in Litigation and Private Clients practice (PCP), etc.

### **Education:**

- Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, Kharkiv (2001);
- Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kyiv (2004).

## **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

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

It is not a secret that the changeable legislation together with the high level of corruption significantly influence the activity of private companies in Ukraine. The new changes in the court system of Ukraine, the establishment of the Supreme Anti-Corruption Court will affect the business rights protection landscape. What is more, business in Ukraine often faces unlawful pressure from law enforcement bodies.

In order to resolve all these issues, improve the investment, governance and rule of law environment in Ukraine, it is extremely necessary for public and private sectors to act together. The activity of the American Chamber of Commerce proves its ability to cooperate effectively with the Ukrainian government. However, it is easier to achieve the successful results by collective efforts rather than individually.

The American Chamber of Commerce is rightly considered as one of the most effective platforms to resolve the problems, business in Ukraine faces. Over the years, it has created many productive tools such as development of common positions, provision of solutions to the most urgent issues, cooperation directly with the Ukrainian government and so on. Regarding all of these, it is almost impossible to overestimate the benefits, which together blend in a full business development package for a member company.

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### What motivates you to be a Chamber Board Member?

I have to change Ukraine for my children. I have already succeeded in business, private life; I am closely connected with Ukraine and cannot imagine my life anywhere else. That is why I am highly motivated to participate in social transformations. I am sure that even a small but critical percentage of proactive citizens can influence on Ukraine's development. However, the Ukrainian society lacks responsible leaders who are capable to constantly move forward and encourage others.

I believe I can contribute a lot to the American Chamber of Commerce and receive a lot in return.

Knowing various industries and companies, understanding what challenges they have to face in Ukraine and thinking of my personal experience as an attorney-at-law and a businessman (co-owner of the company), I see what needs to be improved in order to make business environment in Ukraine favorable and more attractive for foreign investors.

I feel the necessity to share the experience with others and take part in the process of creation of a new business culture in Ukraine.

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

Business is interested in sales and development, but not in the successful repelling of attacks of security forces, competitors, etc. My team and I are often involved in the process of making not only legal but also business decisions for our clients.

We protect the owners and top management, as far as possible, from all difficulties, provide them with the opportunity to do their favorite business and develop in the supportive environment. So, I am not afraid of taking responsibility, even more it is a part of my constant and day-to-day activity.

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I believe that I have professional knowledge of Ukrainian business and political environment trends, complemented by 20 years of experience as the head of my company and a member of the board of a large law firm, including my previous experience in social activities in Ukrainian Bar Association and Tax Advisors Association.

I am highly motivated to make a contribution. I always think of new opportunities for the business and our clients. I am used to think strategically and innovatively. The modern market does not like generalists.

Last but not the least, I have a huge experience in work with government stakeholders in particular on issues related to energy and non-ferrous metallurgy sector. I am sure that my background will help to achieve new heights and I will show myself as an effective and active Board Member.

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

Our Dispute Resolution Practice, in addition to litigation, includes peaceful negotiations with competitors and authorities, participation in meetings of parliamentary committees and control commissions. We also actively use the tools of the American Chamber of Commerce to defend the interests of our clients and protect the business.

Me personally and other lawyers of VB PARTNERS law firm's team participate in the work of the Chamber's Committees and Working Groups and in all main Chamber's events. We appreciate the opportunities to openly discuss issues and look for the ways of solving them.

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

If I am elected, I will participate primarily (but not exclusively) in the Legal Committee and its Working Groups. I will be happy to share my experience across the Chamber platform.

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