

Ilya Poluyakhtov

Head of Legal

Dubai, United Arab Emirates | [LinkedIn](#) | [Telegram](#)

Senior legal executive with 25+ years in capital markets and regulatory law, specializing in building multi-jurisdictional legal functions and managing complex financial infrastructure across nine jurisdictions.

EXPERIENCE

Head Of Legal

Oct 2021 — Jun 2026

Eqvilent

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Built the entire legal function from zero for a quantitative algorithmic trading firm (\$500M–\$2B AUM) across nine jurisdictions and 14 entities. Managed regulatory licensing (MiFID II, SEBI, US radio transmission), corporate governance across regulated and non-regulated entities, and led 5,000+ contract reviews including M&A and complex transactional work. Designed contract lifecycle management and Legal OS infrastructure, delivering \$2M+ in annual verified savings through automation and process efficiency.

Deputy Chairman, Liquidation Committee & Chairman, Board of Directors

Feb 2021 — Jun 2023

Nordea Bank Russia

Moscow City, Russia

Managed the voluntary liquidation of Nordea's Russian banking subsidiary as an independent adviser, navigating a legally and politically complex exit during Western bank pressure to withdraw from Russia. Obtained Central Bank of Russia (CBR) clearance for both regulated appointments and successfully completed the liquidation process. Published thought leadership establishing market authority on Western bank exit mechanics.

Founder

Feb 2020 — Present

IP Augmented Legal

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Advising established and early days businesses on management, corporate and business law issues. 2022 year projects cover privately owned medical clinic on corporate governance and shareholder matters, the leading Russian musical institution re online classical music school launch, Russian and Irish investors on a JV relating to payment services.

Executive Director, Head of Legal

Sep 2013 — Feb 2020

Morgan Stanley Bank LLC (Russia)

Moscow, Russia

Led the Russian legal function for Morgan Stanley's local banking entity across four business lines (fixed income and equity trading, investment banking, investment management). Managed a team of two counsel, oversaw all external counsel relationships, and served as primary regulator interface through multiple CBR audits. Led major projects including bank liquidation, trading transition, RISDA implementation, data localization compliance, and contract repository systems.

Managing Associate, Mainstream Corporate

Sep 2006 — Aug 2013

Linklaters CIS

Moscow, Moscow City, Russia

Senior M&A and corporate finance lawyer advising international financial institutions, corporates, and investors on high-value transactions across Russia and the CIS. Led landmark transactions including RTS/MOEX merger, Goldman Sachs Russia entity setup, Lehman Brothers Moscow franchise establishment, and major deals involving AXA, UBS, Credit Suisse, and Mitsubishi.

Senior Counsel

Oct 2002 — Aug 2005

IFC - International Finance Corporation

Moscow, Russia

Senior legal adviser on Russian Corporate Governance and Russian Banking Corporate Governance projects aimed at raising governance standards across Russian corporates and financial institutions. Co-authored the IFC Russia Corporate Governance Manual, a landmark institutional reference publication co-published with the US Department of Commerce, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

Assistant Professor, Civil Law

Sep 1999 — May 2003

Ural State Law Academy

Ekaterinburg, Russia

Lectured in Russian Civil Law and published doctoral research on civil law issues relating to property rights and obligations transfer (assignment) in the context of Russian Civil Code changes. Combined academic research with teaching responsibilities.

EDUCATION

Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO

Sep 2017 — Jun 2019

Executive MBA

University of Nottingham

Sep 2005 — Jun 2006

LLM in International Commercial Law

Leiden University

Jan 2001 — Jan 2001

LLC in European law

Russian School of Private Law
Master in Private law
Presidential Programme

Sep 1999 — Jun 2001

Ural State Law Academy
PhD, Civil Law

Sep 1999 — Jun 2002

Ural State Law Academy
Degree in Law

Sep 1994 — Jun 1999

PROJECTS

Institutional reference guide for Russian corporate governance reform, IFC Russia Corporate Governance Manual

Co-authored landmark publication on corporate governance reform in Russia, jointly published by IFC, US Department of Commerce, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. Established definitive standards for Russian corporate governance practice.

Volunteer social project supporting adolescents in psychiatric care, YouAreNotAlone (не-один.рф)

Founded and ran a volunteer initiative focused on socialization and psychological support of adolescents in psychiatric care without organic brain impairment. Designed educational and support programming, recruited prominent business and professional speakers, and managed all logistics and participant engagement independently.

Comprehensive legal infrastructure and automation system, Legal OS & Contract Lifecycle Management

Designed and built integrated contract lifecycle management system combining Notion, DocuSign, Google Drive, and Zapier for rapid contract location and audit trails. Created comprehensive Legal OS covering powers of attorney, HR records, contracts, disputes, policies, and KYC documentation with role-based access controls. Authored 60 SOPs and 50+ templated documents with automation features.

SKILLS

Insurance · Due Diligence · Corporate Governance · Cross-border Transactions · International Law · Mergers & Acquisitions · Civil Litigation · Competition Law · Commercial Litigation · Joint Ventures · Legal Research · Private Equity · Leadership · Capital Markets · MiFID II · SEBI · ADGM · CBR Licensing · Multi-Jurisdictional Entity Build-Out · Acqui-Hires · Crisis Management · Employment Law · Contract Lifecycle Management · Legal Operations · External Counsel Management · Regulatory Audit · Compliance · Russian Civil Law · Banking Law · Securities Law · Data Protection · RISDA · Regulatory Licensing · Transaction Management · AI-Augmented Workflows · Notion · DocuSign · Sherpany · Zapier · Google Workspace · Slack · Claude · Chat GPT · English · Russian