



# **DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES**

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**VLM and Partners & Hájek Legal & Chamrád Legal**

# OUTLINE



Welcoming message



Who are we?



Why us?



Our Core Team



How can we help?



Contact us



Warmest greetings from Baku and Prague!

We - **VLM and Partners, Hájek Legal, and Chamrád Legal** provide various dispute resolution services to individuals, local and international corporates, financial institutions, and major industrial groups.

Our motivation and aim are the trust and satisfaction of our clients.

We keep simple and excellent!

Sincerely,

Vugar Mammadov & Otakar Hájek & Ales Chamrád

# WHO ARE WE?



We are an alliance of senior dispute resolution practitioners from Azerbaijan and the Czech Republic with the background of professional law firms combining local and global expertise, specialized in dispute resolution, mediation, and negotiation services, but also active in other legal fields.

**VLM and Partners (“VLM”)** is a dynamic law firm in Azerbaijan specializing in various legal disciplines. VLM is recognized by IFLR1000 and The Legal500 international legal rankings. VLM combines many years of experience of lawyers working with global and local corporations.

**Hájek Legal** is a law firm providing professional legal services to Czech and foreign clients in almost all business activities. The combination of Czech and foreign legal education and practical experience in domestic and global business ensures that clients of Hájek Legal will be provided with high-quality and comprehensive legal services reflecting their specific needs.

**Chamrád Legal** is a law firm that represents corporate clients and individuals, numerous investments, commercial, sports arbitration under various arbitration rules, and cross-border and domestic litigations. Chamrád Legal has broad experience with complex domestic and international transactions with regulatory aspects.



# **WHY US?**



**CLIENT-FOCUSED  
SOLUTIONS**



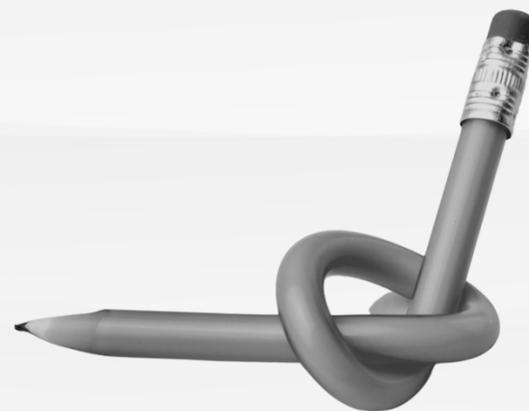
**INDUSTRY LEADERS**



**AGREEMENTS THAT LAST**



**CONFIDENTIALITY**



**FLEXIBLE,  
VALUE-DRIVEN APPROACH**



**QUALITY SERVICES,  
LESS TIME**



# WHY US?

(CONTINUED)

## Personal approach

The core values of our alliance are the principles of individual approach and provision of top-quality services to each client.

Detailed and comprehensive research of the case from all legal and technical aspects using our shared global experience and tailored to each client's specific situation helps us achieve fruitful outcomes.

We always think about the practical result that the client will receive from our work.

## Quality of services

Our lawyers and consultants are graduates of the world's leading universities and bring deep knowledge and experience from international consulting firms, foreign organizations, and global legal practice.

We represent high professionalism combined with commercial and strategic thinking that helps our clients achieve desired results.

## Competitive approach

One of our advantages is that we offer our services at competitive prices in the international legal market.

We always look forward to meeting and exceeding our clients' expectations and ensuring that each of our clients is satisfied with our work and the result, which is our joint success.



# OUR CORE TEAM



Vugar Mammadov

VLM and Partners

- With over seventeen years of experience in sectors as diverse as energy, finance, hospitality, consumer markets, retail, and manufacturing, Vugar brings insight and know-how to major local and international clients. He has gained extensive experience in tax and legal practices at PwC Azerbaijan. Further, he was invited to set up and head the Legal Practice at Deloitte Azerbaijan for many years. Currently, Vugar holds the position of Managing Partner at VLM and Partners in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Vugar has broad expertise in representing and providing advice to his clients during negotiations to settle disputes amicably. With an in-depth assessment of each case's possible legal, commercial, regulatory, and reputation risks, Vugar helps his clients achieve their commercial objectives and devise optimum procedural tactics or creative settlement approaches.
- Additionally, Vugar represents his clients in investment protection, private international law, challenging business and trade transactions, mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations and consolidations, corporate and fraud investigations, project finance, legal due diligence, and other areas.
- He holds an LL.M. (Master of Laws) degree in Business and Trade Law from Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He was appointed as an arbitrator of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA) in February 2022.
- Representative engagements:
  - Acted as a legal expert before international arbitrations in multi-million euro investigations. Provided Azerbaijani law-related legal opinion.
  - Acted as a legal expert before Latvian Court in multi-million euro investigations. Provided Azerbaijani law-related legal opinion.
  - Supported the NCA UK (National Crime Agency) in multi-million-pound money laundering investigations.
  - Supported foreign banks and financial institutions at all stages of the deals in connection with disbursement of USD multi-hundred million loans to corporates in Azerbaijan aimed at the establishment of oil refineries, purchase of manufacturing equipment.
  - Advised on the development of alternative and renewable energy sources in Azerbaijan.
  - Acted for an investor in the acquisition of the exclusive license rights from a major Turkish bank for several European and Asian countries.
  - Represented a holding company in the acquisition of an international oil & gas company in the UK, including exit strategies.
  - Supported a multinational construction company in the construction of a hotel in Azerbaijan: Liaised with the government to obtain necessary permits and licenses, drafted, handled employee disputes, customer and supplier claims.
  - Advised on various matters of Azerbaijani law, including banking and finance law, corporate and contracts law, import and re-export, currency regulations, IP matters, cross-border transfers of personal data, licensing, etc.



# OUR CORE TEAM (CONTINUED)



Otakar Hájek

Hájek Legal

- After commencing his career in a top-notch Czech law firm, Otakar has joined an international investment firm in London as an in-house lawyer. The next step was his almost twelve years long career at the global law firm Allen & Overy in Prague and Hong Kong.
- Otakar has represented states and private investors in ICSID investment arbitrations in the sectors of infrastructure, financial services, and mining. In this area, he acted, among others, for the Belgian group DEME in the first-ever successful ICSID investment treaty claim against the Republic of the Philippines. He has also advised investors to structure their investments and assert their rights against host states. Otakar has also conducted negotiations with various states on the amicable settlement of investment disputes which in one instance led to a successful settlement of an investor with the Czech Republic. He has further represented clients in various commercial arbitrations under the ICC, HKIAC, VIAC, and other rules. In addition to his international practice, Otakar regularly acts as counsel in domestic litigation and arbitration matters and proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- Otakar has further provided legal advice to leading domestic and foreign financial institutions and corporate clients in financial and capital markets law, focusing on financial derivatives. Apart from regular transactional work in this area, he has drafted updates to standard banking documentation reflecting the adoption of the new Czech Civil Code, updates to the master agreement for financial transactions published by the Czech Banking Association, and legal opinions for ISDA and other clients on the functioning of close-out netting and financial collateral under Czech law.
- Otakar has an LL.M. degree from King's College London focused on international arbitration. He acts as an arbitrator at the Czech Arbitration Court and is a member of various local arbitration associations. He is admitted to the Czech bar association since 2011.
- Representative engagements:
  - Baggerwerken Decloedt en Zoon NV, a subsidiary of one of the world's largest dredging companies, in ICSID arbitration proceedings against the Republic of the Philippines concerning the wrongful cancellation of a contract to dredge the Laguna Lake outside Manila. The case resulted in the first successful ICSID award against the Republic of the Philippines.
  - The Islamic Republic of Pakistan in an ICSID claim brought against it by Tethyan Copper Company, an Australian mining company, under the Australia-Pakistan bilateral investment treaty. The claim arose concerning the rights to mine a major copper and gold deposit in Pakistan.
  - A major Czech steel plate manufacturer in preliminary ruling proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union concerning the validity and interpretation of certain EU legislation governing the allocation of EU emissions allowances.
  - A £1.1 billion ICC arbitration claim for a Slovak factoring company against a Czech bank. Assisted with preparing submissions addressed to the ICC tribunal and Czech courts. Assisted with the preparation of witness statements and expert reports.
  - INPEX, an international LNG producer in a multi-billion dollar ICC arbitration against an international consortium, arising out of the other side's breaches of the EPC contract for the delivery of an LNG plant located in Darwin, Australia.



# OUR CORE TEAM (CONTINUED)



Aleš Chamrád

Chamrád Legal

- Ales is a listed and sitting Arbitrator at the Arbitration Court attached to the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic and Agricultural Chamber of the Czech Republic (Czech Arbitration Court).
- He is a registered Panellist of ADR.eu Disputes with Arbitration Center for EU Disputes and ADR.cz Disputes with the Czech Arbitration Court.
- He is a member of the Czech Construction Law Society and the Association of Energy Service Providers.
- He represented corporate clients and individuals, numerous investment, commercial, sports arbitration under various arbitration rules as well as in cross-border and domestic litigations. His expertise includes the area of intellectual property law and competition law.
- Further, he specialized in providing legal advice to development projects, in particular with a focus on energy infrastructure and energy-efficient construction – “green projects” (in particular of projects executed using the D&B or EPC (Energy Performance Contracting) delivery methods fulfilling the highest ESG criteria.
- Ales holds a law degree from Masaryk University in Brno (2001) and Erasmus University in Rotterdam (LL.M. – International Business Law) (2003). In 2006, he joined the Czech Bar Association, and he has been acting as a Czech advocate (solicitor) ever since.
- Representative engagements:
  - Representation and/or management of legal teams in arbitration under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Czech Arbitration Court, Slovak Arbitration Court, sports arbitration (FIFA), (CAS).
  - Representation of the major semiconductor producer in the court disputes regarding the use of the energy infrastructure and media supply.
  - Representing engineering and facility management company against the chemical producer in arbitration dispute concerning liability claims related to the fire accident in the premises of the chemical producer including the settlement involving major insurance companies in the Czech market.
  - Advising/representing Czech players against the Turkish football clubs regarding the fulfillment of the contractual obligations before FIFA and CAS arbitration.



# HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Corporate and M&A Disputes
- Commercial Disputes
- Banking & Finance Disputes
- Real Estate & Construction Disputes
- Tax Disputes
- Trade & Customs Disputes
- IP & Patent Disputes
- Product Liability Disputes
- Public Law & Regulatory Disputes
- Environmental Disputes
- Employment Disputes
- Securities Disputes



# HOW CAN WE HELP?

(CONTINUED)

*(a) Proper planning of dispute resolution mechanisms in international projects and their effective application often prove crucial for the success of international projects in areas such as:*

- International Trade
- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Export Finance
- Capital Markets
- Licensing
- Franchising
- Joint Ventures
- Direct Foreign Investment
- Management Contracts
- Turn-Key Projects

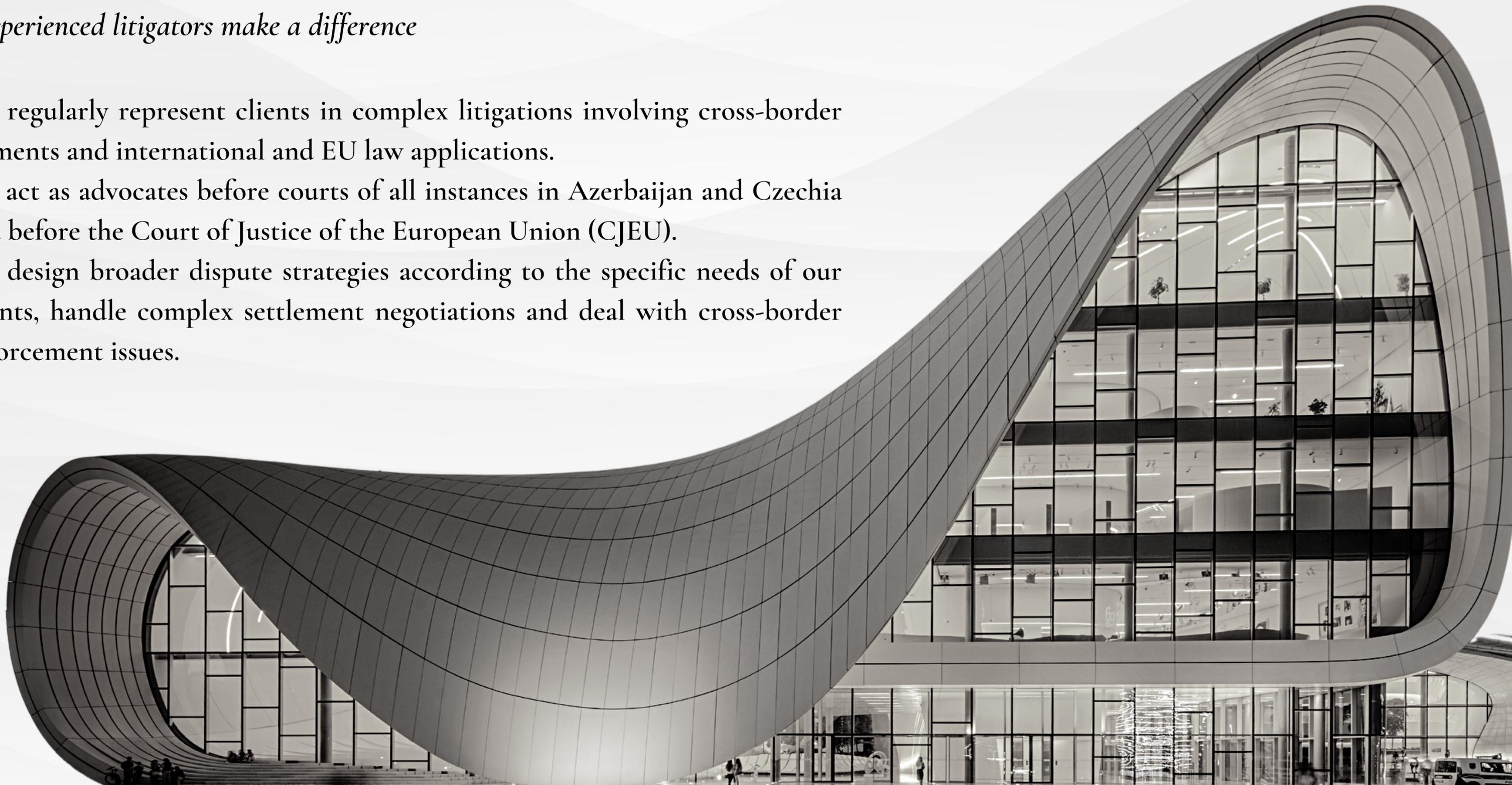




# HOW CAN WE HELP? (CONTINUED)

## *(b) Experienced litigators make a difference*

- We regularly represent clients in complex litigations involving cross-border elements and international and EU law applications.
- We act as advocates before courts of all instances in Azerbaijan and Czechia and before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).
- We design broader dispute strategies according to the specific needs of our clients, handle complex settlement negotiations and deal with cross-border enforcement issues.





# HOW CAN WE HELP? (CONTINUED)

*(c) Professional handling of international arbitrations is the key to success*

- We regularly represent various industry-sector clients in international commercial arbitrations conducted under different arbitration rules.
- We also regularly act as arbitrators and therefore have a good feel for the dynamics of the whole arbitration process.
- We have represented investors and sovereign states in investment treaty disputes under various Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) and the Energy Charter Treaty.
- We have deep knowledge of local arbitration laws and practices in our respective jurisdictions.
- We have experience with setting aside and enforcing arbitral awards.



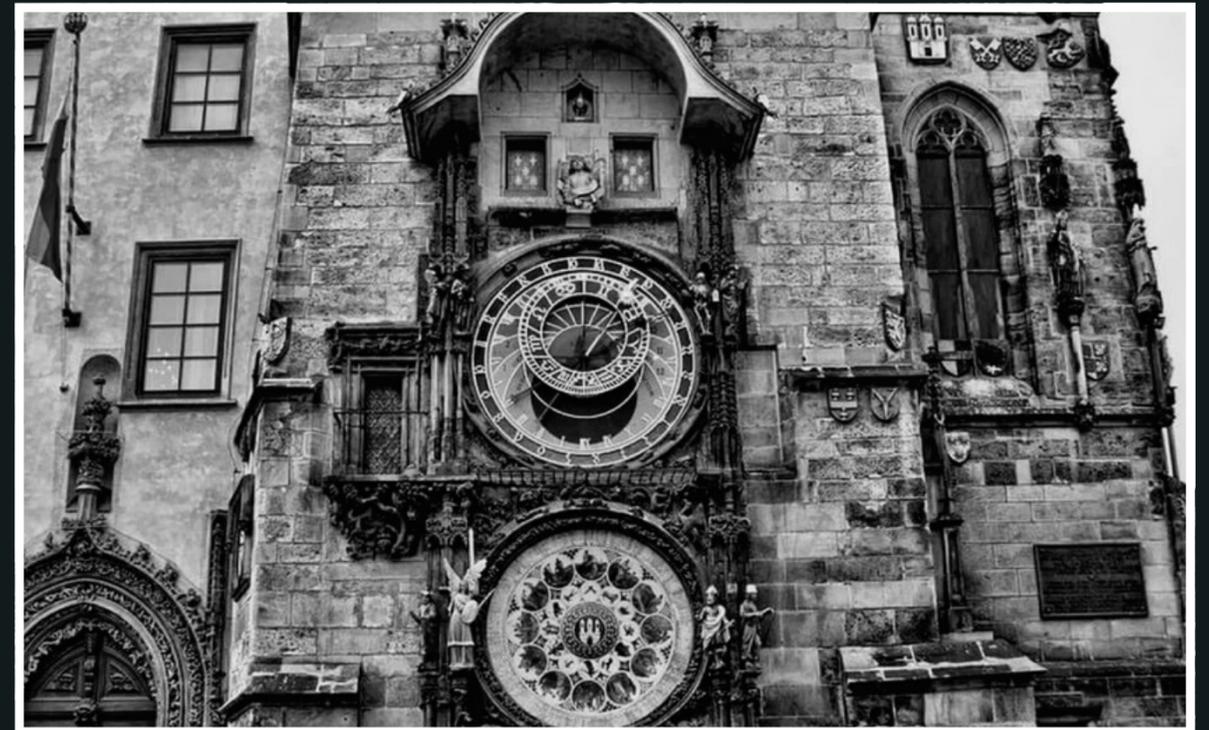


# **HOW CAN WE HELP?** (CONTINUED)

Our Dispute Resolution practice is supported and combined with our respective firms' broader transactional and regulatory expertise.

Our clients will be provided with top-quality and complex legal services reflecting their specific needs.

Our strength lies in our diversity, close cooperation, and experience!



# CONTACT US



**Vugar Mammadov**

**VLM and Partners**

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**HÁJEK  
LEGAL**

**Otakar Hájek**

**Hájek Legal**

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