

# Nelli Kichigina

Associate



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Fietta LLP, Associate (October 2025 onward), Staff Attorney (2025)
- High Court of England and Wales, Judicial Assistant (2024-2025)
- Mayer Brown LLP (London), Associate (Ukrainian Lawyer) (2023)
- Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (London), Associate (2022-2023)
- AVELLUM (Kyiv), Associate (2020-2023) (with a 10-month secondment)

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Nelli Kichigina is a dually-qualified English and Ukrainian lawyer, and Associate at Fietta LLP. She is an English-qualified Solicitor and is admitted to the Ukrainian bar.

Nelli's practice focuses on international dispute resolution as well as advising on public international law matters. She has worked on a wide range of international disputes, including investor-State and commercial arbitrations. Nelli has represented both sovereign States and private entities in high-profile arbitrations under ICSID, SCC, ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL Rules, as well as in contentious proceedings before the International Court of Justice. She has also been involved in *pro bono* international human rights matters.

Prior to joining Fietta LLP, Nelli worked as an Associate at major US law firms in London and in the dispute resolution department of a leading Ukrainian law firm in Kyiv. She also served as an English High Court Judicial Assistant, working closely with the multiple judges of the Chancery Division and the Commercial Court.

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Nelli's contentious practice have included:

- Representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands in an ICSID claim brought by ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical BV under the Energy Charter Treaty arising out of gas extraction in the Groningen gas field.
- Representing the Republic of Azerbaijan in two separate but parallel proceedings against the Republic of Armenia before the International Court of Justice with regard to alleged violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).
- Representing the State of Ukraine in an SCC arbitration brought by a Russian State-owned bank under the Ukraine-Russia BIT in connection with sanctions and other regulatory measures imposed by Ukraine.
- Representing the State of Ukraine in an UNCITRAL arbitration brought under Ukraine-China BIT arising out of alleged investments in a major Ukrainian aerospace company.
- Representing a foreign contractor in a series of parallel arbitrations in relation to the construction of a metro line in Eastern Europe.
- Representing a major Chinese manufacturer in an ICC arbitration arising out of a guarantee issued by a bank.

Highlights of Nelli's advisory practice have included:

- Advising an Asian State with respect to the outer limits of its continental shelf and related maritime delimitation issues.
- Advising on a potential investment treaty claim against a State in relation to the seizure of assets belonging to investors from selected countries.
- Advising a group of investors into renewable energy sector on a potential claim under the Energy Charter Treaty against an Eastern European State.
- Advising a client on a potential LCIA arbitration arising out of a shareholder dispute.
- Assisting a legal expert with a complex shareholder dispute brought by a Russian investor against Ukraine under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and with an ICSID arbitration brought by a Dutch investor in connection with measures which allegedly led to the diminution of the value of its shareholding in Ukraine's airline company.

Highlights of Nelli's *pro bono* contentious work have included:

- Acting for an international human rights organisation in a constitutional challenge against the criminalisation of same-sex relationships in a Caribbean State.

Highlights of Nelli's Judicial Assistant experience have included:

- Assisting Robin Knowles CBE with a challenge under s. 67 of the Arbitration Act 1996.
- Assisting Dias J (Comm) with drafting a judgment following a two-week trial of a joint venture dispute and with a trial of a super yacht dispute arising out of an LMAA arbitration.
- Assisting Bright J (Comm) with the jurisdiction hearing of a USD 14 billion alleged conspiracy claim and a successful arbitration appeal under s. 69 of the Arbitration Act 1996.
- Assisting Richard Smith J (ChD) with drafting a judgment following a one-week hearing of interlocutory applications in a USD 3 billion fraud claim.
- Assisting Bacon J (ChD) with drafting a judgment concerning a jurisdictional challenge in a high-profile multi-jurisdictional cartel damages case against car manufacturers.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- "Cutting-off Russia from ISDS: Another Tool to Consider?" Kluwer Arbitration Blog (26 March 2022)

## **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

Admitted to practise in England & Wales (2025)

Admitted to practise in Ukraine (2020 as a Lawyer, 2025 as an Advocate)

Master of Laws (First Class Honours), National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (2022)

Bachelor of Laws in International Law (First Class Honours), Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University (2020)

2020 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, Best Oralist at the Ukrainian National Rounds and Alona E. Evans Award for Best Memorial (ranked Top 40 out of 745 teams worldwide)

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

English (fluent), Ukrainian (native), Russian (fluent)

