

Rising Star: Mayer Brown's Nikolay Mizulin

By **Andrew Westney**

Law360, New York (April 1, 2016, 4:46 PM ET) --

Mayer Brown LLP's Nikolay Mizulin seized the chance provided by Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization to take a role in several early cases representing the country's government and industries, propelling the Russian native to his place as one of two international trade lawyers under 40 honored by Law360.

The 38-year-old Mizulin, who made the Rising Stars list, has worked on a wide variety of matters throughout the world, including anti-dumping, safeguard and anti-subsidy cases in Europe as well as in Brazil, China, Turkey and the United States.

But his most prominent work has come representing Russia and Russian companies before the WTO, including the first seven cases involving the country. After an earlier stint with Mayer Brown, Mizulin rejoined the firm in 2012, the same year Russia became part of the organization.

"It all was extremely timely, so that when Russia joined the WTO, I was the right man at the right time," Mizulin told Law360.

The most high-profile case Mizulin is handling before the WTO is as lead attorney for Russia and Russian energy giant Gazprom fighting the European Union's so-called Third Energy Package, rules set forth in 2009 governing the transmission, distribution, supply and storage of natural gas, which Moscow has alleged discriminate against its shipments.

The battle, like others Russia is involved in with the EU, is complicated by political tensions between the countries, Mizulin said. In another pending WTO case, Mizulin is representing the Russian chemical industry in challenges over the EU's anti-dumping methodologies and Ukraine's anti-dumping measures applied to imported ammonium nitrate from Russia.

Improving trade relations is key to finding solutions among the countries, he said.

"If we can resolve some of those issues, it's certainly to the benefit of the businesses involved, but hopefully also potentially for this complicated triangular relationship between Russia, Europe and Ukraine," Mizulin said.



Nikolay Mizulin

Mizulin also scored a major win in the United States in 2014 as one of two lead attorneys clearing Russian ferrosilicon makers of dumping charges before the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission.

The case was the largest U.S. case against Russia to date, dealing with \$150 million worth of imports, and notably resulted in a zero dumping margin for his client.

“Basically we proved the Russian exporter was not dumping, and in the history of Russian participation in United States anti-dumping proceedings and quite a few European proceedings, this was pretty unique,” Mizulin said.

A fluent Russian, English and Spanish speaker, Mizulin continues to center his practice on Eastern Europe, but he stays busy globally, including working with Chinese interests and representing a U.S. Steel subsidiary in Turkey’s largest-yet anti-dumping investigation into imports, involving more than \$1 billion worth of hot-rolled steel.

“Once you get to know the industry, get to know the client, you can represent them all around the world in these proceedings,” Mizulin said. “That’s the beauty of the profession we have as trade lawyers.”

--Editing by Aaron Pelc.

All Content © 2003-2016, Portfolio Media, Inc.