



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION Асоціація Українських Правників Америки

## *THE UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE SPEAKERS FOR OUR 39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN TORONTO*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Dr. Andrii Veselovskyi**, our **keynote speaker**, currently serves as the Consul General of Ukraine in Toronto. Dr. Veselovskyi is a seasoned career diplomat with a deep understanding of the bilateral issues relating to Ukraine and Canada, and the understanding of Ukraine in the West. Prior to his appointment as Consul General, Dr. Veselovskyi served as

Ambassador at Large and Special Representative to the Transdnestrian Settlement from 2012-2016 and as Ambassador at Large and National Coordinator of Ukraine to the Central European Initiative from 2010-2012. Prior to that, he served as a Representative of Ukraine to the European Union, and as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. From 2001 to 2005, Dr. Veselovskyi, served as the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Kenya and Sudan. For the preceding 15 years, he served in various professional capacities for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, including at the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa. During his more than 30 years of public service, Dr. Veselovskyi has also served as Ukraine's National Coordinator and Special Representative at numerous conferences and meetings, particularly in Europe. He began his professional career as a journalist, interpreter and an assistant professor. Dr. Veselovskyi is married and has three grown children.

## **PRESENTERS**

(in alphabetical order)

**Michael Vociurkiw** (Михайло Боцюрків) is a Ukrainian-Canadian writer and development professional who has worked on emergencies on several continents, most recently as a spokesman for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (Спеціальна моніторингова місія ОБСЄ в Україні - СММ). During his more than 2 years with the OSCE he also acted as de facto spokesperson for the crash of MH17. He is a two-time TEDx speaker and a former spokesperson for UNICEF, representing the organization in East Jerusalem, Geneva and Pakistan. Michael is a contributor to [CNN.com](http://CNN.com), the Huffington Post and a frequent guest on CNN International. Over the span of 12 years as a journalist Michael worked on staff at the Winnipeg Free Press, the South China Morning Post and Asia Times. His OpEd and reporting pieces have been published in the Los Angeles Times, the Globe and Mail and Forbes. He is a former president of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) and currently serves on the executive board of the Ukrainian Journalists of North America (Спілка Українських Журналістів Північної Америки). Michael is currently completing a book on his experiences in the aid business - from the relative calm of his home in Sidney, British Columbia.



**Cyndee Todgham Cherniak** is the founding lawyer of LexSage, a boutique international trade law and sales tax firm in Toronto, Ontario. Her practice includes: international law, including World Trade Organization (WTO) and Regional Trade Agreements (RTA) analysis, interpretations, and opinions, government relations strategies, and dispute settlement, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) verifications, value for duty, tariff classification, import and export controls and sanctions, bilateral restraint agreements, bilateral investment treaties, and numerous other aspects of international trade law. Cyndee also has expertise in commodity taxes and customs duties. Cyndee is known as an international lawyer who works closely with other

lawyers, in-house counsel, international financial institutions, trade associations, non-governmental organizations and governments. She has also frequently asked to comment on hot button trade issues and has appeared on shows such as Midday Markets and Headline on Business News Network, Today on China Radio International, The Rutherford Report on Corus Radio, The Agenda with Steve Paikin and iChannel's @issue. Cyndee is a columnist for Embassy Magazine and has been featured in, or contributed to, national newspapers including The Globe and Mail, National Post and The Vancouver Sun. She has been published as an author or contributor in numerous publications and e-zines, such as Law Times, Canadian Lawyer, Lawyers Weekly, Canadian Business, The Hill Times and National Magazine.

**Stephane Dunikowski** is a French attorney and author. He was born in France in 1964, and has been an Avocat since 1989 (civil and criminal law, and immigration law). He was a co-founder of the World Ukrainian Lawyers Congress in 1992. He is the former Chairman of the Representative Comity of the Ukrainian Community in France. He is presently a Member of the Board of the Ukrainian Eparchy in France, and also a Member of the Board and co-founder of the Anna of Kyiv's Cultural Center (Senlis-France). Mr. Dunikowski wrote an essay that will be published soon on the trial of Samuel Schwartzbard, who assassinated the President-in-Exile of the Ukrainian Democratic Republic, Simon Petlura, in Paris. Schwartzbard was found innocent by the Paris Court even though he admitted killing Petlura. Mr. Dunikowski spent many years researching the trial, including the official documents, newspapers, photographs and sketches. He has analyzed the process, both inside and outside the courtroom, to determine how and why an admitted killer could be found innocent by the jury, and how that impacted the Ukrainian and Jewish communities.





**Dr. George Foty** spent 30 years as a general practice dentist, proprietor, builder and administrator of several dental and medical facilities beginning in 1980. He retired from his dental career in total oral rehabilitation and chronic head pain management in 2010. He is also a prominent businessman, currently serving as the President of his own (new) company, Auxilia Medico, serving Canadian physicians and clinics in the medical field. George has been active in the Ukrainian community in Toronto where he has devoted

significant time to numerous organizations, including currently serving as a Board member of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association. Among his accomplishments was starting a networking and mentoring program to connect youth to successful Ukrainian executives, academics and media. George has also been active in Ukraine, and since 2013 has been the honorary North American representative of “Ukrajinska Sprava”, a Business Association comprised of more than 120 businesses in the Ternopil Oblast.

**Dr. Ivan Horodyskyy** is the Director of the Rule of Law Center of the Ukrainian Catholic University. His Ph.D. is in Public International Law. Ivan has been practicing law for 8 years, and specializes in corporate law, real estate and public international law. As an expert, he cooperates with the World Justice Project and Council of Europe within the projects devoted to the promotion of the rule of law, freedom of expression, personal data protection and freedom of the Internet. Ivan is a coordinator of the Commission on improving of legal education of Ukrainian Bar Association and a member of Ukrainian Association of International Law.





**Alex Ilchenko** is the President of the Ukrainian Canadian Bar Association. He is also senior counsel at Pallett Valo in suburban Toronto, where he heads up the firm's Insolvency & Corporate Restructuring Practice, and is also a member of the Commercial Litigation Practice and Alternative Dispute Resolution Services. Alex practices principally in the area of insolvency and related commercial litigation, with an emphasis on secured and unsecured creditor remedies, commercial

bankruptcy, receiverships and commercial restructurings. Alex has represented individual and corporate debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, landlords, purchasers of assets from insolvent entities, liquidators, trustees in bankruptcy, construction lien claimants, directors of insolvent entities, receivers and monitors appointed under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*. During the course of Alex's litigation practice he has principally appeared before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Commercial List, and the Bankruptcy Registrar's Court. He has also appeared before the Nova Scotia Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Alex earned his B.A. degree from Carleton University and his LL.B. from the University of Ottawa Law School *magna cum laude*.

**Adrian Karatnycky** is a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center and managing partner of Myrmidon Group LLC, a New York-based consultancy that works with investors and corporations seeking entry into the complex emerging markets of Ukraine and Eastern Europe. He is a founder and co-director of the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter. From 1993 to 2004, Adrian was president and executive director of Freedom House, during which time he developed programs of assistance to democratic and human rights movements in Belarus, Serbia, Russia, and Ukraine. At Freedom House he devised a range of long-term comparative analytic surveys of democracy and political reform. For twelve years he directed the benchmark survey *Freedom in the World* and was co-editor of the annual *Nations in Transit* study of reform in the post-Communist world. Adrian is a frequent contributor to *Foreign Affairs*, *Newsweek*,



the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and many other periodicals. He is co-author of three books and co-editor of eight books on Soviet and post-Soviet themes.



**Oksana Pelekh** is the Vice President and Treasurer of the Ukrainian American Bar Association. She specializes in litigation, real estate, bankruptcy and immigration law in New York City, New York. Oksana is admitted to the New York State Bar and licensed to practice law in Ukraine. Oksana earned her law degree in 2005 from Ivan Franko National University, School of Law and in 2007 received LL.M. degree from Pace Law School

**Zenon Poticzny** is the President of the Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, a central focal point for establishing and fostering bilateral business relations. CUCC is recognized by all levels of government in Canada and Ukraine, by the business community in both countries and by the public in general as the facilitator agency of choice for establishing, maintaining, and monitoring bilateral business relations, trade, and investment opportunities between Canada and Ukraine. Zenon is also currently the President of Shelton/Zhoda Petroleum a junior oil and gas company listed in Sweden. The company is actively engaged in exploration and development activities in Ukraine. Previously he was the President and CEO of Shelton Canada Corporation and Managing Director for Shelton Corporation Ltd., both of which were involved in oil processing and marketing in Ukraine. Early in his career, Zenon was a process engineer and Project Manager for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada, where he worked on projects related to tar sands. He has written several reports and publications relating to oil sands and bitumen extraction process. Zenon Poticzny was awarded the Order of Merit, Class III, from the President to Ukraine in 2009. He holds a Master's degree in Engineering and an MBA, both from the University of Toronto.





**Dr. Oleksandr Romanko** is a Senior Research Analyst in Quantitative Research, Risk Analytics - Business Analytics at IBM Canada in Toronto. Dr. Romanko works in the area of risk management, finance, optimization, operational research, mathematical modelling, data mining, algorithms and software. He is also an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto and the Ukrainian Catholic University, as well as a Lecturer at McMaster University. He has also been an organizer of numerous professional conferences and has been featured in professional publications. Dr. Romanko is a board member of Canadian Ukrainian Congress - Toronto Branch, Canada-Ukraine International

Assistance Fund and Ukrainian-Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto. He is involved in a number of volunteering and educational projects between Canada and Ukraine; among the recent ones is organizing and teaching a free two-day course "Introduction to Data Science, Business Analytics, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence" for 800 attendees in Kyiv, September 10-11, 2016.

<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/romanko>

**Taras Rudnitsky** is the President of the Ukrainian American Bar Association. He has dedicated his entire legal career to representing consumers seeking justice under the law. His unique background as a consumer protection attorney, automotive engineer and expert witness has provided invaluable insight for consumers in cases throughout Florida and the United States. Taras has been a featured speaker before consumer justice attorneys, governmental investigators, and corporate executives, and has also been interviewed by several television and newspaper reporters regarding consumer justice issues. Taras is also active in the Florida Bar, having served as chair of its Small Claims Rules Committee. He is on the Board of Directors for several legal aid organizations, and has served as their President. The Florida Supreme Court has frequently recognized Taras's contributions to the public for pro bono legal services. He has also earned Legal Service's Seminole County Pro



Bono Attorney of the Year awards in 2012, 2013 and 2015, and its 2016 Legacy of Justice Award for his many years of pro bono work on behalf of indigent consumers. Taras earned his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, and also holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit.



**Andriy Semotiuk** has spent the last four decades as an immigration attorney, and has helped over 10,000 clients with various legal problems. His memberships in the bars of New York and California in the United States and Ontario and British Columbia in Canada have helped Andriy work with investors, executives, professionals and celebrities in the entertainment industry, looking after their immigration needs. In addition to his work as an attorney, Andriy is also a columnist for Forbes where he writes about investor immigration. A former United Nations correspondent and a published author, he is an

associate of Manning, Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez and Trester LLP, a national law firm with over 150 attorneys in the United States, and Pace Law Firm with some 140 members in Canada.