



# UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## Асоціація Українських Правників Америки

**36TH ANNUAL UABA CONVENTION**  
**THURSDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17-20, 2013, at the**  
**Azul Sensatori Hotel, on the Mayan Riviera, Mexico**

### Conference Agenda

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*all hotel locations for the scheduled events to be announced*

#### **Thursday, October 17th**

**6:00 pm -----** Welcoming Cocktail Reception

#### **Friday, October 18th**

**8:30 am - 9:00 am** Conference Registration

**9:00 am - 9:30 am** **George Pazuniak**, UABA president and Conference Moderator  
*Welcoming Remarks*

**9:30am - 10:10 am** **Petro Kostiv**: *Immigrant Visa Options for Investors: EB-5 VISA*

**10:10 am - 10:40 am** **Myroslaw Smorodsky and Julia Semenova**: *International Estate Administration – Recent Developing Issues -- and how they may affect your practice*

**10:40 am - 11:00 am** Coffee Break

**11:00 am - 11:40 am** **Victor Rud**: *Recent Developments In Antitrust Law*

**11:40 am - 12:20 pm** **Steve Grogoga**: *The Legal Issues Facing Columbus In His Agreement With The Spanish Monarchy To Explore The Western Route To India*



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Andrij Maday** is a Graduate of The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, in Philadelphia (1975). He received twelve awards for woodcuts and drawings, among them a Lewis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Grant. Andrij has lectured extensively on Iconography as well as the art of the Woodcut in the United States and Canada (1981 to present). Most recently: New England College, Henniker, New Hampshire; Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. – Currently, Instructor in Color Theory and Art Fundamentals, Virginia Marti College of Art and Design, Lakewood, OH. He has had THIRTY-five solo exhibitions in the United States and Canada. Andrij's Woodcuts, Paintings, Drawings, Icons and Giclees may be found in numerous private and in over 60 permanent collections in the U.S., Canada, Europe, South America and Australia. Presently residing in Suburban Cleveland, Ohio, Andrij is working on site-specific public and private commissions in the painting and printmaking mediums.

### SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER



**Hon. Ihor Samsin, Head of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, Judge of the Supreme Court of Ukraine.** Ihor Samsin was born on 30 November 1957 in Lviv region. He began his working career in 1975. After graduation in 1983 from the Legal Faculty of Lviv State University he worked as a trainee (intern), advocate, chief of the legal consultation office of Kalynivka district Vinnytsia region. In June 1987 he was elected people's judge of Lityn district people's court of Vinnytsia region, and in 1991 – as the judge of Vinnytsia region court. Since April 1995 – judge of the Supreme Court of Ukraine.

By the Decision of the VII Congress of Judges of Ukraine on 3 November 2005 Samsin was elected to the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, and on 30 March 2006 at the constitutive meeting of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine he was elected Head of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine. By the Order of the State Court Administration on 16 September 2010 Samsin was appointed member of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, established pursuant to the Law of Ukraine “On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges” as a permanent body in judicial system of Ukraine. On 16 September 2010 poky at the constitutive meeting of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine he was elected Head of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine.

Ihor Samsin is a judge of the highest qualification class. He was awarded with the Honorary Diploma (Certificate of Honour) of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Honorary Diploma (Certificate of Honour) of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Honorary Decoration of the Supreme Court of Ukraine «For Loyalty to the Law», Order “For Merits” 3<sup>rd</sup> class. PhD of Law. Merited Lawyer of Ukraine.

### PRESENTERS – MODERATORS



**Petro Kostiv** resides in Los Angeles and runs the main office of Kostiv & Associates, P.C. Petro's areas of practice include various aspects of business law, bankruptcy, and immigration. Petro focuses on helping foreign investors to open and develop their businesses in the United States. Petro also advises American individuals and businesses on how to succeed in foreign business environments. For his undergraduate degree, Petro attended UC Berkeley. He later received an MA in Political Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. Thereafter, he completed his JD at the University Of Michigan School Of Law in Ann Arbor. While at the University of Michigan, Petro spent a summer working at the Supreme Court of Argentina and studying Argentine law at a law school in Buenos Aires. Petro is admitted to the California State Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Petro is fluent in Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese as well as his native Ukrainian and Russian. Petro is presently UABA's vice president.



**Stephen Grogoza** specializes in criminal law in Naples, Florida. He is board certified by the Florida Bar in criminal trial law and in criminal appellate law. Less than 25 attorneys in Florida have this dual board certification. Stephen also meets the Florida Supreme Court requirements to represent individuals charged with first degree murder and facing the death penalty. Stephen is a member of the state bars of Florida, Washington, DC, Virginia, and Georgia. Steve Grogoza is presently on the Board of Directors of the UABA and immediate past president. Steve is an avid history buff of ancient cultures from the Old World of the Sumerians and Egyptians to the New World of the Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas. At our 2004 convention in Washington, DC, Steve presented a lecture on how Columbus' discovery of the "new world" affected the development of the US Constitution; and at our 2011 convention in Cancun, he spoke on the history and culture of the Aztecs and Mayans. Steve's topic at this seminar is on the legal

issues facing Columbus in his agreement with the Spanish monarchy to explore the western route to India.



**George Pazuniak** is an Intellectual Property attorney practicing in Wilmington, Delaware. George has extensive experience in all facets of IP enforcement, protection, arbitration, licensing and counseling. His diverse client base has included start-ups and small to medium sized businesses as well as global Fortune 50 companies. Mr. Pazuniak has been lead counsel in over forty IP cases, including ten jury trials and several arbitrations, in venues ranging from Delaware to East Texas to California. Many of these have been complex high profile cases involving, for example, biotechnology, agricultural chemicals and seeds, other chemical compounds, software, telecommunications and other electronics, and mechanical devices. He has also handled appeals before the Delaware Supreme Court, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.. George was one of the original founders of the UABA and is currently serving as UABA President.



**Victor Rud** is presently the Deputy General Counsel for Evonik Corporation, the North American affiliate of Evonik Industries, an international chemical company based in Germany; he has been with this company and its predecessor, Degussa Industries, for the past 30 years. Before joining as in-house counsel, he was in private practice for 7 years in New York City with two Wall Street firms. Victor is one of the original founders and past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Ukrainian American Bar Association. Victor graduated from Harvard University and Duke Law School.



**Taras S. Rudnitsky** has a unique background as an automotive safety engineer, expert witness and consumer justice attorney. Taras has limited his practice to representing consumers since first opening his law office in 1998. He has been a featured speaker before consumer justice attorneys, governmental investigators, and corporate executives, and has also been interviewed by several television station and newspaper reporters regarding consumer justice issues. His commitment to consumer justice began at the University of Michigan Law School, where he represented consumers in the Law School's Clinical Law program. Taras is active in Florida bar organizations, including serving as Vice-Chair of the Small Claims Rules Committee and serving on the Board of Directors for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida and the Legal Advocacy Center of Central Florida. The Florida Supreme Court has frequently recognized his contributions to the public for pro bono legal services. and he earned the Seminole County 2012 and 2013 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year awards from Legal Services.



**Markian B. Silecky** is a partner in Dentons' Kyiv and New York offices. He specializes in general corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, international transactions, real estate and environmental law. Before Dentons, he was a partner in Salans, prior to which Markian was the principal of an international law firm which he founded in 1988. He has been practicing in Ukraine since 1992 and will continue working in both the Kyiv and New York offices. He has worked with various Ukrainian State Agencies, including the Ministry of Transport, State Property Fund, Ministry of Environment and the Cabinet of Ministers, and has also represented the Embassy of the United States, the Canadian Embassy, and various diplomats with regard to their activities in Ukraine.



**Vadym Samolienko** is a partner with the Kyiv, Ukraine law firm, Asters. Vadym received his undergraduate degree in 1990 from Lugansk State Pedagogical Institute; in 1994, he attended Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute; in 1995 he received his law degree from the National Law Academy of Ukraine, Kharkiv; and in 1996, he received a L.L.M degree from the University of Chicago Law School. From 1997 to 1999, Vadym was in house counsel to three capital investment firms before joining Shevchenko Didkovskiy & Partners, the predecessor firm to Asters. Vadym is active in M&A, corporate and commercial law, restructuring, project finance, securities, environmental, transactional taxation, real estate. He is a board member of the Ukrainian Bar Association, and a member of: the Kyiv Region Bar Association, Corporate Governance Council for the National Commission on Securities and Exchange of Ukraine, a recommended arbitrator for the Kazakhstan International Arbitration Court of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In addition to many recognitions for his

professional excellence, Vadym was awarded with the Certificate of Honor of the State Securities and Stock Market Commission of Ukraine.



**Julia Semenova** is a senior attorney with the Ukrainian law firm Ukriniurkolegia. In 1997, Julia joined Ukriniurkolegia as an investigator and expert genealogist and First Assistant to the President. In 1999, she obtained a Master's Degree in English Language & Literature from Kyiv State Linguistic University, and was duly qualified and licensed as an interpreter and teacher of the English language. She continued her education and in 2003, received a Master's Degree in Law from Kyiv National University of Economics; in 2004, Julia was admitted to the bar and licensed by the Kyiv Regional Bar Association to practice law in Ukraine. During her career with Ukriniurkolegia, she has participated in and has supervised numerous cases involving genealogical research for estate matters in courts of Western Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United States and has testified as a genealogical expert researcher on various occasions. Being fluent in the Ukrainian, Russian and English languages, she has

been a participant panelist and acted as a translator at various bar association symposia and meetings in the US and Europe and has testified as an expert in American courts on the subject of Ukrainian Inheritance and Estate Law.



**Myroslaw Smorodsky** has been involved since 1968 in many diverse areas of the law ranging from criminal defense, to international transactional and litigation matters, to massive class actions involving Nazi Era Slave/Forced Labor claims resulting in billion dollar settlements. Over the years, he has also represented such diverse clients as soviet political prisoners in the 70's and 80's to acting as legal adviser to the Ukrainian Mission to the UN, the Ukrainian Consulate in New York and to the Ukrainian Embassy after Ukraine declared independence. In 1980, he was appointed by President Carter as a Public Member of the American Delegation to the Madrid Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and from 2001 to 2006 he was advisor to the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) on issues relating to distribution of compensation to slave/forced labor victims of Nazi Era war crimes. His practice has evolved to and is now restricted to matters that are of an international character or are of special interest. Myroslaw is one of the original founders of the UABA, and is presently Chairman of the Board of Governors as well as the organization's webmaster. He has also previously served the organization as its Chairman of the Board, and was its President for two separate terms during the UABA's 36 year history.