

IRYNA POLOVETS

Geneva, Switzerland · irina.polovets@gmail.com · +41787527622

WORK EXPERIENCE

Advisor to Deputy Director-General (DDG), World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2021-present

- Supported DDG in securing the WTO's first budget increase in 12 years (+3.6%) by leading drafting and internal coordination of mid-term and biennial budget proposals
- Supported DDG in formulating strategy, messaging, and outreach approaches for engaging with WTO Members amid budgetary uncertainty
- Advised DDG on legal matters, including financial regulations, procurement, dispute settlement, and institutional matters
- Assisted DDG in strategic engagement with the United States by preparing messaging and supporting high-level interactions with U.S. officials
- Drafted speeches, talking points, and policy briefs for DDG and Director-General; supported high-level meetings with senior government officials; organized media coverage
- Assisted DDG with supervising five key areas of work: Administration and General Services (including budget, finance and procurement); Legal Affairs; Rules (anti-dumping, subsidies, safeguards), Market Access, and Trade Policy Review
- Supported work of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (CBFA)
- Reviewed and cleared official documentation
- Contributed substantive drafting and political guidance to Ukraine's Trade Policy Review

Dispute Settlement Lawyer, Legal Affairs Division, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, May 2020– August 2021

- Provided legal and procedural advice to panelists in two major multiparty disputes concerning agricultural subsidies and duties on information technology products
- Provided technical assistance to developing and LDC WTO Members
- Updated sections of WTO Analytic Index
- Represented staff in disputes with Administration; served on Performance Management Panel

Dispute Settlement Lawyer, Appellate Body Secretariat, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, November 2014 – May 2020

- Provided legal and procedural advice to Appellate Body Members and arbitrators in numerous inter-state disputes covering various issues of WTO law (anti-dumping measures, subsidies, agriculture, IP rights, SPS measures, GATT 1994)
- Reported on activities of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body and General Council
- Delivered technical assistance activities on substantive and procedural issues of WTO law to government officials and students
- Contributed to Appellate Body Repertory and Annual Reports
- Managed WTO's cooperation with European Law Students' Association (ELSA) on Jackson Moot Court on WTO Law

Consultant, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland, November 2013 – November 2014

- Drafted editorial articles on international trade and sustainable development for "Mosty", Russian-language version of "Bridges" publication
- Proposed topics for publication, coordinated with authors, and edited bylined articles

Intern, Appellate Body Secretariat, World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, September 2013 – February 2014

- Assisted Appellate Body Secretariat with research and drafting on systemic issues in WTO dispute settlement in preparation for induction retreat for incoming Appellate Body Members
- Contributed to World Trade Report 2014

Intern, Mayer Brown LLP, Brussels, Belgium, July – August 2013

- Contributed to projects on anti-dumping, safeguards, energy, customs and WTO dispute settlement under direct supervision of partner

Associate, Volkov & Partners, Kyiv, Ukraine, January 2010 – January 2013

- Advised clients in anti-dumping and safeguard investigations and on grain export restrictions
- Commented on draft provisions of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (trade remedies and government procurement)
- Drafted law review articles, expert commentaries, and the firm's monthly trade law news digest

Intern, Camelot Law Firm, Odesa, Ukraine, December 2008 – June 2009

- Researched into commercial and civil law, drafted legal documents in civil and commercial cases

Intern, Civil Chamber of Malinovskyi District Court of Odesa, Odesa, Ukraine, 2007-2008

- Assisted judge in hearing preparations, drafted records of court hearings and texts of decisions

ACADEMIC AND OTHER EXPERIENCE

Fellow, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland, September 2023-present

- As part of fellowship, I co-authored with Prof. Gracia Marín Durán moot court [case](#) and bench memo on carbon taxes and WTO law for global Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law

Moot Court Coach, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland, 2016-2024

- Coached students in oral and written advocacy; provided career advice to students

Examiner of Fulbright scholarship applications, Fulbright Ukraine, 2017-present

- Reviewed applications and conducted interviews to recommend candidates for U.S. study under the Fulbright Program

Member of the Academic Board, John H. Jackson Moot Court Competition on WTO Law, 2020-21

- Reviewed case materials and bench memoranda, provided substantive feedback to uphold rigorous academic and analytical standards

Researcher, World Trade Institute, University of Bern, September 2013 – October 2014

- My research focused on export restrictions and was fully financed by Swiss Academic Excellence Scholarship

Participant in "Young Generation Will Change Ukraine" Program, Bohdan Havrylyshyn Charity Foundation, 2013

- Studied state building experience of Switzerland with specific focus on decentralization of power, economy and Swiss-EU relations. Authored report and publications on possible implementation of Swiss model elements in Ukraine

Assistant for Moot Court Competition on WTO Law, European Law Students' Association (ELSA), Brussels, Belgium, 2011 – 2012

- Managed the global WTO Law Moot Court competition; responsibilities included team registration, invoicing, website administration, and evaluation of written submissions

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, AZ, U.S.

2012-13

LLM in International Trade & Business Law

- Full scholarship awarded by Fulbright Foreign Student Exchange Program; recipient of Munger Prize for excellence in international and business law; Certificate in Legal English; organized and conducted weekly review sessions on International Trade Law for fellow LLM and JD students

World Trade Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland

2011-12

Master in International Law and Economics, magna cum laude (87%)

- Full scholarship from State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO); winner of WTI moot court, participant in WTI - IELPO moot court, Best written submission and best orator awards

Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, Kyiv, Ukraine

2009-10

Master in International Economic Law, Honors, top 5%

- Member of Research Center on WTO Law, Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University; Participant in ELSA Moot Court on WTO Law (team captain, National Round and Best Orator award winner in Ukraine; semi-finalist of European Regional Round in Leuven, Belgium; participant in Final Oral Round in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic)
- Dean's and Rector's awards for academic excellence

Odesa National Maritime Academy, Odesa, Ukraine

2005-09

Bachelor of Law, specialization in Maritime Law, Honors, ranked 1st out of 60 students, June 2009

- Full scholarship provided by government of Ukraine; Consultant at the law clinic for socially unprotected citizens; Participant in National Law Competition; Participant in National Contest on Consulting Clients of Law Clinics
- Dean's award for academic excellence

Short courses:

Hague Academy of International Law, Public International Law (in person)

2021 and 2022

Arbitration Academy, Paris, France

2012

APPOINTEMENTS

Appointed by President of Ukraine to roster of arbitrators under Ukraine – EU Association Agreement, March 2024

Appointed by President of Ukraine to roster of arbitrators under Ukraine – UK Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, November 2023

ADMISSIONS

Admitted to practice law in Ukraine in 2016.

LANGUAGES

Ukrainian (native), Russian (native), English (fluent), French (advanced working proficiency), Spanish (intermediate – B1)

SELECTED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Guest lecture on WTO at the University of Geneva, 2025

Guest lectures on WTO Law at the University of Leeds, 2023-2025

Guest lectures on The Role of the WTO in International Economic Governance, Hague Academy of International Law, winter and summer sessions in 2023-2024

Guest lectures on WTO dispute settlement at ELSA Ukraine annual Introductory Course on WTO, since 2021

Leaders in Law Lecture on WTO Dispute Settlement at University of Birmingham, UK, March 2018

Guest lectures on WTO law at Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2020, 2017

Guest lecture on WTO Dispute Settlement at Kyiv National Economic University, Kyiv, Ukraine, 2016