

## **PRESS RELEASE**

A merger of three Odessa based law firms: “Dialogue” Law Bureau, “Sopot & Partners” Law Firm and “Chechel, Mallayev & Partners” Law Firm was completed at the end of April 2010. The combined firm has been registered under new brand “LEXCELLENCE”.

Before the merger each firm had been operating in a specific law practice. The Dialogue’s team of lawyers, which was headed by Daniel Kozlov, was providing Criminal Defense in all courts in respect of business related crimes and misfeasance in public office (so called “white-collar” crimes). The Sopot & Partners team, which was headed by Sergey Sopot, has strong Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice since 1997. The Chechel, Mallayev & Partners team, which was managed by Vagif Mallayev, practiced Maritime Law and International Trade Law since 2005.

At present Daniel Kozlov, Vagif Mallayev and Sergey Sopot are share partners of “LEXCELLENCE” Law Firm. Sergey Sopot was appointed the Managing Partner. At present 15 (fifteen) lawyers and executive staff work at the office of “LEXCELLENCE” Law Firm. The law firm will carry out its activity through its offices in Kiev and Odessa.

The joining of intellectual assets, long-term experience of each team and aggressive marketing policy will enable the new firm to strengthen the participants positions in the market of legal services.

### Reference:

*“Dialogue” Law Bureau was established in 2009 in Odessa..*

*Primary practice: White Collar Crimes.*

*Number of lawyers: 3 (three).*

*“Chechel, Mallayev & Partners” Law Firm was established in 2005 in Odessa.*

*Primary practice: International Trade Law, Maritime Law, Insurance and Tax, Commercial Litigation.*

*Number of lawyers: 5 (five).*

*“Sopot & Partners” Law Firm was established in 1997 in Odessa.*

*Primary specialization: Commercial, Civil and Administrative Litigation..*

*Number of lawyers: 7 (seven) lawyers in Odessa office, 1 (one) lawyer in Kiev office.*