

## INTERNATIONAL

# How Ukraine's Lawyers Take Up Arms, Face Russia's War



After fleeing their cities, top lawyers have completely ceased their normal operations and are instead wielding their network of international business contacts to funnel military, logistic and financial resources into the country.

by Linda A. Thompson

When Vladimir Putin first started talking about invading Ukraine, local law firms with offices in Russia shut their operations down.

When Russia invaded Ukraine a little over two weeks ago, local firms severed ties with Russian clients and called on foreign businesses and law firms to do the same.

Now, more than two weeks into Russia's invasion, law firms have completely ceased their normal operations and are instead wielding their network of international business contacts to funnel military, logistic and financial resources into the country, as well as helping clients and civil society gather evidence of war damages and potential war crimes.

Reached by phone, Timur Bondaryev, founder and managing partner of the leading Ukrainian independent firm Arzinger, said some lawyers had taken up arms to protect their homes, while others were volunteering with charities or sheltering. Stressing that there was no difference between lawyers and the country's population at large, he added: "It's our country, we have to protect it. Therefore, everybody's doing what he or she is best fitted for."

Bondaryev fled the city's capital after Russia's invasion and spoke to Law.com International from Lviv, a city in Western Ukraine where the firm also has an office.

Since Russia's invasion, many of the firm's 80 lawyers had taken on the role of advocacy officers, he said.

"Our purpose now – since we do speak international languages – is just to explain what is happening," Bondaryev said. "We send hundreds of emails every day [and] have dozens of calls with our colleagues, friends, various law firms, NGOs [and] charities all over the world who want to help Ukraine, Ukrainian refugees," he said, adding that they were also pointing their international contacts to humanitarian aid initiatives and fundraising efforts.

Arzinger, along with a number of other law firms, has also started assisting public and private clients whose assets have been damaged or destroyed with future, international claims against Russia.

"We help them to collect evidence and we help them to compile their respective files for the future so that the information is not

lost," Bondaryev said, though he conceded it was not clear where and how Russia might be held liable for these damages.

Pointing out that bombings in the eastern part of Ukraine had left some cities with virtually no universities, nursery schools or airports, he said: "All this should be documented, even if now is not the time to talk about commercial stuff."

Bondaryev said the firm relocated a large part of its staff to its office in Lviv, a city in western Ukraine close to the Polish border. The firm also gave support staff and lawyers advances on their salaries to boost morale and to cover the increased expenses of relocating or fleeing, he said. "We're not talking about profits anymore," he said. "It's very important to keep people [afloat] and to help them somehow get used to the new reality."

Asked how he was coping, he said: "We do our best to stand firm because we have to be an example to everybody."

"The main thing which you lost is [your] sense of security. One week we had everything, and then we lost everything. And the most important thing is that we don't know how long [this will] last," Bondaryev said.

Asters, the country's largest law firm, firm was one of the first Ukrainian outfits to drop its Russian clients.

The firm quickly decided to structure its support efforts along four key areas, each overseen by a partner. One task force is trying to secure ammunition and military equipment for the country's army and civil defence forces, said Olesia Kryvetska, counsel at Asters.

"[We] are searching for what they need abroad because at some point in time there will be a scarcity in Ukraine of the things they need." According to Kryvetska, "at least three" staff members had taken up arms.

Kryvetska relocated to Warsaw, Poland, with her 6-year-old son after the invasion. Her husband, parents and sister chose to stay.

Another Asters task force is searching for and purchasing medicines as well providing help to medical institutions, she said.

**Linda A. Thompson reports for Law.com International, an ALM affiliate of the Daily Business Review. Contact her at [lthompson@alm.com](mailto:lthompson@alm.com).**



## CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY (LPA)** meeting on **March 23, 2022 beginning at 5:30 PM** to consider an amendment to the City's Official Zoning Map from General Use District (GU) to Industrial District (I) and Industrial Restrictive District (I-R) for approximately 150 acres generally located at the southwest corner of the intersection of NW 41 Street and NW 107 Avenue. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

### RESOLUTION No. 22-

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL/DENIAL OF, OR GOING FORWARD WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FROM GENERAL USE DISTRICT (GU) TO INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (I) AND INDUSTRIAL RESTRICTIVE DISTRICT (I-R), FOR ±150 ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF NW 41 STREET AND NW 107 AVENUE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**HEARING NO.:** 22-03-DOR-02

**APPLICANT:** Bridge Point Doral 2700, LLC (the "Applicant")

**PROJECT NAME:** Bridge Point Doral Distribution Center

**PROPERTY OWNER:** Doral Farms, LLC

**LOCATION:** Southwest corner of the intersection of NW 41 Street and NW 107 Avenue

**FOLIO NUMBER:** 35-3030-000-0020

**SIZE OF PROPERTY:** ±175 acres

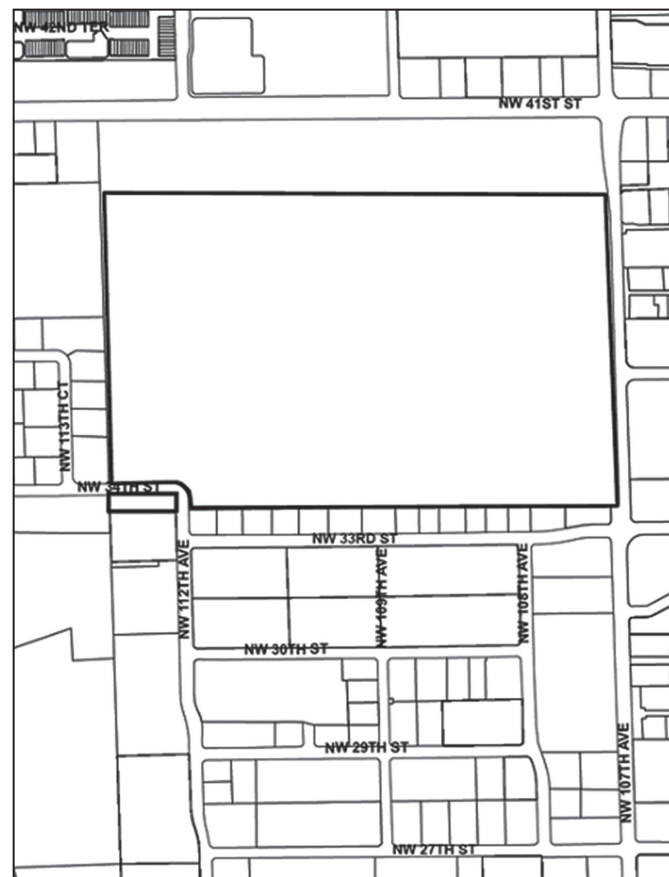
**FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESIGNATION:** Restricted Industrial (west portion) and Industrial (east portion).

The northern portion of the property is designated Office Residential and Business.

**ZONING DESIGNATION:** General Use District (GU)

**REQUEST:** The Applicant is requesting a zoning map amendment from General Use District (GU) to Industrial District (I) (east portion) and Industrial Restrictive District (I-R) (west portion) for approximately 150 acres. The total property size, including the northern portion designated Office Residential and Business by the City's Future Land Use Map is ±175 acres.

### Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC  
City Clerk  
City of Doral

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