

2023 BOD ELECTIONS

CANDIDATES' OVERVIEW

Annual General Members Meeting, April 20







Candidate for President

Alexandru is a Director at PwC Moldova and has 18 years of professional experience.

Since 2004, he has been actively involved in developing and implementing public policies, including those relevant to the European integration process of Moldova. His tasks during various positions in the Ministry of Economy and Government of Moldova included inter alia initiating, implementing, and reporting results on various policies, impacting investment climate (regulatory reform, SMEs development, fiscal and budgetary policies).

During his activity in PwC Moldova, since 2011, Alexandru has been actively involved in projects designed to attract foreign investments in the Republic of Moldova, public policies development in various areas, including in the position of program lead for the UK Good Governance Managed Fund in Moldova, as well as drafting feasibility studies and participating in transformation programs of foreign and local private clients, etc.

Alexandru is a Board member of AmCham Moldova and the European Business Association in Moldova.

Alexandru has a bachelor's degree in Psycho-sociology and a mini-MBA diploma. PwC

ALEXANDRU GOZUN
PwC Moldova





A few years ago, when submitting my application for the Amcham Moldova Board of Directors as a representative of a company that participated in practically every Amcham worldwide and was there at the Association's founding, it was a no-brainer decision. I was looking forward with excitement to being a part of AmCham's initiatives on improving the economic climate in Moldova. After several years of servicing as a BoD Member, not only have I reaffirmed my own belief in the rightfulness of that choice, but I also discovered that there is far more inspiration and motivation to be found behind the curtains.

The complexity of the challenges our members are facing, along with their successes, the enthusiasm and passion of the whole executive team, and the exceptional professionalism of my fellow BoD colleagues have all greatly enriched my initial vision of AmCham's present and future.

Tackling the multiple crises, creatively reinventing the ways to interact and collaborate in the new realities we all were facing, and creating hallmark events together are just a few elements that showed me what an amazing experience of being an active player in the Amcham Moldova team could be.

Today I can firmly state that our business association's significance for the advancement of improving the business climate is indisputable. I clearly see AmCham driving the private-public dialogue in Moldova, and it is an absolute must for us to keep it this way further and eventually rev it up even higher.

Amcham's power and representativeness lies in the diversity and reputation of our members, and we should further work to retain that whilst keeping up the current dynamic growth in the number of members, further expanding the range of business support services for our members at the level of quality we all are accustomed to and eventually making our voice even more vocal.

We should stay well connected. Connected to all the stakeholders who are important for the businesses we represent, both internally and externally, bridging the views of public authorities, development partners, and the civil society in Moldova on the topics of interest for us while learning and engaging our peers, Amchams from across the world, placing ourselves on the regional map of advocacy leaders in the market. The most recent developments, such as our inclusion in AmChams in Europe's Executive Committee, as well as our increased content-based relationships with Amchams from Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Georgia, Armenia, and, obviously, Amcham EU - must be fostered and developed further, adding value, and creating networking opportunities for our members.

Thirdly, we aim to stay focused and relevant, navigating with agility through the diversity of business regulatory environment subjects and issues, be they generic or narrow, but relevant for each member of our Association. Keeping it focused on addressing the immediate needs of our members but also grasping global and regional trends, driving innovation and sustainable technologies, and delivering meaningful knowledge to our members and stakeholders via our committees and signature events.

It has been a remarkable experience for me so far, and I would be delighted to further bring my vision and dedication to grow the association, leading it in the position of AmCham President.

With the roles and responsibilities I currently have within the PwC Central and Eastern Europe, working with my colleagues on a broad range of subjects of relevance for our advocacy agenda, I am dedicated to bringing in knowledge and lessons learned from across the region, via our events on digital transformation, fiscal, human capital, and ESG policies, as a sponsor or knowledge partner, as well as through the day-to-day interaction.

I am truly committed to delivering on the above-outlined agenda, engaging in constructive and impactful interaction with fellow BoD members and our brilliant executive team, supporting the AmCham members in achieving their market success, as well as ensuring that our internal governance framework is further strengthened and aligned with stakeholders' expectations, ultimately building a true role model for associative business organizations in Moldova.







Candidate for President

George TEODORESCU graduated from Binghamton University in New York State with a degree in International Relations and Spanish, and later studied law at Syracuse University and Columbia. A US citizen, he was admitted as a lawyer in New York and specialized in international commercial arbitration.

In 2009 George relocated to Chisinau, where he managed the local office of a regional law firm. Since 2016, George runs the Chisinau office of Mixbook, a Silicon Valley-based IT company, and is AmCham's current Vice-President. In addition, he serves as the Vice-President of the steering committee of the AmCham-affiliated Chisinau International Court of Commercial Arbitration (CACIC).

GEORGE TEODORESCU

Mixbook



MOTIVATION

In my 14 years the Moldova – first as a lawyer assisting foreign and domestic investors, then as the representative of a US tech investor - I've had the chance to observe the local business environment from up close, and during my previous mandates on AmCham's Board of Directors, I've been involved in many of the initiatives that have sought to improve it. I've had the honor of serving as AmCham's Vice-President for the past two mandates, as well as the Vice-President of the AmCham-affiliated Chisinau International Court of Commercial Arbitration (CACIC) - the latter about to increase in importance as an alternative to local courts as a business dispute-resolution mechanism within the context of the recent mass resignations of judges from national courts.

If elected as President, I intend to work closely with the Board to deepen AmCham's efforts to ensure that the business community's interests are protected and investors are free to concentrate on actually doing business rather than spending their resources and energy fighting regulatory inefficiency and corruption. The difficult current regional context means a tightening of AmCham's ties with the US embassy and the Moldovan government, and I'll direct much of our efforts to ensure that AmCham continues to be their major partner on economic issues.







Ștefan Birău is the CEO of the Swiss-based Holcim Group subsidiary in Moldova, Lafarge Ciment Moldova S.A. Holcim, and Lafarge Moldova are the market leaders in the manufacturing of construction materials both internationally and in Moldova. His 22 years of professional experience also consists of sales, supply chain, and development roles in the manufacturing sectors of the Balkan region, including Romania, Bulgaria, and Serbia.

Ștefan is an avid advocate of high operating standards in Health and Safety, as well as environmental accountability focused on achieving sustainable industrial operations. He believes that countries' and industries' commitment to curb emissions in line with the 1,5 oC Scenario must be on the agenda of every politician and GHG emitter and that all development and operating plans should be constructed on the principles of circular economy and efficiency maximization.

STEFAN BIRAU

Lafarge Ciment Moldova S.A. Holcim





As CEO of Lafarge Ciment Moldova (part of Holcim Group), I believe that my experience and expertise in the local manufacturing business, as well as the European construction industry, would make me an excellent candidate for Board membership in the American Chamber of Commerce. Holcim is a multinational company with a strong presence in the European Union and beyond, and our operations in the region have given me valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities Moldovan businesses may face on its path into the European Union. I have also had the privilege of working with a diverse range of stakeholders in the construction industry, including suppliers, contractors, and government officials, employees, which has allowed me to develop a nuanced understanding of the complex regulatory and economic landscape that businesses must navigate. My knowledge, combined with AmCham advocacy tools, would definitely contribute to bringing the right changes to the obsolete Moldovan legislative framework. The best regional practices must be embraced to help struggling businesses solidify their operation in Moldova for the sake of the Moldovan economy and its population.

Moreover, Holcim is committed to sustainable development and a circular economy, and I believe that these values align with the American Chamber of Commerce's mission to promote free and fair trade, foster innovation, and support the communities in which its members operate. I am confident that my experience in leading a company that prioritizes sustainability and corporate social responsibility would bring a valuable perspective to the Board and help advance the Chamber's goals.

AmCham must position itself at the forefront of the sustainable development of the Moldovan economy. Circularity combined with increased efficiency in the business operations of its members may represent the lighthouse of business standards for the Moldovan economy. In my opinion, AmCham must also stand for a high level of integrity standards amongst its members, helping them navigate the ever-changing environment of international trade restrictions.

In summary, working with Holcim, I have gained experience in the global construction industry and a strong commitment to sustainable development and responsible business practices. I believe that these qualities would make me a valuable addition to the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce, and I am eager to contribute to the chamber's efforts to support American businesses and promote economic growth.





BIO

Sabina Cerbu is a Partner of Stratulat Albulescu, a professional with more than 15 years that encompasses roles in leading law firms and Government. Sabina is specializing in corporate, commercial, intellectual property, and regulatory law. She usually advises foreign and domestic clients on day-to-day matters, including drafting of documents, assisting with negotiations, and representing clients' interests in front of public authorities and courts.

Sabina holds a master's degree in law from the State University of Moldova, a European master's degree in law and economics from Erasmus University in the Netherlands, and a master's degree from the University of Bologna in Italy. However, the activity she is proud of most is ten years of teaching experience in civil law to students at the same university where she was educated to become a specialist in the field of law. Sabina has been a member of the Chisinau Bar and the Moldovan Bar Association since 2013.







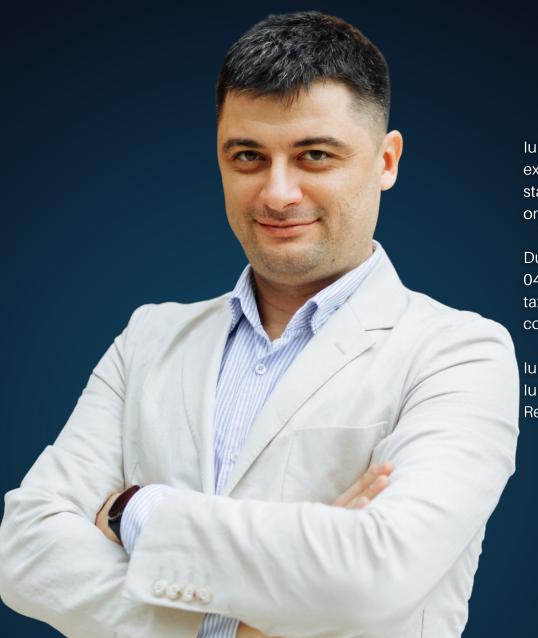
As an attorney, and partner in a Romanian law firm Stratulat Albulescu Attorneys at Law, also having experience in the public sector as a deputy minister of justice, and a lecturer at the Moldova State University for more than ten years, I believe I have the necessary skills and experience to contribute to the growth and success of AmCham community.

The company I represent is a leading full-service Romanian law firm, providing strategic and innovative legal solutions to both national and international clients across every business sector. In 2022 was also opened an office in Chisinau, which I am glad to coordinate.

Throughout my career, I have been passionate about promoting business growth and development. I have worked with numerous clients to help them navigate complex legal issues and achieve their business goals. If elected to the Board of Directors, I would work tirelessly to promote the interest of AmCham and its members. I would use my legal expertise and experience to help members to overcome legal issues and regulatory challenges that their business encounters. I would also promote policies that support the business community and foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Having this chance, I would be able to bring a fresh perspective, a strong work ethic, and a deep commitment to the mission and values of AmCham. I am confident that, together, we can build a vibrant and prosperous business community that benefits us all.







luri Cicibaba, Managing Partner TAXACO, correspondent of MAZARS, has more than 20 years of experience in tax, accounting, and financial consulting. He is an experienced leader specializing in start-up scenarios, operations and performance management, process and cost optimization, and organizational change management in private and public sectors.

During his professional experience in Big4, HP, TAXACO, and in Ministry of Finance for the period of 04/2016 - 12/2018, luri has gathered different knowledge in management, tax, including international taxation and accounting fields also in different industries, including manufacturing, engineering, consumer, and retail.

Iuri is a Co-chairman of the Tax Committee of the AMCHAM for the years 2020-2023 Iuri obtained a Diploma in Economics in 2003 from The Academy of Economic Studies, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, Faculty of Audit and Accounting.





MOTIVATION

AmCham represents the strong and calm voice of Moldova's business community. It is not easy to coordinate and summarize all the proposals and issues from a large variety of sectors AmCham's members represent (sector of the economy, numbers of their balance sheets and employees, shareholder structure and origin), but each time Executive team, Committees, and Board of Directors do it, and that is why I am assuming that AmCham is on the 1st place as advocacy business association and also as an association that positively influences on the business climate of the Republic of Moldova.

I am sure that my professional experience as a tax advisor and accountant, my short-term experience in the public sector, will provide additional angle during board meetings on AmCham's priorities and as the result of the AmCham growth and development of the Republic of Moldova, that we all want.







Boris Efimov is the CEO of Orhei-Vit, one of the biggest Food Companies in Moldova, with US equity capital. He is experienced in international and local commerce, management, finance fields, and new product developments across different types of businesses, including food processing, agribusiness, and trade. Boris has been enjoying across years a lot of professional and private history with US businesses and governance. He started his career at the USAID Funded Program in Moldova in 1996.

Since then, he has worked in a variety of teams and roles providing accounting and financial consulting advice to the program's beneficiaries and clients. In 2002, he shared his experiences of doing business in the USA and living with American families while participating in the Community Connections Program. In 2003/2004, he lived in the UK whilst studying for a Master's in Finance and traveling within Scotland, England, Wales, and Ireland. He has shared his experience teaching Finance Management courses for MBA students at Newport University and the University of Grenoble in Moldova.





MOTIVATION

In this new business reality brought by the war and pandemic, all businesses are re-considering existing practices. It is even more important now to collaborate across businesses to keep local economy strong and stable. Amcham is the best business association in Moldova that stays on the business community side and it is a pleasure to serve to it.

I am enthusiastic about the scope of the position; during my carrier, I was dedicated to developing healthy local businesses and proving that Moldavian companies are trustworthy business partners in over thirty countries my company is operating. I'm confident that my experience and abilities can make a positive contribution to our organization. I'm highly motivated to continue to move our organization toward the objectives we've set.







Garri Galanter is the Chief Executive Officer of Salt Edge, a global pioneer in open banking. He is a highly-accomplished business professional with an outstanding career spanning over three decades. Garri has obtained experience in various facets of business, including strategic financial planning, negotiation with international investors, and business strategy. His expertise in these areas has been sought by top government institutions and C-level executives, where he has provided valuable guidance and advice on complex issues.

Garri's commitment to academia was evident early on, earning a PhD in mathematics from the Academy of Sciences of Moldova in 1991. His experience as a researcher instilled in him an appreciation for innovative thinking, data-driven decision-making, and strategic planning.

Garri has held several key positions on the boards of various organizations, including Banca de Economii and COMERŢBANK in the 90s. During his tenure, he worked closely with top management to enhance profitability and drive growth.

His passion for identifying top talent in the open finance ecosystem and his dedication to helping businesses realize their full potential helped him in shaping Salt Edge- a true success story on an international level.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Garri also dedicates his time to giving back to charitable causes and social programs as Vice Chairman of the Jewish Community, where he supports various initiatives aimed at improving the lives of those in need.

In summary, Garri is a seasoned professional with a proven track record of success. He possesses the knowledge, skills, and leadership qualities required to make a meaningful impact. His extensive experience, strategic insights, and deep understanding of the business landscape will enable him to make valuable contributions to AmCham.







Salt Edge is a FinTech company that provides innovative solutions for banks and other financial institutions around the world. The cutting-edge technology and dedication to quality have earned us a reputation as a leader in our domain, and we have won numerous awards to confirm it. Salt Edge's success story is not just a testament to the hard work and expertise but to the potential for innovation and growth that exists within the Moldovan business community.

As a member of AmCham, I hope to serve as a voice both for the IT and financial services sectors. Our industry has an important role to play in the economic development of Moldova, and I look forward to working together with the Board to help create a more supportive business environment.

Over the years, Salt Edge has achieved a presence on all continents and currently supports more than 200 companies from all sectors to build successful open banking strategies and develop new services. I have developed the ability to build and manage high-performing teams, develop effective business strategies, and navigate complex regulatory environments. I am eager to share this expertise with other members of AmCham and work collaboratively to help the Moldovan business ecosystem thrive.

In closing, I believe that becoming a member of the Board of AmCham in Moldova would be an excellent opportunity for both myself and Salt Edge. I am excited to join this promising and diverse community of bright minds of Moldova.









Managing Partner of Gladei & Partners Law Firm, ranked in Tier 1/Band 1 by the most reputable international non-pay legal directories (Chambers Global, Legal 500, IFLR1000);

- 25+ years of the legal career, as in-house counsel, then as independent counsel;
- First and re-elected (2018, 2020, 2022) President of AmCham Chamber of International Commercial Arbitration (CACIC);
- MBA, also graduated from law, finance, and history faculties;
- Visiting professor to the National Institute of Justice (teaching to judges and future judges), Centre of Lawyers' Training (teaching to attorneys-at-law and trainee attorneys), member of the Moldovan Bar;
- National expert in various regulatory reforms, including capital market (ongoing), financial market supervision (2022), insolvency (2017-2020), and dual VET education (2017-2018);
- Project leader of the 2020-23 EBRD Guidance for SME Survival and Continuity and the 2022-23 EBRD legal guidelines to support Ukrainian businesses and refugees project,
- Contributor to worldwide and regional legal papers:
- Complinet Country Guide (AML latest update 2023, Securities & Banking latest update 2022)
- Bloomberg VAT Navigator (2015-2023);
- CEE Merger Clearance Matrix / in collaboration with CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang & Sorainen (2022)
- EIRA (Energy Investment Risk Assessment Report, 2019-2023), the flagship publication of the Energy Charter Secretariat;
- WB/WTO Survey on Impediments to Services Integration (2019), covering financial services, trade, transportation, telecom, computing, health, tourism, etc.;
- Benchmarking PPP Procurement (2017), World Bank survey covering 82 jurisdictions;
- the World Bank Doing Business Surveys (2007-2022).

ROGER GLADEI
Gladei & Partners





AmCham is a well-established and highly-respected professional association. During recent years (hopefully with my humble contribution as a Board member and President of CACIC - the international arbitration court), AmCham has strengthened its leading position in lobbying, business networking, and knowledge sharing. With an agile and dedicated executive team, the Board of Directors has more of a role of envisioning, strategic planning, and leading by example.

So, why run for re-election? In a nutshell:

- 1) to bring my personal experience and expertise, acquired in 25+ years of a legal career in Moldova, to the benefit of AmCham and its members;
- 2) to rethink and, where the case, re-engineer the AmCham processes and practice areas in order to ensure AmCham is a modern and forward-thinking organization, able to respond to and anticipate the members' needs in the 'business anew' era;
- 3) to contribute and bring value to the advocacy and lobbying efforts of AmCham, safeguarding and promoting the legal rights and interests of members;
- 4) to deepen the AmCham alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, develop CACIC into the role model arbitration forum in Moldova, contribute to the legal reform in Moldova by voicing and promoting the members' concerns and expectations actively;
- 5) to ensure the legal quality of the documents issued by AmCham.

Yes, it is my strong belief that AmCham processes and business models could and should be reengineered, and it is the right time to do it (after the completion of the SWOT development exercise).







Sergey Hovelyan is the Country Manager for Coca-Cola Hellenic Moldova (CCHBC) and is the one who leads a team of passionate and dedicated people. Being part of a "global giant" like the Coca-Cola Company, in his role, Sergey plays an active part in overviewing Moldovan Coca-Cola Hellenic operations, leading the Finance, Commercial, Human Resources, and Supply Chain functions.

Sergey started his career in Coca-Cola Hellenic in Armenia in 2002 as Market Developer; since then, he has occupied various roles in Sales functions such as Sales Team Leader and CDE Manager in Armenia, and in 2011 he held the position of SAP W2 Project manager. In 2013 Sergey joined BSS as Cluster BSS Manager - Ukraine, Belarus, and Armenia, with the addition of Moldova in 2014, while in January 2017 he also took responsibility for Poland and Baltics under the BSS Enterprise Solutions unit.

Sergey contributed actively to the business development, strategic planning, and organizational project implementation that led to operational processes efficiency. He has a legal background and holds an MBA degree.

During his entire career, Sergey has proven to be a dedicated and valuable member of the Coca-Cola Hellenic Senior Lead Team, he always being a role model of collaboration and ownership that is highly appreciated by all colleagues.







I am motivated to run for the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova because I am passionate about using my professional experience to contribute to the development of the business climate in Moldova. I have extensive experience in international business and trade, and I am eager to use this knowledge to help the Chamber promote economic growth, strengthen the local business environment, and ensure the protection of the interests of its members. Additionally, I am eager to use my contacts and resources to help the Chamber establish and maintain strategic partnerships with other institutions and organizations. I am confident that I can make a meaningful contribution to the success of the Chamber and the development of the business community in Moldova.

I see AmCham as the most influential and powerful Business Association in Moldova, representing many important companies. AmCham is having a positive impact on the business environment and is voicing the opinion of its members. Very important, from my point of view, AmCham has the responsibility – on behalf of all its members – to further advance its advocacy and policy efforts. I will ensure to facilitate such activities with our experts, who have always been active in making sure that the voice of AmCham is being heard and considered at the government level.

I look forward to playing an active role personally in AmCham's future, and I stand committed to providing expertise and active participation by my company.





Levon is the CEO of Victoriabank, one of the largest commercial banks in Moldova, majority owned by Banca Transilvania from Romania and EBRD. Levon has more than 20 years of senior management experience in banking in the areas of risk management, retail & SME banking, and treasury & capital markets operations.

Levon joined Victoriabank in November 2022, prior to that, he was CRO of Idea Bank Romania for the last seven years before his acquisition by Banca Transilvania. Prior to that, Levon worked in Belarus, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, and Germany.

Being the holder of an MBA degree in International Management from Graduate School Pforzheim, Germany, Levon is also a CFA charter holder and member of CFA Society Romania.







Victoriabank is one of the largest banks in Moldova, owned by reputable Romanian and international shareholders. In my role as CEO of Victoriabank and Board member of AmCham, I would advocate and promote strong governance standards and practices within the business community and authorities of Moldova.

Having exposure to the Romanian business environment and legislation, I am ready to contribute to the dialogue between business and authorities in Moldova on the path of EU membership of Moldova, considering that Romania is a crucial supporter of Moldova on this road.

Being a banking and investment professional, I would campaign for the development of capital markets and improvement of the investment climate in Moldova, key to attracting foreign investment as well as supporting broader and ambitious initiatives of AmCham in Moldova.







Dmytro Krepak leads Moldindconbank's retail business as a Deputy-Chirman of it Management Board. He also serves as a non-executive Board Member of the state-owned Ukrainian IT company, Prozorro.Sale - managing an ecosystem of online auctions providing fair and transparent access to the state's assets.

Dmytro has 27 years of leadership experience in the USA, Canada, Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia. He helped attract investors to North Carolina and South Carolina as a Manager of Duke Energy's Economic Development Marketing team. Prior to relocating to Moldova, he lived in Ukraine, where he led the Regional Economic Development Agency of Kyiv Region, Visa Inc's business in 17 CISSEE markets, and served as the CEO of KredoBank, PKO Bank Polski Group. He also worked at First Ukrainian International Bank and Raiffeisen Bank Ukraine. Dmytro has experience as a strategy consultant at Oliver Wyman and KPMG's Barents Group. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of the European Business Association in Ukraine.

Dmytro has a full-time MBA degree from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.





MOTIVATION

I believe my experience will add value to the AmCham Moldova community and to its Board of Directors and will contribute to its vision and mission to promote the US, foreign, and local investments in Moldova and to work with the Moldovan government and business leaders to foster a more favorable business climate in Moldova. I bring to the table unique work experience in Economic Development/Site Selection Consulting at Duke Energy Corp. where I helped North and South Carolina communities attract investment and create jobs. This experience gave me a deep understanding of the value drivers of various businesses and industries. I learned how they evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of specific countries, regions, and communities, including available workforce, transportation and utility infrastructure, commercial properties, incentive packages, and proximity to suppliers or consumers. I had an opportunity to apply this knowledge in Ukraine, serving as the CEO of the Regional Economic Development Agency of the Kyiv Region. This experience gave me valuable insights into business climate challenges that investors face in young democracies, including red tape, complex regulations, constantly changing and poorly administered tax systems, underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of investment incentives, and other disadvantages that hamper the competitiveness of these countries. I will be glad to share this knowledge and contribute to my fellow Board Members and executive team's efforts.

I have a diverse work experience in the USA, Canada, Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia, leadership roles, and executive and non-executive board positions in commercial banking, payment technologies, energy, strategy consulting, and government sectors. I can bring this breadth and diversity of experiences to the table at AmCham.

My election to the Board of Directors of the European Business Association in Ukraine gave me valuable insights into the activities, strategies, and values of international business organizations, which I share. I believe that the Board position at AmCham Moldova will give me valuable networking opportunities and benefits of learning via knowledge sharing. As an ex-pat who came to Moldova only 2 years ago, I'll greatly benefit from this networking and learning from local and international executives who have more experience working and living in the country.







Marcela LEFTER is an energy professional, experienced in the energy sector for about 22 years, including power distribution and renewable energy. Marcela Lefter is the CEO and founder of Sedera Green.

Sedera Green provides high-level assistance to international and local companies interested in investing, developing, or extending their energy businesses. The business areas are the development of utility-scale renewable energy projects, EPC for commercial use PV plants, and distribution of renewable energy equipment.

In Moldova, Sedera is developing for Qair International (France) a portfolio of 140 MW renewable projects (wind & solar). In Romania, Sedera has under development 126 MW of wind and 60 MW of solar.

Marcela Lefter started her activity back in 2000 at Union Fenosa. In 2008 started her activity in Electra Norte (Spain), managing and developing renewable energy businesses in Romania & Moldova.

Marcela Lefter is an already recognized voice of promoting the green transition, decarbonization & massive deployment of renewables, continuously putting pressure on authorities to adopt policy documents, to commit to medium & long-term targets, to ensure a transparent & predictable regulatory framework, in the same time actively participating in all the working groups, public consultations, debates for all the regulations regarding energy sector, especially renewables.





MOTIVATION

My motivation to run for a position on the Board is to be part of the most prestigious business association of the country having the real possibility to contribute with my knowledge, experience and vision for the benefit of the members and for the association's development, increasing the association visibility, position and expertise in such domains as energy transition, renewable energy, sustainable growth, circular economy, etc.

My local experience combined with almost 16 years of experience in the EU could contribute not only the current issues but also to new opportunities in business development and attracting new investments, adopting European trends in sustainable economy and green recovery, preparing for new policies and strategies that the members and country will have to adopt in the upcoming years.







John Maxemchuk is a project manager and consultant working for Premier Energy on developing domestic electricity generation for Moldova. Specifically, they are building a network balancing power station to provide grid-stabilizing electricity that will enable the large-scale and rapid development of renewable energy in Moldova.

John is an American citizen, born and raised in New Jersey. He attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he received 2 degrees, a BSc in Finance from the Wharton School and a BA in International Relations with a focus on Eastern European Economic Transition. He also holds an MBA from Harvard Business School.

In his early career, John specialized in launching start-up telecommunications businesses in Europe, Eastern Europe, and the countries of the former USSR. He lived in Belgium, Austria, Germany, Spain, the Republic of Georgia, Russia, and Azerbaijan before landing in Moldova in 2003.

In his nearly 20 years in Moldova, John has held leadership roles in many transformative businesses and NGOs. He was CEO of Sun Communications until its sale to Orange Moldova in 2016. He was COO of Purcari Wineries PLC and had a leadership role in its 2018 IPO, the first Moldovan company to list publicly on an international exchange. Today, his efforts with Premier Energy have great transformative potential for the Moldovan energy sector.

Outside of his professional endeavors, John was a founding member of AmCham Moldova in 2006, served as its first president for six years, and continued to serve on the board of directors. He was a founding board member and deputy chairman of East Europe Foundation Moldova, is vice-president and a member of the board of directors of the North Carolina NGO, Moldova World Children's Fund, and was a founding member of Rotary Club Chisinau Cosmopolitan.

John married his wife, Aliona, in 2012. They have 4 children together. John continues to use a 10-year-old professional photograph because it makes him feel good.

JOHN MAXEMCHUK
Premier Energy





In my 20 years in Moldova, I have dedicated a significant portion of my time to improving the business and investment climate in Moldova, and I wish to continue on this path. Many of these years were as a member of the AmCham board of directors, as a founding member, and as a former president. I believe AmCham continues to be a leader in the business community in advocating the interests of the private sector and driving toward a stronger and healthier business and investment climate. This effort is a long and sometimes difficult uphill climb, but I believe a leadership role in AmCham continues to be the best way to effect change for the better in Moldova's private sector, and I would like to rejoin this team.

I believe that members of the board of directors should take an active role in advocating positions and issues on behalf of the members and for the improvement of the overall business climate, even when these efforts do not directly benefit themselves or their businesses. Leadership in AmCham is a public service, most specifically to the members but also to the broader business community. I have a long list of such efforts for which I have advocated and the results to show for them. I wish to continue these efforts and to serve the members on the upcoming board.







Veronica MALCOCI has over 19 years of experience in the insurance and financial field.

Veronica started her career as a Life Insurance Manager, involved in and responsible for all activities connected with establishing the subsidiary of the GRAWE Group in Moldova. Therefore, she had, right from the get-go, the chance to gain first-hand experience of start-up procedures, as well as implementing standards of international business groups. Veronica acted as well as Director of a leading global executive search company.

Since 2011 Veronica Malcoci has been appointed as Chairperson of the Management Board GRAWE Carat Asigurari - a member of GRAWE Group, was founded 200 years ago and currently unites international companies that cover the fields of insurance, banking, and real estate.

Also, as of 2019, Veronica is a member of the Supervisory Board of GRAWE Romania.

With a professional background in insurance, Veronica Malcoci follows the same principles: to maintain the high service standards of the GRAWE Group, to improve the financial education, and enhance the development of insurance at the same level as in the European market in order to contribute to people financial security. Veronica graduated from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Department of International Economic Relations, and has a Master's degree in Business Administration – Tri Executive MBA at Toulouse Business School as well as attended many international trainings in management and finance.

Since August 2019, Veronica Malcoci bears the title of Honorary Consul of the Republic of Austria, being involved in development of Moldovan – Austrian bilateral socio-economic and cultural relationship.

VERONICA MALCOCI GRAWE Group





I have a robust knowledge of transparency within business consolidation and an understanding of how to best improve the investment climate in the Republic of Moldova. I had the opportunity to be the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova and a board member for more than five years, being able to share my experience of 20 years in the financial sector and ten years as a Head of the Management Board of a European company specialized in the insurance field.

I will continue to advocate for the rule of law, and the creation of a level playing field for all businesses, and do everything in my ability to create a business-friendly environment for both domestic and international companies.

Additionally, as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Austria, I have been uniquely positioned to assist the AmCham community in establishing meaningful connections with Austrian companies to further ensure multilateral economic growth and prosperity.







Andrei graduated from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Faculty of Finance, Banking and Stock Exchange, in 2001 with a degree in economics.

Andrei started his career in 2001 as a financial analyst in an EBRD project in the wine industry in Moldova - Vininvest. In 2002 he joined a team that built the first leasing company in Moldova - maib leasing. Also he served there as Chief Accountant for five years.

In 2007 Andrei joined another team who built the first foreign leasing company in Moldova - Raiffeisen Leasing. He served as a Member of the Managing Board and CFO for ten years and was responsible for Finance, Risk Management, and Operations.

In 2017, after 15 years in the leasing industry, Andrei changed his career path, embraced the insurance sector, and joined Donaris Vienna Insurance Group. Currently, he is serving as a Member of the Managing Board and CFO. Andrei's primary responsibility areas are Finance& Controlling, Asset Management, Underwriting, Reinsurance, and IT. During 2019-2022 he also had the opportunity to serve as a member of the Audit Committee in several VIG companies.

ANDREI PLAMADEALA Donaris Vienna Insurance Group



MOTIVATION

I have a keen interest in the mission and vision of AmCham Moldova and have been following the organization's progress for more than 13 years while being a member of the AmCham community.

Furthermore, I am impressed by the work that the AmCham Moldova team has done, and I am eager to contribute my skills and experience to help the organization grow and achieve its goals.

I believe that my track record in leadership positions in reputable international groups, like Vienna Insurance Group and Raiffeisen, can contribute to the success of AmCham Moldova. As a Board Member, I would bring my business expertise and leadership skills to the table. I have learned how to work with others to achieve common goals. I have also learned how to manage conflict and make decisions that are best for the organization as a whole.







Igor Popa, Senior Partner, GRATA International LLC, has a Legal and Accounting including (IFRS) background, being a team leader in a variety of high-profile projects and transactions in Moldova. Apart from directing and managing the Law Firm Grata International LLC, Igor is always personally involved in the transactions of our team.

Igor Popa has more than 20 years of experience dealing with issues that foreign investors face in Moldova and a profound understanding of the local legal market. Igor advises and represents local and international clients which have the intention to expand their businesses in Europe and/or facilitate entrance into the Moldovan market.

Igor Popa has extensive expertise in litigation and controlled litigious matters in various areas of practice. Moreover, Igor represented domestic and international clients in a wide range of industries in disputes before Moldovan courts, including the European Court of Human Rights. Igor Popa is specialized in Banking & Finance, Project Finance, and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mergers & Acquisitions/ Privatisation. In the last five years, he developed particular knowledge in Capital markets & Securities.







I am very motivated to run for the Board of Directors because I want to make a positive impact on the Moldovan business community and society as a whole. I am passionate about leading, and shaping and advocating for the Moldovan business community and their interests.

My qualifications and experience prove that I have a deep understanding of the legal and accounting landscape in Moldova, as well as extensive expertise in litigation and dispute resolution. My experience of Commerce in Moldova and to help promote the interests of the business community in Moldova.

As a Board member, I would have the opportunity to collaborate with other professionals and organizations to develop and promote policies and initiatives that support economic growth, investment, and priorities of the American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova and contribute to the growth and success of the organization.







Always with initiative, energetic, with visionary and creative thinking, I am Aliona Stratan - a professional in the banking sector and a leader who knows how to build teams and how to transform banking. I have a professional background in countries such as Armenia, Georgia, and Tajikistan.

I graduated from the Faculty of Economics, specializing in Accounting and Auditing, I have an MBA Global management Grenoble Graduate School of Business as well as several certifications:

- ·Certificate in Executive Education "Oxford Executive Leadership Programme 2022" University of Oxford, 2022;
- ·Executive Education "Digital disruption: Digital transformation strategies" University of Cambridge, 2021;
- ·Certified in Digital Business Transformation Management CXO transform, 2020;
- ·Grenoble Graduate School of Business, 2005 MBA. Global Management.

Currently, my professional position is First Deputy Chairwoman of the Management Board at BC"MAIB"S.A., where I am focused on the Launched Retail Business transformation.

I have a lot of experience as a member of the Supervisory boards and also as a Chair of the Board; Three-year experience in the position chair of the Supervisory Board and Independent member of the Board, presently an EBRD Nominee at IMON international (Tajikistan) and two-year experience as Independent Member of the Supervisory Board at maib (Moldova).







I am keen to leverage all my experience and expertise in supporting the Chamber's key priorities in the field of digital transformation, business ethics, innovation, and entrepreneurship and enhancing the spirit of cross-border collaboration. During the past two years of my service in the Board of Directors, I've been working on increasing AmCham's condition and the value of its members.

My experience can be considered an added value to AmCham Moldova, enhancing its position and reputation in the economic and business environment. I do know, and I am aware of the business field and all its related issues, and this is strengthened both by me holding the position of First Deputy-CEO of the Executive Committee maib, as well as of Chairwoman of maib leasing and Moldmediacard.

As the First Deputy-CEO at maib, I can leverage the know-how to positively contribute to the quality dialogue in the AmCham Board and address multiple matters relating to financial sector developments, digitalization, fights against cyber threats, capital markets development, etc.

Also, it is worth mentioning my abroad experience in previous positions, including Armenia, Tajikistan, and Russia, that could be useful and will allow me to come with a considerable contribution in the activity of AmCham and together with the team to develop strong partnerships between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and business leaders, as well as between local entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

It will be my honor to contribute to the further implementation of the Amcham advocacy agenda to make Moldova even more attractive and competitive and elevate business opportunities.







Aligning her most important choices in life to her own human values and priorities, Natalia Sturza has linked her entire professional path to healthcare. She began her career as a doctor and, since 2003, transferred to pharmaceuticals, where all her deep understanding of health, healthcare problems, and patient needs could become the key to innovative and socially oriented projects in the pharmaceutical industry.

With more than 16 years of experience in leadership, today Natalia Sturza is the CEO of Felicia Group of Companies, the 2nd largest pharmaceutical wholesaler of Moldova with more than 25% market share and more than 200 pharmacies.

Natalia's strong belief that pharmacies can be more than pharmacies and can have a huge social impact reoriented Felicia to icebreaker projects in terms of ecology, customer experience, and talent management. The "Start Frumos" project fully sponsors pharmaceutical studies for the best graduates, offering the opportunity for future young specialists to stay at home and receive a profession and a job. There are already over 40 beneficiaries who have received the support of "Felicia".

In 2021, Felicia adapted its activity to more sustainable standards and, being the first to the market, launched the Felicia ECO project. Today there are already 11 collection points (distributed nationally) and over 5,000 kg of expired medicines collected and destroyed.







With over 16 years of experience in leadership roles in the pharmaceutical industry, I am confident I can bring a meaningful contribution to your organization and the achievement of your strategic goals.

The experience and knowledge I acquired in this field are relevant in the current circumstances, not only in our country but throughout the world, when health care, mutual assistance, and compliance with quality standards are at the forefront.

What motivates me in deciding that I am the right candidate? First and foremost, the complete correspondence between the values of the American Chamber of Commerce in Moldova and my values as a person, a leader, and an active member of our society. My experience in leadership roles and extensive experience in strategic planning and financial management will be valuable assets in my capacity as a member of BOD.

The last period was very intense for the economic agenda of our country and the whole world. AmCham is considered a reliable partner in relations between the business environment and the state. I am motivated to make a positive impact on the community. My priority is to continue to make the voice of AmCham member companies heard regarding the challenges and opportunities that the Republic of Moldova has to manage.







Vasile Tofan is a Senior Partner and a member of the Investment Committee of Horizon Capital. He joined the firm in 2012, following a career in both management consulting as well as industry. At Horizon Capital, Mr. Tofan continues to build on his experience in the consumer goods and technology sectors, playing an active role in the firm's investments in tech. He serves on multiple Boards, including, in Moldova, the boards of maib and Purcari Wineries, in which he is also the Chair.

Prior to joining the firm as a consultant with Monitor Group (now Monitor Deloitte) in Amsterdam, Mr. Tofan focused on growth-enhancement projects, predominantly in the FMCG, healthcare, and tech sectors, working mostly in emerging markets, including Russia, Nigeria, Romania,, and Slovakia. His work ranged from marketing strategy development, sales-force effectiveness, pricing optimization, and capability building. At Philips, he worked on business development and M&A projects for the Healthcare, Consumer Electronics, and Lighting businesses, being admitted to Philips' highly selective High-Potential Program. During his MBA, he founded and led Ovuline (now Ovia Health, acquired by LabCorp), a Boston-based start-up that grew to become a leading player in the digital health space. He received an MBA, with distinction, from Harvard Business School and holds a Master and Bachelor in Public Management from the Netherlands' Erasmus University Rotterdam.







Moldova is at a junction point where it can either slide towards a failed state or re-invent itself, by building a dynamic, competitive, open economy, a regional manufacturing and trade hub, and an EU member. For the first time in 30+ years since independence, the country's administration seems to be genuinely willing to build a country in line with the optimistic narrative sketched above. But they cannot do it alone. The business will need to play a crucial role. At AmCham, I see an opportunity to help promote pro-business, pro-reform policies that would be understood and supported by the government and key stakeholders.

Beyond narrow interests affecting one or the other sector, like a subsidy for x here and lower tax for y there, I want to focus primarily on big, high-impact reforms touching on key drivers of production: labor, capital, land, and entrepreneurship. I have a strong conviction that a limited number of bold, big reforms can have a disproportionate impact on the country's development trajectory, so I want to prioritize those first and foremost. In turn, in an accelerating, larger economy – rising tides will lift all boats, including all AmCham members. As a Senior Partner in a \$1.2bn AUM private equity fund, a Chair of a highly-successful winery, and a Board member of a leading bank, I have the breadth of perspectives to help develop and promote such an ambitious agenda for Moldova. I believe this is in line with AmCham's ambitious mission statement, and I hope I can contribute to that end as an AmCham Board member.







Victor joined KPMG in 2008 and has almost 15 years of relevant professional experience. He manages international and local clients and has led the KPMG office in Moldova since September 2018.

Victor is a project director for audit and assurance engagements for companies within different industry sectors and of a high public profile from the Republic of Moldova. He has developed relevant skills and knowledge regarding project management, auditing, accounting (IFRS and local accounting framework), finance and IT processes, and ERP systems.

His experience in Audit and Assurance services has enabled him to develop a comprehensive understanding of the competitive and regulatory environments in Moldova. He has experience in the following lines of business: Consumer Goods, ENR, Retail, Telecom & IT, Automotive, and Real Estate.

Victor was among the KPMG audit leaders that contributed to the first IPO of a Moldovan Group on the Romanian Stock Exchange.

Victor is a fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), UK, and a certified auditor by the Ministry of Finance of Moldova and by the National Commission for Financial Markets.

Victor as well has contributed to the development of the local community on audit and accounting topics, serving as a lecturer, chief of the examination commission, and board member of the accounting faculty at the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova (ASEM).

Victor is fluent in Romanian, English, and Russian.





MOTIVATION

AmCham Moldova is an organization that by virtue of its vision and actions, has significantly strengthened the business community in Moldova and successfully advocates the interests of its members through its initiatives and constructive dialogue with the local authorities. As well AmCham is an interactive platform where local and international entities and organizations can share challenges and exchange views, opinions, and best practices.

Therefore, my running for the Board of Directors is an honorable and, at the same time a, responsible intention, since I would like to contribute with my experience, skills, and expertise to the further development and promotion of AmCham as a leading business association in Moldova.







Carmina Vicol is the CEO of Prime Capital, a leading financial non-banking organization in the Republic of Moldova, specializing in mortgage and MSMEs lending since 2006.

Before, she worked as Director of a USAID program, Business Developer at Ernst & Young, and Treasury Manager at Voxtel (Orange). She has an MBA degree and served as visiting professor at Grenoble Graduate School of Business.

In parallel, Carmina is managing the family business Monicol specializes in the production and export of agriproducts. She is a member of several business associations, a former and present Board member of several organizations and companies, and a former founder and President of the Association of Entrepreneur Women of Moldova (AFAM).







After serving for three years as President of the AmCham, I consider my obligation to ensure the transition toward the newly elected President. At the same time, I remain passionate about the organization's missions, and I would like to contribute my skills and experience to AmCham's development: advancing its goals, improving institutional capacity, and enhancing its value to members.

I am committed to working collaboratively with other board members, and the executive team and representing AmCham whenever would be necessary to ensure that the organization achieves its full potential and delivers on its promises to the business community.









Charles ("Chuck") Vernon is the Managing Partner of the international law firm Vernon | David, with offices in Chisinau, Moldova and Bucharest, Romania.

A US citizen, Charles grew up in Yorktown, Virginia. He received his M.A. (Honours) from St. Andrews University (St. Andrews, Scotland) and his J.D. from Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia). He also studied accounting at the University of Oklahoma while working part-time for the Oklahoma Attorney General.

As an attorney, Charles specializes in complex commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, real estate matters and corporate finance. During the last several years, Charles has completed billions of dollars in such transactions throughout Eastern Europe. He has represented major oil companies, retail and mall developers, port operators, international hotels, world renowned IT and telecommunication companies as well as some of the largest agriculture and food and beverage enterprises in the world. From mergers and acquisitions to project financings to crisis management and handling serious fraud and criminal matters, Charles has had the opportunity to work for many of the world's leading companies.

Charles has lived and worked overseas for decades, including stops in Scotland, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia (where he was a member of the AmCham Board) and Romania. Before pursuing a career in international law, Charles worked for Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott from Virginia.

A huge fan of American football, he also enjoys reading history and politics and playing rugby, basketball and golf.







Over the years, I have seen firsthand what a great business organization AmCham is and how effective it can be in relation to the overall business environment. Not only is my law firm (Vernon David)an active member of the AmCham community, but as the majority owner, I am also a US foreign investor in Moldova. As a US investor for over 15 years, I have had the opportunity to benefit directly from the hard work of AmCham. For this reason, I think it is only fair and appropriate that I contribute and give back to the organization and the business community.

I believe that the next few years will be a serious challenge to Moldova and the region. But with these challenges, there are also real opportunities to improve, grow and promote the local business community, as well as encourage and increase foreign investment. Preparing for and helping Moldovawith its potential entrance to the E.U. is but one of many opportunities (and challenges) that we will be facing over the next few years. Clearly, there will need to be fundamental changes to the Moldovan business landscape if the E.U. project is to be successful.

In my view, the business environment must also be fair, reasonable, and pro-business. Sending this message to the right people at the right time is where I believe that AmCham can add real value and can make a major contribution to our community.

All of this will require significant hard work and diligence by AmCham and its Board. I am willing to put in the time and energy to ensure that AmCham makes a difference, helps our business community, and can continue to do so.







Mr. Valery Yugay is the General Director of Rompetrol Moldova JSC, one of the companies of the KMGI Group (Romania), with Kazakhstani capital.

He is experienced in international and local management, finance and marketing fields, across different types of industries including banking, mining, energy, oil&gas service and construction.

Valery has many years of professional and personal experience in various international companies and corporate governance, having been involved in the activities of Deloitte&Touch as a senior consultant.

He started his career at the Gold Mining industry in Kazakhstan in 1995. Since then, he worked in a variety of teams and roles providing financial, consulting and business development contribution to the companies' shareholders.

In 2006, he continued his self-development at a business school in Great Britain (OU), and then in the USA (WU, Seattle) under the MBA program.

Over the past 10 years, Valery has extensive experience in attracting international investments of various types: from organizing syndicated loans, guarantees and ending with trade and project financing transactions from international and private financial institutions.







I believe that board engagement is more than showing up on time, attending meetings, reading board packets, participating in discussions, and casting votes. It also means having directors who challenge the status quo, initiate productive debates, and consistently consider how they make a contribution to the board, organization, and community at large. They are tapped into the organization's mission, have a clear understanding of their role, and are able to collaborate with their fellow directors in a way that makes board meetings productive and efficient. And I'm significantly interested and well-challenged by this opportunity!

Generally, my motivations to serve as a member of the Board of Directors could be described as:

- Learning through the business community
- Helping the business community
- Developing individual relationships
- Unique contributions to the Board

And what does it mean for me personally? It means helping Amcham's community and contributing one's particular experience and skill to the board's deliberations.

Also, it includes being recognized and appreciated, developing new professional contacts, interacting with other community leaders, gaining new perspectives and knowledge, broadening one's social network, and successfully completing tasks as part of AmCham Moldova.

