

José F. Valdivia, III

Chief Legal Officer and Partner
Miami

Biography

José Valdivia has helped clients in complex commercial transactions in Latin America for three decades. In 1993, prior to joining Hogan Lovells, he moved to Caracas, Venezuela, to establish his firm's presence there.

Since then, José has continued to help clients navigate the opportunities and challenges in the region, assisting them in acquiring and selling companies, developing and financing a wide variety of infrastructure projects, and entering into strategic joint ventures. He co-chairs the Latin American practice group, enabling him to keep up with trends throughout the region and across practice areas.

José has worked on transactions in almost every jurisdiction in Latin America and in all aspects of project documentation. He is experienced in civil law jurisdictions and with the legal structures used in implementing successful strategies for project financing and development, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and joint ventures. He has been involved in financings for private sponsors, multilateral lenders, and government-owned companies.

José prepares and negotiates documents in English and Spanish. He is passionate about helping clients bridge cultural and language differences to find solutions in which all parties benefit. *Legal 500* notes that clients describe him as "a true gentleman" and a "hardworking attorney with the ability to negotiate any and all deals."



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Languages

English
Spanish

Practices

Infrastructure, Energy, Resources,
and Projects

Our legal work in Latin America

Areas of focus

Infrastructure/Energy M&A and
Joint Ventures

Hogan Lovells China Desk

Education and admissions

Representative experience

Represented a state-owned oil company in several billion dollars of oil and gas transactions and related financial structures.

Represented a multilateral investment fund in an acquisition of a mid-stream oil and gas business in Colombia.

Represented a sponsor in development and financing of a petrochemical plant in Venezuela involving a combination of Asian and multilateral lenders.

Represented a multinational company in the acquisition of bottling companies throughout the Caribbean and parts of South America.

Represented a state-owned oil company in several project financings and credit-linked notes with a total value exceeding several billion dollars.

Represented an issuer in a tender offer to purchase and solicitation of consents with respect to its senior secured notes.

Represented a European utility in the acquisition of hydroelectric plants in Panama and Mexico.

Represented an independent power producer in its offer to purchase all of its outstanding senior guaranteed notes valued at US\$310m.

Awards and rankings

- Private Practice Powerlist: US-Mexico, *Legal 500*, 2022
- International Firms: City Focus: Miami, Projects & Finance, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2019,2022
- Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power, *Legal 500 US*, 2018-2020
- Banking, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2018, 2020
- Capital Markets: Debt, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Capital Markets: Equity, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020

Education

LL.M., New York University School of Law, 1985

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, magna cum laude, 1984

B.B.A., University of Notre Dame, cum laude, 1980

Memberships

Vice-Chair, Amigos of the Cuban Heritage Collection of the University of Miami

Member, International Law Section, American Bar Association

Member, International Law Section, The Florida Bar

Member, New York Bar Association

Bar admissions and qualifications

Florida

New York

Caracas (Honorary)

- Energy, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- M&A, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Project Development, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Project Finance, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Social Infrastructure, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Utilities, Highly Regarded, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Banking and Finance Law, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2006-2016, 2020-2021
- International Firms: Projects and Energy, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2018-2019
- International Firms: Corporate and M&A, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2019
- Finance: Project Finance, *Legal 500 US*, 2013-2014, 2018-2020
- International Firms: Banking and Finance, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2018-2019
- Projects (Latin America-wide), *Chambers Global*, 2014-2019
- Projects (USA), *Chambers Global*, 2014-2019
- Top Lawyer in South Florida, Finance, *South Florida Legal Guide*, 2014, 2018
- Projects (Latin America-wide), *Chambers Latin America*, 2014-2018
- Latin American Investment (Florida), *Chambers USA*, 2012-2017
- Project Finance and Infrastructure, Capital Markets, and Corporate, *Latin Lawyer 250*, 2014

Latest thinking and events

- Announcements
 - Maggie Hedges named General Counsel of Hogan Lovells US LLP
- Awards and Rankings
 - Hogan Lovells' work on Ecuador debt restructuring recognized by LatinFinance in its award of

Sovereign Liability Management Deal of the Year 2020

- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells Advises the Republic of Ecuador on first-of-its-kind international restructuring
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells announces changes to office, practice area, and industry sector leadership roles
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells advises Republic of Ecuador and Petroamazonas EP on successful consent solicitations
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - A Comparative Guide: Impact of COVID-19 on the Infrastructure and Energy Sector