

BRIGARD & URRUTIA

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THE FIRM: Brigard & Urrutia provides legal advice and assistance in all relevant areas of business law and represents clients before the government and the courts, as well as before national and international arbitration panels. The firm is keen on creating close working relationships with its clients, based upon the highest ethical standards. Its understanding of the markets, experience in transactions and successes in landmark litigation and arbitration cases, are all factors that place Brigard & Urrutia at the very forefront of the Colombian legal community. The firm's partners and associates often assume the role of trusted advisors concerning strategic aspects of their clients' businesses and deals, thereby adding value to the relationship. Most attorneys of the firm have earned graduate degrees from leading American or European universities, a number of them have practiced overseas with prominent international law firms and some attorneys have been accepted by the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA). Brigard & Urrutia has gained access to the world's leading professional associations. Brigard & Urrutia associated with Brigard & Castro in 2005 to provide integrated legal advice in business law and also in Intellectual Property matters. We are the most experienced firm in Colombia.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE: Brigard & Urrutia has acted in many of the most significant private and public project finance deals in Colombia, in virtually all infrastructure sectors, including energy and gas, telecommunications, transportation, water and sewage. The firm has represented international financial institutions, as well as local companies, in syndicated loan agreements and international debt and equity security offerings. Brigard & Urrutia has played a leading role in international mergers and acquisitions and commercial transactions and in landmark litigation and arbitration cases.

INTERNATIONAL CLIENTS: The firm's international clients include ABN AMRO Bank, American Airlines, Barclays Bank, British Airways, Casino Groupe, Citigroup Global Markets, Credit Suisse, Danone Groupe, Endesa Internacional, Eton Park Capital Management, General Electric Company, Hewlett Packard, HSBC Securities, McDonald's Corporation, Merrill Lynch, Millicom International Cellular, SABMiller Brewing Company, The World Bank and Votorantim Metais, to mention a few.

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Banking and financial law: the firm assists foreign, local and investment banks in a variety of areas, including bank lending transactions, cross-border financial transactions, regulatory aspects of lending transactions, banking regulations, exchange control regulations and SWAP related transactions, project finance transactions and peso loans in the local market.

Commercial law: the firm has an extensive experience advising local and foreign companies in commercial and contractual matters, including agency and distribution schemes, franchise agreements, joint ventures and strategic planning. Brigard & Urrutia has also structured effective commercial mechanisms and agreements to foreign companies with investments in Colombia.

Corporate law: Brigard & Urrutia has ample experience in advising and assisting companies in successful processes concerning formation of investment vehicles, share transfers, increase and decrease of capital, corporate restructuring, mergers, spin-offs, transformations and liquidation of companies, among others.

Securities: the firm represents local and international companies, governments and supranational entities in security offerings, offshore security transactions, securitisation, private equity funds, corporate governance, bond offerings, structure and derivative finance and issuance of shares in both national and international markets.

Mergers & acquisitions: the firm has ample experience assisting clients in structuring, negotiating, documenting and closing transactions involving mergers, acquisitions, stock sales, asset dispositions, recapitalisations and restructuring of public and private companies.

Intellectual property: Brigard & Castro is the IP practice of Brigard & Urrutia with a leading position in the area of intellectual property in Colombia, assisting clients in matters related with trademarks, patents, health registrations and transfer of technology. The combined practices allow both firms to complement and support each other to provide to their clients a truly integral service. Other practices of Brigard & Urrutia include administrative and constitutional law, arbitration and litigation, aviation law, civil and estate law, competition, administrative contract law, customs and international trade, foreign exchange and derivatives, insolvency and restructuring, insurance, labour and immigration, oil and gas, privatizations, real estate, tax, telecommunications and trusts and estates.

For further information about Brigard & Urrutia, please contact **Carlos Urrutia**, Managing Partner of Brigard & Urrutia; **Carlos Umaña**, Partner; **Sergio Michelsen**, Partner; **Carlos Fradique-Méndez**, Partner; **Luis Alfredo Barragán**, Partner or **Juan Pablo Cadena**, Managing Partner of Brigard & Castro.