

HOET PELÁEZ CASTILLO & DUQUE

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Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque traces its origin to the founding in 1942 of an office dedicated to Intellectual Property matters. Today, over a half century later, in addition to being one of the oldest and largest full practice law firms in Venezuela, the firm covers all aspects of the law and serves many of Venezuela's leading private companies and public corporations along with a large number of foreign companies and financial institutions doing business in the country. Our growth has favored the continuous rendering of quality service, as evidenced by the fact that many of the companies we serve today have been our clients for many years.

Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque's main office is located in Caracas, Venezuela's political, economic and cultural heart. It also has an office in Barinas and correspondents in the largest Venezuelan cities, including Puerto La Cruz, Puerto Ordaz, Valencia, Barquisimeto, Maturin and Puerto Cabello. Abroad, it has an office in Miami, Florida, in addition to correspondents in the main capitals of the world.

Its present staff is over 50 lawyers and over 130 paralegal and administrative personnel, not counting the staff of the Barinas and Miami offices. Most lawyers speak English and French, in addition to Spanish, and have studied abroad, giving them an international perspective on business and allowing the firm to provide global counselling of quality and reliability, both to our local as well as our international clients.

Having first established our reputation with a strong Intellectual Property practice, and subsequently with a Business Law practices very much its equal, we have developed over the years an international client base and renown, through a solid code of ethics to guarantee confidentiality, as well as efficient service of quality, within an up-to-date approach.

The firm has fully trained professionals able to handle enquiries in all areas of practice: Contract, Mergers and Acquisitions, Energy, Natural Resources, Utilities and Public Services, Telecommunications, Information Technology and E-Commerce, Trade, Investments, Finance and Competition, Labor, Employment and Employee Benefits; Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Other areas in which the firm provides services include: Insurance, which covers Maritime, Aviation and Multimodal Insurance, Taxation, Environmental Law, Entertainment, Real Estate, Transportation (Aviation and Maritime), Consumer Protection, Registries and Notaries, and Tourism.

Today, we have a reputation for possessing one of the leading intellectual property practices in Latin America, focusing on Patents, Trademarks, Models, Designs and Geographical Indications, Copyrights and Neighbouring Rights; Domain Names; Licensing, Franchising and Merchandising; and Unfair Competition.

Through well-planned expansion and strategic affiliations, Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque now has a significant presence in several continents.

Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque has grown significantly in order to meet the ever-growing need of our clients for cost-effective and high-quality legal services.

*For further information about Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque, please visit our web site or contact **Franklin Hoet-Linares** or **Fernando Peláez-Pier**.*