

People



## Pedro A. Freyre

Chair, International Practice

Miami

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” Pedro Freyre is very dedicated to his clients. He gives them peace of mind and is consistent in his work.

- *Chambers Latin America*

Pedro Freyre is the chair of Akerman’s International Practice, a full-service team advising multinational and global corporations on a wide range of cross-border M&A, joint ventures, capital markets transactions, syndicated and secured lending, project finance, debt restructuring, trade, compliance, as well as complex construction and other international disputes. Pedro is an internationally recognized authority on the U.S. embargo on Cuba and the rapidly evolving regulatory landscape. Most recently, he has been instrumental in guiding clients with respect to the defense of claims arising from the implementation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act.

Pedro advises U.S.-based companies on the types of business transactions that are legal in Cuba under the U.S. embargo, helps U.S. entities that are engaged in authorized activities in connection with entering the Cuban market, and advises foreign entities that are involved in Cuba business on implications with U.S. law. He has regularly traveled to Cuba with senior executives of companies seeking to enter the Cuban market for facilitated meetings with government officials. Pedro is a Lecturer of Law at Columbia University School of Law, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami Law School, where he teaches a seminar on Cuba and a course on U.S. law for LLM candidates. He is a regular guest on CNN en Español, commenting on political developments in the U.S., Cuba, and Latin America.

### Areas of Experience

Corporate  
Corporate Finance and Lending  
Distressed Transactions and Corporate Restructuring  
Brazil  
Cuba  
EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program  
International  
International Trade and Customs  
Latin America and the Caribbean  
Financial Services  
Economic Sanctions and Export Controls  
Sports and Entertainment Law

### Education

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1974  
B.A., University of Miami, 1971, magna cum laude

### Admissions

#### Bars

Florida

### Languages

Portuguese  
Spanish

### Related Content

[Risk Remains Despite FCPA Enforcement Pause](#)  
March 12, 2025

[Akerman Represents Fourshore in Palm Coast Sales Acquisition](#)  
February 28, 2025

[Akerman Ranked Among the Best By Chambers Global Yet Again](#)

In addition, Pedro represents clients engaged in inbound foreign investment in the U.S. and outbound U.S. investment in Latin America. His work includes project construction and financing involving governmental and private entities in Latin America, Europe, and Africa, acquisitions and dispositions, environmental regulation, international transactions, cross-border due diligence, insurance regulation, and corporate representation. He regularly provides compliance counseling and training in connection with U.S. sanctions programs and co-chairs the firm's Economic Sanctions and Export Controls Practice.

### Notable Work

**Cuba:** Represents U.S. and foreign companies and individuals on permitted activities in relation to Cuba, structuring licensed transactions, representation before the Office of Foreign Assets Control and Cuban governmental agencies, response to audits, negotiations on proposed fines, requests for licenses and research, and drafting of opinion letters for foreign entities on permitted activities in relation to Cuba. Co-counsel in some of the most significant litigation brought under the Helms Burton law, defending U.S. Companies.

**MAPFRE Insurance Group:** Represented Spain's largest insurance group as lead counsel in the United States and as chief operating officer. Counsel on mergers and acquisitions, due diligence, re-insurance, regulatory audits and dispute resolution, corporate financing, lobbying, management of major class action litigation, employee relation issues, purchase and sale of commercial property, investment regulation, corporate structuring and reengineering, and state regulation.

**Dow Chemical:** Represented one of the largest chemical manufacturers in the world on acquisitions and dispositions, environmental regulation, corporate governance, licensing of intellectual property, formation of complex joint venture agreements with governmental and private entities in Latin America, distribution agreements, and crisis management. Serves as general counsel for Latin American division.

**HBA Insurance Group:** Represented one of the largest, closely held independent insurance agencies in South Florida in M&A, errors and omissions management, debt structuring, shareholders agreements, negotiation of commercial leases, employment agreements, agent contracts.

**Real Estate Investment:** Represents a major Latin American real estate developer in structuring investments in the South Florida residential and commercial real estate markets.

**Port Facilities:** Represents a Caribbean country in its development of port facilities.

**Medical Equipment and Services:** Represented a client in the sale of a \$250 million medical equipment and services to a developing country.

**Republic of Ecuador:** Represented a client as lead counsel in the sale of medical equipment to Republic of Ecuador.

**Aquaculture:** Represented a client in the negotiation and acquisition of a major aquaculture business in Latin America encompassing three jurisdictions.

**Automotive Sector:** Represented a client in the due diligence coordination for a multi-jurisdiction bid by a European company in the acquisition of automotive sector assets.

**Latin American Public Bid:** Represented a client in coordinating the submission and presentation of a major public bid in Latin America for a publicly traded U.S. company.

**International Commodity Transactions:** Represents a commodity brokerage firm dealing in the sale of Latin American raw materials and agricultural products to China.

**Mega-Yachts:** Represented SunTrust Bank in financing transactions involving mega-yachts.

## Related Professional Experience

- Columbia University School of Law, Lecturer at Law
- University of Miami School of Law, Adjunct Professor
- Mapfre Insurance Group, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Florida
- Dow Chemical Latin America, General Counsel & Director of Government and Public Relations
- Florida International University School of Law International LL.M. Program, Adjunct Professor

## Published Work and Lectures

- *The Export Practitioner*, Quoted, “Cuban Trade Regs Loosened,” May 30, 2024
- *Chambers and Partners*, Litigation 2023 Trends and Developments, Co-Author, “Update on Helms-Burton Act Cuba ‘Trafficking’ Cases,” 2023
- Intercultural Human Rights Law Review’s 18th Annual Symposium, Speaker, “The Corporate Duty: Global Agents for Human Rights?” October 21, 2022
- *LexLatin*, Quoted, “Will Venezuela’s Oil Replace Russia’s Supply?” May 31, 2022
- *Líder Legal*, Q&A Feature, “Pedro Freyre, Akerman’s International Practice Chair: ‘Despite all the challenges presented by the international economy, there are signs of stability and growth,’” May 16, 2022
- *Wall Street Journal*, Quoted, “Cuba Hotel Explosion: Eight Dead in Blast at Havana’s Hotel Saratoga,” May 6, 2022
- ABA 2022 Litigation Section Annual Conference, Speaker, “Rough Seas: Navigating the Policy and Legal Response to the Ongoing Human Rights Crisis in Cuba,” May 5, 2022
- *CNN en Español*, Interviewed on the Impact of Russia Sanctions, April 5, 2022
- *Chambers and Partners* Litigation 2022, Co-Author, “Trends and Developments” on Cuba Policy, January 11, 2022
- *Global Trade Magazine*, Contributor, “Uncovering the Biggest Myths for Business in Latin America,” March 31, 2021
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “Dismissal Of Amazon Seizure Case May Limit Title III’s Reach,” June 4, 2020
- American Society of International Law International Economic Law Interest Group (ASIL IELIG) Biennial Conference, Speaker, “Helms-Burton Act Roundtable,” February 14, 2020

- *Chambers and Partners* Litigation 2019, Co-Author, “Trends and Developments” on Cuba Policy, December 5, 2019
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “How Cos. With Cuba Ties Can Fight Helms-Burton Act Suits,” April 25, 2019
- Gowling WLG Webinar, Speaker, “Cuba Policy Under the Trump Administration: Extraterritorial Implications,” February 20, 2019
- Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy, Conference Presenter, “Preparation of a Self-Disclosure Filing with OFAC,” July 27, 2018
- Lex Mundi Webinar, Speaker, “Emerging Markets Webinar: Return to Cuba – Two Years Post Embargo,” June 21, 2017
- Akerman, Pérez-Llorca, and IE Law School, Panelist, “Cuba, Spain, and the U.S., Where Are We Heading?” April 18, 2017
- Hispanic National Bar Association 8th Annual Corporate Counsel Conference, Speaker, “The Future of Cuba Relations,” March 31, 2017
- Inaugural MDFAWL Corporate Counsel Summit, Panelist, “Legal Issues Surrounding Doing Business with Cuba,” February 24, 2017
- Akerman’s Guide to Doing Business in Florida: A Legal Guide for Out-of-State and Foreign Businesses, Author, “Regulation of International Trade and Investment,” 2013 and 2016
- *Law360*, Co-author, “Benefits and Downsides of Appealing Arbitrations,” July 12, 2016
- World Policy Institute, Cuban Reset Dialogue Roundtable, Featured Speaker, “Cuba and the U.S.: The Emerging Regulatory Framework,” February 11, 2016
- 2016 Winter Leadership Meeting, American Bar Association, Panelist, “The ‘New’ Cuba and What it Means for Americans,” January 9, 2016
- ALM-Akerman U.S. Latin America Legal Summit, Moderator, “A Tale of Three Countries: Cuba, Venezuela, and Argentina,” November 10, 2015
- American Law Institute, Continuing Legal Education, Teleseminar, Speaker, “What Business Lawyers Need To Know About the New Trade Rules with Cuba” November 10, 2015
- Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE) 25th Annual Meeting, Speaker, “The Hard-Wired Aspects of the U.S. Embargo,” August 2015
- Miami Finance Forum, Speaker, “New Cuba Revolution: Politics, Policy & Prospects,” June 26, 2015
- Roundtable Discussion with U.S. Congressman Joaquin Castro, Speaker, “Developments in U.S.- Cuba Relations,” June 24, 2015
- *Orlando Sentinel (El Sentinel)*, Florida Forward, Speaker, “The Future of U.S.-Cuba Relations,” May 12, 2015
- West LegalEdcenter, Audio Webcast, Speaker, “New Rules on Trade and Banking with Cuba,” April 28, 2015
- Akerman, Houlihan Lokey, ITG, and Vaupen Financial Advisors Webcast, Speaker, “Imagining the Cuban Renaissance,” March 20, 2015
- *ALM Focus Latin America*, Co-Author, “The War on Corruption in Latin America,” Winter 2015
- American Conference Institute, Anti-Corruption Boot Camp, Speaker, “Now Can You Identify a Government Official? – Debating U.S. v. Esquenazi,” October 2014
- *ALM Focus Latin America*, Co-Author, “Can Venezuela Overcome Its Challenges?” June 2014

- Florida International University, Cuban Research Institute Seminar on the Cuban Adjustment Act, Speaker, “To Adjust or Not to Adjust?,” September 16, 2014
- CABA’s 2013 Legal Aspects of Doing Business in the Americas Conference, Speaker, “Cuba as an Emerging Market,” November 8, 2013
- Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy 23rd Annual Meeting, Speaker, “Legal Issues,” August 2013
- *Guide to Doing Business in Florida*, Co-Author, Trade Regulations, August 2011
- Bio-conference, “Cuban Bio-tech Patents in to U.S.,” 2011
- International Section of the Florida Bar, “*Responding to an OFAC Audit*,” Fall 2010
- University of Iowa College of Law, *Journal of Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems*, “Helms-Burton: The Dilemma of Hard Wiring Policy,” Vol. 14, Number 1, Spring 2004
- University of Iowa College of Law, *Journal of Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems*, “Cuban National Reconciliation: A Model for Healing the Cuban Nation,” Vol 14, Number 2, Fall 2004
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, “The Trade Impact of Free Cuba,” 1994, 2004
- *Florida Journal of International Law*, “Environmental Law-Mexico and Beyond,” Spring 1992, Volume VII, Number 1, CLE Legal Aspects of Doing Business in Latin America
- Environmental Regulation in Mexico, 1992, CLE
- The Florida Bar, “U.S. Export Controls International Legal Manual,” 1988
- Cuban-American Bar, “Export Controls in the U.S. Latin American Lawyer’s Conference,” 1984

## Affiliations

- Akerman Foundation, Board of Directors, 2022-Present
- Cuban-American Bar Association, Member
- U.S. Cuba Business Council for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors
- Florida International University, School of International and Public Affairs, Board Member
- Engage Cuba Policy Council, Advisor
- Cuban Judicial Forum, Chair
- CABA on Cuba Committee
- The Practical Lawyer, Editorial Board Member
- Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Cuba Committee, Immediate Past Chairman
- Florida Insurance Council, Past Member
- FACE-Facts About Cuban Exiles, Past Chairman
- Community Relations Board of Miami-Dade County, Past Chairman
- Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Past Board Member and Treasurer
- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, Vice-Chair Tax Section, 2008-2009
- The State Bar of Michigan, Inactive

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers*, 2021-2025, Listed for International Mergers and Acquisitions
- *Chambers Latin America* 2018-2021, 2024-2025, Ranked for Cuba for Corporate/Commercial: International Firms
- *Chambers Global* 2018-2021, 2024-2025, Ranked for Cuba, General Business Law: International Firms
- *The Legal 500* 2022, Recommended for International Firms: City Focus - Miami
- *Daily Business Review*, Professional Excellence Awards, “Distinguished Leader,” 2020
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine 2006, 2014-2018, Listed in Florida for Business/Corporate
- The Greater Miami Chamber, 2016 International Business Leadership Awards, International Attorney, Winner
- Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center 2001, “Liberty and Justice for All” Award
- Morehouse College 2003, “Ghandi, King, Ikeda” Community Award