

People



Arturo H. Banegas Masia

Partner, Corporate
Latin America and the Caribbean

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Internationally recognized for his cross-border, Latin America, and U.S. experience, Arturo Banegas Masiá represents financial institutions, telecommunication companies, Fortune 100 companies, and buyers and sellers in corporate, finance, and restructuring transactions. He has been recognized across jurisdictions for his work, including *Chambers Global*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *The Best Lawyers in Venezuela*, *LatinLawyer*, and *The Legal 500*.

Arturo focuses on cross-border business strategies, leveraged acquisition financings, transactional finance matters in distressed settings, out-of-court restructurings, and liability management transactions.

Prior to joining Akerman, Arturo served as senior counsel for a leading wireless technology company, where he was responsible for mobile payment, carrier billing, and mCommerce initiatives.

Notable Work

Leaf Global Fintech Corporation: Represented co-founders of a provider of digital wallet services in emerging markets in the acquisition of a start-up company by IDT, a public communications company.

Compliance and Legal Review: Serve as lead Partner of legal review and negotiation of IT vendor contracts for clients.

Lead Regulatory Counsel: Serve as lead regulatory counsel on AML-BSA requirements and general concerns of Fintech businesses.

Amerant Bank: Represented a U.S. National Association in a transaction involving the registered offering of \$60 million of subordinated notes.

Sofidel S.p.A.: Participated in a €320,000,000 credit facility granted to the Italian parent company, representing the U.S. based operating

Areas of Experience

Latin America and the Caribbean
Corporate
Corporate Finance and Lending
Distressed Transactions and Corporate Restructuring
International
Data Privacy and Security
Venture Capital and Emerging Growth Companies
Information Governance
Financial Services
Technology Transactions
Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
Telecommunications, Fiber, and Wireless Facilities Infrastructure
Project Finance and Development

Education

LL.M., Duke University School of Law, 2000
LL.B., Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, 1993

Admissions

Bars

New York
Venezuela

Languages

Spanish

Related Content

Arturo Banegas Masiá to Speak on Cross-Border Regulatory and Legislative Analysis
April 29, 2023

subsidiary in the negotiations and drafting of the US Pledge and Security Agreement, and the creation of the agreed collateral to secure the loan.

Amerant Bank: Represented a U.S. National Association in a transaction involving joint venture with a residential mortgage origination group to expand the bank's product offering.

Credit Risk Insurance: Represented a foreign bank lenders as beneficiary of credit risk insurance in preparing the claim to insurers in a number of commercial loans.

Verizon Communications: Represented Verizon in the re-nationalization process of CANTV in Venezuela.

Asset Protection: Represented clients operating challenging jurisdictions in designing and implementing corporate structures to protect investments.

Food and Beverage – Venezuela: Represent seller in the pending disposition of a large beverage and food processing company in Venezuela.

Media – Colombia: Representation of acquirer in negotiations for the pending acquisition of a television broadcaster and producer in Colombia.

Disposition – Venezuela: Representation of seller in the sale of Tio Rico, an ice cream processing and distribution company in Venezuela, to Unilever.

Food Manufacturing – Colombia: Representation of Promesa (Alimentos Polar) in its acquisition of a corn meal manufacturing facility in Colombia.

Finance – Venezuela: Representation of bank lenders in financing a \$2.4 billion extra-heavy oil project in Venezuela for Petrozuata.

Finance – Venezuela: Representation of bank lenders in financing a \$810 million petrochemical project in Venezuela for Fertilizantes Nitrogenados de Venezuela, FertiNitro.

Mining – Venezuela: Representation of bank lenders in financing a pending mining project in Venezuela for Mineras Las Cristinas C.A.

Acquisition – Venezuela: Representation of possible acquirer in conducting due diligence and negotiating the potential purchase of a major bank in Venezuela.

IBM de Venezuela: Represented IBM de Venezuela in designing and implementing a corporate structure to manage personnel for outsourcing services.

IBM de Venezuela: Represented IBM de Venezuela in designing and implementing credit transactions for large purchases of technology by the financial sector.

VenWorld Telecom, CA: Served as Secretary of the Board of the joint venture that acquired Venezuelan incumbent telephone company when privatized.

Anti-Takeover Strategies: Designed and implemented a set of poison pills and other protective measures for listed companies in

Arturo Banegas Masía to Speak on The Future of Money
November 02, 2022

Arturo Banegas Masía to Speak on Managing the Politics of Pro Bono Representation
October 31, 2022

Venezuela.

Verizon Communications: Represented Verizon in successfully defending a hostile tender offer of a Venezuelan incumbent telephone company.

Exchange Control Compliance: Represented major clients in designing and implementing structures to comply with Venezuelan exchange control.

Divestiture – Venezuela: Represented clients in divesting assets in Venezuela.

Published Work and Lectures

- International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference, Speaker, “The Future of Money,” November 2, 2022
- International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference, Session Chair, “Always for a ‘Good Cause’? Managing the Politics of Pro Bono Representation,” October 31, 2022
- *Latin America Energy Advisor*, Contributor, “Energy Emergency,” February 2020
- *Energy Advisor*, Contributor, “How is Venezuela’s Political Stalemate Affecting Citgo?” August 2019
- *Newsletter of the International Bar Association Latin American Forum Legal Practice Division*, Author, “Is Latin America prepared for Mobile Banking?,” March, 2014
- *International Bar Association*, Author, “Negotiated M&A Guides - Country Guide: Venezuela,” 2014
- Duke University School of Law, Speaker, “A Conversation with Arturo H. Banegas Masiá (Verizon Wireless) and Julien Vasques (PricewaterhouseCoopers),” Durham, North Carolina, 2012
- *Business Laws of Venezuela*, Author, “Establishment of Commercial Activities,” 2010
- *Business Laws of Venezuela*, Author, “Overview on Finance,” 2010
- *Business Laws of Venezuela*, Co-author, “Labor and Employment Law,” 2010
- *Business Laws of Venezuela*, Co-author, “Telecoms and Media,” 2010
- II Latin American Legal Leasing Forum, Panelist, “Legal Remedies to Enforce Creditors’ Rights of the Parties Arising from Leases,” Miami, Florida, 2009
- *Telecoms and Media*, Co-author, “Venezuela - Telecoms and Media Regulations Overview,” 2009
- *Telecoms and Media*, Co-author, “Venezuela - Telecoms and Media Regulations Overview,” 2008
- *Telecoms and Media*, Co-author, “Venezuela - Telecoms and Media Regulations Overview,” 2007
- *Tributación Municipal y Exacciones Parafiscales - VIII Jornadas Venezolanas de Derecho Tributario*, Author, “Contenido Tributario de la Ley Orgánica de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación,” 2006
- VIII Annual Meeting Venezuelan Tax Society (AVDT), Presenter, “Fiscal Contribution in Science and Technology,” Caracas, Venezuela, 2006
- International Bar Association (IBA) Conference, Panelist, “How Should Lawyers Protect and Encourage Investments in Challenging Environments at the Latin American Forum,” Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2006

- *El Derecho Privado y Procesal en Venezuela*, Co-author, "Única Experiencia Exitosa en Venezuela de Defensa contra una Oferta Pública de Toma de Control (OPTC) Hostil," 2002

Affiliations

- International Bar Association, Pro Bono Committee, North America Regional Forum Liaison Officer, 2021
- Duke Law Alumni Association Board of Directors, 2017-present
- American Bar Association, Member, 2013-present
- New York State Bar Association, Member, 2013-present
- Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Attorney and Counselor at Law, 2013-present
- Duke University School of Law, International Advisory Board, Board Member, 2011-present
- International Bar Association, Member, 2008-present
- Asociación Venezolana De Derecho Tributario (Tax law Venezuelan Association), Member, 2001-present
- Ilustre Colegio De Abogados Del Distrito Capital, Abogado, 1994-present
- Universidad Monteavila, Law Professor, 2009-2010
- International Bar Association, Latin American Forum, Officer, 2008
- Tribunal Superior Septimo Contencioso Tributario, Deputy Judge, 1995-1996

Honors and Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2016-2021, Listed in New York for Corporate Law, and Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- *Chambers Global* 2011, Recognized for Banking and Finance in Venezuela
- *Chambers Latin America* 2009-2011, Recognized for Corporate/M&A and Banking & Finance in Venezuela
- *LatinLawyer 250* 2009-2010, Recognized for Corporate and Banking
- *The Best Lawyers in Venezuela* 2013-2015, Listed in Corporate Law
- *The Best Lawyers in Venezuela* 2013-2015, Listed in Mergers & Acquisitions Law
- *The Legal 500* 2016, Recommended for Mergers, Acquisitions & Buyouts: M&A National Middle Market