

In The News

# Global Press Highlights Akerman's Pro Bono Victory for Victims of Bolivia's Former President, Defense Minister

April 9, 2018

Akerman collaborated with the Center for Constitutional Rights, Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic and co-counsel Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld to secure a landmark jury verdict against Bolivia's former president Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and his then defense minister Jose Carlos Sanchez Berzain for extrajudicial killings of indigenous people. The first case of its kind under the Torture Victim Protection Act, it marks the first time in U.S. history a former head of state sat before his accusers in a U.S. human rights trial.

In *Mamani v. Sánchez de Lozada and Sánchez Berzain*, Ilana Tabacnic served as pro bono co-counsel representing the Bolivian plaintiffs against the defendants, both of whom have lived in the United States for more than a decade. Coverage of the case appeared in several national and international media, including *Law.com*, *Law360* and *NPR*, among others.

[Law.com: Ex-Bolivian President Loses Civil Suit Involving 2003 Unrest](#)

[Law360: Fla. Jury Blames Ex-Bolivian Prez for Civilian Deaths](#)

[NPR: In Fort Lauderdale, Ex-Bolivian President Loses Landmark Human Rights Trial](#)

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Ilana Gorenstein

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April 03, 2018