

Hughes Hubbard hires from Quinn Emanuel and Stinson

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03 June 2019



Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP continues to strengthen its Latin America group, welcoming a litigation partner and an infrastructure counsel to the firm today.

Mexico-born Diego Durán de la Vega joins Hughes Hubbard as a partner from Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, where he was an associate. He focuses on international disputes, white-collar crime defence, internal investigations and commercial litigation. He previously worked at Mexican criminal law firm Bufete Aguilar Zinser.

Durán will co-chair the firm's Latin America disputes practice alongside arbitration partner Luis O'Naghten. He [joined](#) Hughes Hubbard's Miami office in February from Baker McKenzie LLP. Durán is based in Washington, DC.

The firm also welcomes James Alford, who brings more than 30 years' experience working on international deals, as counsel. He joins from Stinson LLP, where he was a partner at the firm's Washington, DC office. Alford practises project finance law, focusing on energy and infrastructure matters, especially in Latin America. He will divide his time between the Miami and Washington, DC offices.

The co-chairs of Hughes Hubbard's Latin America practice, Ruben Diaz and Federico Goudie, are looking forward to working with their new colleagues. "Their combined decades of experience will be a great asset to our group and to our clients," says Goudie.

Faced with a growing workload, Diaz says the firm had been looking for new additions to the team, but adds it took some time to find the right people. "We wanted people that already had the exposure and the experience," he explains.

Diaz places a premium on lawyers' cultural literacy and understanding of both the Latin American and the US markets. He says this is important for clients doing business in Latin America and Latin American clients doing business in the US and elsewhere.

The group's other co-chair, Goudie, says the Latin America group was already well positioned in the market, but wanted to enhance what it already had. "Diego strengthens the litigation side of our disputes team, and complements our hire of O'Naghten a few months ago," he says. "We will gain from his experience, particularly in Mexico, and among our Latin American clients in US disputes."

The firm expects complex litigation cases and commercial and treaty disputes to keep the disputes team busy in the months ahead. Hughes Hubbard is also getting an increasing amount of work from the infrastructure sector. "There has been a bit of a lag in the infrastructure space in Latin America, but it is coming back as an important area," says Diaz, pointing to road and power projects in particular. "We wanted to make sure we had the robustness in team, which Alford brings," adds Goudie.

A spokesperson from Quinn Emanuel says "we are grateful for Diego's many contributions and we wish him great success." Quinn Emanuel is respected for its anti-corruption investigations and disputes work in Latin America. It is listed in the international chapter of [Latin Lawyer 250](#).

Latin Lawyer contacted Stinson for comment on Alford's departure, but it did not reply prior to publication. Stinson has 13 offices across the US and is recognised for its international work in energy law.

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