

## MARGARITA R. SÁNCHEZ

Washington DC  
msanchez@disanlegal.com

### Focus

- International Litigation and Arbitration
- Foreign Investment
- CARICOM Law
- Anti-corruption
- Latin America

### Industries

- Infrastructure
- Oil and Gas
- Energy
- Telecommunications
- Banking

### Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Republic of Colombia

### Rankings and Distinctions

- Top 50 Female Lawyers for Latin America
- Chambers Global since 2013
- Top Lawyer under 40 - HNBA
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Fellow

### Education

- JD, Universidad del Norte, Colombia
- LLM, American University, U.S.
- Graduate Program on Political and Economic Studies, Universidad del Norte, Colombia

### Languages

- English
- Spanish

### Work History

- Current:*
- Disan LLP, Partner

*Previous:*

- Arnold & Porter LLP, Washington DC
- Inter-American Development Bank, Washington DC

## EXPERIENCE

### International Arbitration and Litigation

- Represented sovereign states and corporate clients in international arbitration disputes under the rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in a wide range of industries, including mining, infrastructure, banking and taxation, energy, and road and railway concessions.
- Represented sovereign states before United States federal courts on various matters of transnational law, including enforcement and recognition of arbitral awards and sovereign immunity.
- Provided advice to sovereign states and corporate clients on free trade agreements, investment treaties, arbitration clauses, enforcement of arbitral awards, and public international law matters.

### Anticorruption

- Counseled multinational companies in the design and implementation of anti-corruption policies, procedures, and trainings pursuant to the FCPA.
- Represented clients involved in global internal and governmental investigations arising under the FCPA
- Conducted investigations under Multilateral Development Banks' sanctions proceedings

### International Trade and Foreign Investment

- Advised and provided training to sovereign states on regional trade, and negotiation and implementation of international investment agreements
- Advised private clients on public and private bidding processes in Latin America.
- Advised corporate clients on CARICOM Law issues

### In house Counsel

- Provided day-to-day legal advice to management in all operational and administrative areas
- Managed all aspects of dispute resolution, litigation, and claims
- Structured and participated in settlement negotiations
- Ensured compliance with all contractual, financial and ports regulations; selected outside counsel as needed

### Pro Bono

- Represented pro bono clients in a variety of legal matters and litigation, including immigration, voting rights and election law.

## REPRESENTATIVE CASES

### International Arbitration | Investment Law

- *Currently advising a Multilatina on CARICOM law in relation with the company's operations in the Caribbean.*
- *Karkey Karadeniz Elektrik Uretim A.S. v. Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Represented a Turkish company in an ICSID arbitration against Pakistan, in connection with an electricity power generation project.*
- *Nations Energy, Inc. et al v. Republic of Panama. Successfully represented Panama in a US\$62M ICSID claim related to an electricity power generation project; the award fully dismissed all claims against Panama on the merits, and granted an award of over US\$4M in legal fees and costs; a subsequent annulment claim by the claimants was dismissed due to the claimant's failure to pay ICSID's fees.*
- *Railroad Development Corporation v. Republic of Guatemala. Obtained a favorable result for Guatemala in its first ICSID case under CAFTA-DR, involving a US\$65M claim by a US investor. The Tribunal dismissed the majority of the claims, and ordered the claimant to return its interests in a Guatemalan railroad to the Republic.*
- *Vannessa Ventures Ltd. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Successfully represented Venezuela in an ICSID arbitration brought by Canadian junior mining company for over US\$1B for an alleged expropriation of a gold and copper mining joint venture.*
- *I&I Beheer B.V. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Successfully represented Venezuela in an ICSID arbitration initiated by a Dutch company regarding a controversy related to promissory notes allegedly issued by a Venezuelan state bank. The claim was dismissed.*
- *Victor Pey Casado et al v. Republic of Chile. Successfully represented Chile in an ICSID arbitration, involving a US\$515M claim related to an alleged investment in the media sector; a favorable result was obtained, as the amount of the award was only US\$10M plus interests and some costs; in the same, case a revision claim seeking damages of US\$797Mw as also defeated.*
- *Compañía General de Electricidad (CGE) v. Argentine Republic. Successfully represented a Chilean company in a US\$125M ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Argentina. The case settled on terms favorable to the client.*
- *Represented the Dominican Republic in a high profile ICC arbitration involving a toll highway concession contract. The tribunal limited the Republic's liability to a fraction of the damages requested.*
- *Advised the Dominican Republic on three investment arbitrations related to a highway concession.*
- *Advised the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on its draft model investment chapter for free trade agreements.*

## Transnational Litigation

- *Republic of Panama v. Jaime Jurado*; US District Court Middle District of Florida. Represented Panama in the enforcement of an ICSI D arbitration award.
- *Railroad Development Corporation v. Republic of Guatemala*; US District Court for the District of Columbia. Represented Guatemala in a litigation related to the enforcement of an ICSID award.
- *Sea Search Armada v. Republic of Colombia*; US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Successfully represented the Republic of Colombia in a US\$17BUS federal court litigation involving the San José, a Spanish Galleon that sank off the coast in Colombiain1708). All claims were dismissed.
- *Skye Ventures v. Republic of Venezuela*; US Dsitrict Court for the Southern District of Ohio; Represented the Republic of Venezuela in a US\$100M US federal litigation involving forged notes.

## Global Anti-corruption | FCPA

- Represented a FORTUNE 500 company in an internal investigation of alleged violations of the FCPA.
- Advised a Latin American company regarding an FCPA investigation and the whistleblower provisions of the FCPA.

---

## RANKINGS | RECOGNITION

- Top 50 Female Lawyers Specializing in Latin America, Latinvex 2015
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 2015
- Chambers Global 2013, 2014
- "Top Lawyers Under 40", Hispanic National Bar Association, 2014

---

## TEACHING | SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

### Teaching

- Georgetown University, Adjunct Professor of Law. Practicing Law in Another Country J.D. Seminar
- International Law Institute, Georgetown University, Georgetown University, Faculty. Advance course on arbitraton and mediation

### Speaking Engagements

- Central American Congress on Investment Arbitration, San Salvador, El Salvador, January 2015
- 5<sup>th</sup> Seminar on International Arbitration, Chamber of Commerce of La Paz, Bolivia, October 2014
- II Seminar in International Investment Arbitration, Peruvian Arbitration Institute, Lima, Peru, October, 2014

- XIII Congress on International Arbitration, Brazilian Arbitration Committee, Porto de Galhinas, Brazil, September, 2014
- V Seminar on International Investment Arbitration, Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá and Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia, May, 2014
- New Developments in Definition of "Investment": What is the Role of the Concept of "Property" in Investment Arbitration?, Eight Annual Investment Treaty Arbitration Conference, Juris Conferences, Washington, D.C., March 2014
- International Investment Arbitration Simulation, Arbitrator. International Law Institute in cooperation with Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., December, 2013
- Drafting International Arbitration Agreements. International Law Institute, Washington, DC., November, 2013
- VI Seminar on International Investment Arbitration, Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá and Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia, September, 2012
- Public Official's Workshop on International Arbitration under International Investment Treaties, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Bogota, Colombia, May, 2010
- Seminar on International Commercial Arbitration, Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá, May, 2010.
- International Investment Treaties and Investor-State Arbitration Course, International Law Institute, Washington, DC., October, 2009
- IV Seminar on International Investment Arbitration, Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá and Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogotá, September, 2009

---

## PUBLICATIONS

- Margarita R. Sánchez and Robert A. DeRise, The Full Measure of Full Protection and Security - Investment Treaty Arbitration and International Law, V. 8, March 2015.
- *El vínculo entre la demanda reconvenzional y el objeto de la diferencia en procesos arbitrales ¿presupuesto de admisibilidad o requisito jurisdiccional?* Costa Rican Young Arbitration Review, 2014
- Margarita R. Sánchez and Roberto González Arana "The Andean Community of Nations and Latin American Integration: Balance and Perspectives for the New Century" Morelia, Mexico: Redir Regional Integration Network, 2001