

FOCUS LATIN AMERICA

White & Case Loses 2 Latin America Specialists to Rival US Firms



Banking and finance partner Francisco García-Naranjo has joined Mayer Brown after nearly two decades with White & Case.

by Amy Guthrie

White & Case has lost two Latin America specialists as the global war for legal talent intensifies.

Marwan Azzi, a New York-based private equity partner, has joined Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, where he will continue to focus on energy and infrastructure transactions, especially in Latin America.

In Mexico City, meanwhile, banking and finance partner Francisco García-Naranjo has joined Mayer Brown after nearly two decades with White & Case, taking with him associate Eduardo Diego-Fernández.

Both partners told Law.com International that their exits were spurred by a desire to join the platforms of their new firms. White & Case did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the departures.

The departure of Azzi, a major player in Latin American M&A deals, could be a significant loss to the firm. His work during the first half of 2021 helped catapult White & Case to the top of the league tables for M&A deals by value in Latin America. The transition to Gibson, he said, developed out of mutual respect with the team after having worked across the table from some of the firm's lawyers.

"I have nothing but positive things to say about White & Case," said Azzi, who reported to John Reiss, global head of White & Case's mergers & acquisitions group.

With lawyers across practice areas slammed with work, especially in the U.S., Azzi said: "This is the right time for people considering a move."

Tomer Pinkusiewicz, co-chair of the projects and infrastructure practice group at Gibson, said in a statement: "Energy and infrastructure funds and private equity clients want to work with lawyers who have extensive, recurring industry experience, and Marwan's stellar track record makes him an excellent fit for our private equity, energy and infrastructure clients

looking to invest in the United States, Latin America and around the world."

García-Naranjo, who also reported to Reiss, described his departure from White & Case as friendly and said he is very grateful for his many years there.

"It's a first-rate firm where I was very content," he said.

He joins a much smaller team on the ground in Mexico, but sees ample room to grow his practice. With the addition of García-Naranjo, Mayer Brown has just over a dozen lawyers listed on its website as based in Mexico City. White & Case lists more than 50.

"In Mayer Brown, I found an ideal platform to continue my career," said García-Naranjo, describing the firm's lawyers as "collegial" and "highly inclusive."

Mayer Brown opened its Mexico City office in 2015; White & Case has had an outpost in the Mexican capital since 1991.

Paul Jorissen, co-leader of Mayer Brown's banking & finance practice, described García-Naranjo as "an undisputed market leader" in financial transactional and regulatory work who will bolster the firm's banking and finance practice.

Hiring in Mexico has been tepid throughout the pandemic as concerns over a hostile government stance toward foreign investment have stymied transactional work.

In Brazil, though, there has been so much movement—especially among associates—that one senior lawyer has compared the hiring spree to a game of musical chairs.

Data compiled by Law.com International shows that Mayer Brown has lost more than a dozen associates so far this year in Brazil, where the firm has a large, well-established practice. But it has also hired nearly the same number of junior lawyers there, as firms continue to jostle for talent.

Amy Guthrie reports for Law.com International, an ALM affiliate of the Daily Business Review. Contact her at aguthrie@alm.com.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY (LPA)** meeting on **August 25, 2021, beginning at 5:30 PM** to consider a text amendment to the City's Land Development Code, by amending Chapter 68 "Land Uses and Zoning Districts," Article V, "Mixed Use Districts," amending DMU, CMU and PUD District regulations. The meeting will be held at the **City of Doral, Government Center, Council Chambers located at 8401 NW 53rd Terrace, Doral, Florida, 33166.**

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 21-

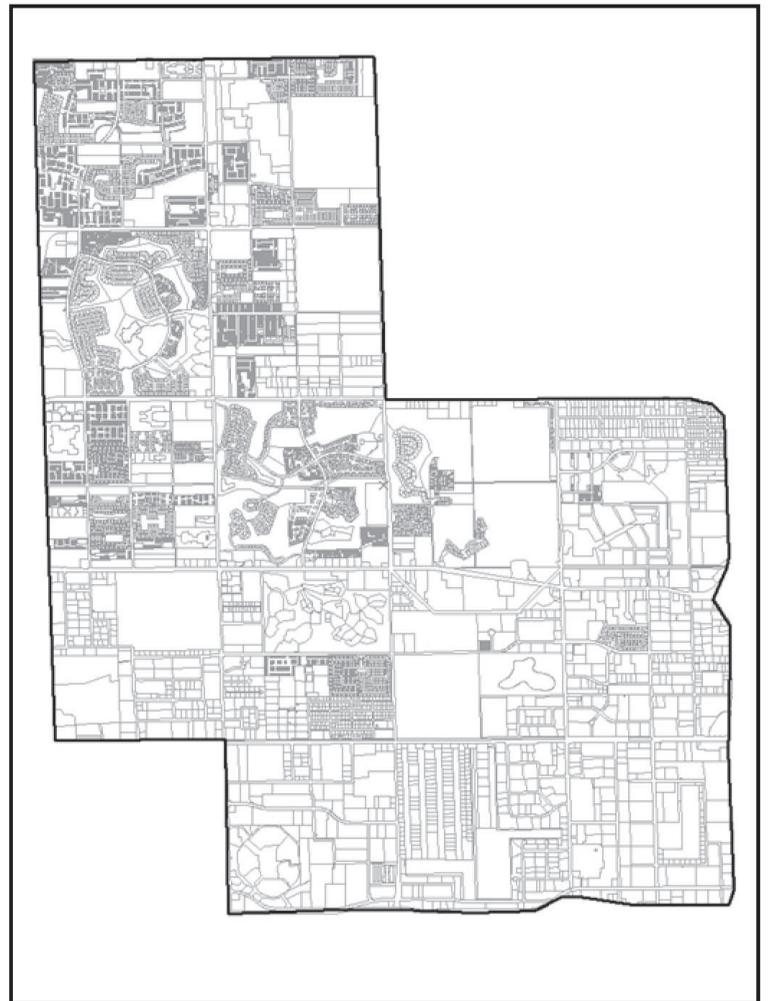
A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, SITTING AS THE LOCAL PLANNING AGENCY, RECOMMENDING APPROVAL / DENIAL OF, OR GOING FORWARD WITHOUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY OF THE ADOPTION OF A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 68, "LAND USES AND ZONING DISTRICTS," ARTICLE V, "MIXED USE DISTRICTS," DIVISION 3, "DOWNTOWN MIXED USE DISTRICT," DIVISION 4, "COMMUNITY MIXED USE DISTRICT," AND DIVISION 5, "PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD)," AMENDING DMU, CMU, AND PUD DISTRICT REGULATIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 21-08-DOR-04

APPLICANT: City of Doral

REQUEST: The City Manager's Office respectfully recommends that the Mayor and City Councilmembers approve a text amendment to the City's Land Development Code, amending Chapter 68, "Land Uses and Zoning Districts," Article V, "Mixed Use Districts," amending DMU, CMU and PUD District regulations.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral City of Doral