

ICC deputy counsel heads for Mexico

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Victor Ruiz, a deputy counsel in the ICC's Latin American group, is leaving Paris to join Von Wobeser y Sierra SC in Mexico City.

Ruiz leaves the ICC this week after three years in the Latin American team – where he worked for the most part with Spanish-Dominican managing counsel José Ricardo Feris, the ICC's incoming deputy secretary general.

A Mexican national, Ruiz says he was keen to return after six years abroad. "I wanted to go back to the leading arbitration firm in Mexico, and with Von Wobeser y Sierra there was no choice to make. I'm excited to be joining a firm that enjoys such an outstanding reputation in the field."

He adds, "Mexico has the largest number of international arbitrations of any country in Latin America after Brazil. It's a big market but is still growing, and I'm looking forward to playing a part in its growth."

According to Feris: "Victor's move to Mexico makes absolute sense. Mexico is one of Latin America's leading international arbitration hubs - ICC arbitration in particular. His experience as deputy counsel at the ICC Court will allow him to contribute to Von Wobeser y Sierra's international arbitration practice and the Mexican arbitration community in general. He goes with my best wishes."

The ICC's four-member Latin American group – now headed by Christian Albanesi - manages cases that are filed between Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese parties; where the seat of arbitration is a Latin American jurisdiction; or where the applicable law is Latin American.

Ruiz estimates that he has handled over 250 cases during his time at the ICC, including a number of high-profile infrastructure, oil and gas and shareholder disputes involving large corporations and state entities.

He grew up in Baja California, Mexico, and qualified in law at the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California. He spent five years as a commercial litigator at Sanchez Aguilar Esquer & Cia in Mexico City before enrolling in an LLM programme at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu. While there he was a research assistant for professor Jack Coe.

Before joining the ICC in October 2008, Ruiz spent six months with Shearman & Sterling's Paris office and was a foreign lawyer at Bingham McCutchen in California.

Von Wobeser y Sierra founding partner Claus von Wobeser is an ICC Court vice president and a well-known arbitrator in commercial and investor-state disputes. In September he was one of 10 names designated to ICSID's panel of arbitrators by the chair of the centre's administrative council. Last year his firm was co-counsel to brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev in its defeat of a US\$2.8 billion UNCITRAL claim by Mexico's Grupo Modelo.

Comments

There are currently no comments.
