



Florida duo to join Jones Day

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Florida-based Latin American arbitration specialists **Carlos Concepción** and **Ricardo Puente** have left their own firm to become partners at the Miami office of Jones Day.



Carlos Concepción and Ricardo Puente

The pair were name partners at Concepción Martínez & Puente in Coral Gables, which Concepción founded in 1990 and has managed for 25 years. Both are Americans of Cuban heritage with a particular specialism in Latin America-related disputes involving financial institutions.

Jones Day has also recently hired **Cristina Perez Soto**, a former associate at Hogan Lovells in Miami as of counsel.

All three will work with of counsel **Johanna Rousseaux** at Jones Day Miami office as the newest members of the firm's global disputes practice led by Washington, DC-based **Greg Shumaker**.

Speaking to South Florida's *Daily Business Review*, Concepción admitted that after 25 years he was "getting tired of all the administrative burdens" of running his own law firm and was attracted by Jones Day with its "fully integrated general partnership structure."

A US national and graduate of University of Florida College of Law, Concepción began his career at Hughes Hubbard & Reed before founding his firm.

His practice focuses on corporate, banking and securities disputes and he has appeared as counsel and served as an arbitrator for the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the ICDR and the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution.

Puente joined Concepción's firm in 2008 and was promoted to partner last year. Although his practice focuses on litigation, he has conducted arbitrations for national banks and stockbrokers.

Since 2013, he has served as the president of the board of directors for the Florida chapter of the Spanish Arbitration Club. He is also on the executive council of the Florida bar's international law section.

In a press release, Shumaker describes Concepción and Puente as “fantastic lawyers,” adding that he is “thrilled” to add to Jones Day's expertise in Latin American arbitration.

Pedro Jimenez, head of the firm's Miami office, calls Concepción “one of the top international arbitration attorneys in Latin America.”

“We have other international arbitrators throughout the firm, but these are our first in Miami. We plan to grow that practice here,” he told the *Daily Business Review*.

Soto left Hogan Lovells, where she practised as an associate, a few months ago. A University of Pennsylvania graduate, she practised as an assistant US attorney in the criminal division of the Southern District of Florida for four years before moving into private practice.

She has experience representing clients before ICC and ICDR tribunals, often conducting arbitrations entirely in Spanish.

The head of international arbitration at Hogan Lovells, Miami-based **Dan Gonzalez**, says he wishes her well.

The firm established by Concepción in Coral Gables will continue under the leadership of **Elio Martinez**. It has elevated two other lawyers to name partners and will change its name to Martinez, White & Viniegra on 1 June.

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