

Press release

Santo Domingo, June 2018

DVMS merges with ECIJA to create, together with Expertis, one of the largest law firms in Latin America

After several months of joint collaboration, DVMS - Dejarden Valenzuela Molina & Salcedo, and ECIJA reached an agreement for the integration of their professional activities. The operation will also involve the integration of Expertis into ECIJA, a firm that has 8 offices in 6 countries in Central America: Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

"Through this merger we become one of the largest Ibero-American firms with a presence in Central America and the Caribbean. This growing market for major multinationals from the United States, Europe and the region, requires legal firms capable of supporting projects of great sophistication and size in an effective and transversal manner, counting with a legal partner with a proven track record in each country. This operation marks the beginning of a new stage, in which we are consolidated in the top 5 of the legal sector in Central America and the Caribbean", said Gabriel Dejarden, partner of DVMS.

As a result of the merger, DVMS - Dejarden Valenzuela Molina & Salcedo will operate in the market under the ECIJA DVMS brand, offering its clients a full-service high added value practice, with an important differentiation consisting of ECIJA's deep knowledge in the field of Technology, new digital markets and innovation, where ECIJA has been recognized for the third consecutive year as the Best Intellectual Property, New Technologies and Data Protection Firm, and as the Most Innovative Firm in Spain by the *Expansión Awards*.

In the words of Hugo Ecija, founder and CEO of ECIJA, "the goal of this transaction is to become the largest firm in Latin America. We do it together with one of the most innovative players in the region, which also enjoys recognition within market which implies the best key to enter future transactions in the Dominican Republic and different Latin American countries in the short to medium term."

This merger involves the integration to ECIJA of **81 new professionals and 17 partners** recognized by the most prestigious international directories in their different areas of practice, adding a total of **18 offices in 10 countries, more than 300 professionals in 2 continents**, through its presence in Spain, Portugal and Latin America.

About DVMS - Dejarden Valenzuela Molina & Salcedo

DVMS - Dejarden Valenzuela Molina & Salcedo is a full-service law firm with experience in all areas of business law and special recognition in the areas of Corporate, M&A, Labor, Tourism, Dispute Resolution and Real Estate. The Firm has been recognized by the most prestigious international rankings, such as The Legal 500 and IFLR. DVMS - Dejarden Valenzuela Molina & Salcedo is the Dominican office of Expertis.

About Gabriel Dejarden



Partner of ECIJA DVMS and current Co-Chair of the Young Lawyers Interest Network of the American Bar Association, has more than 15 years of experience in Corporate/M&A, Real Estate and Labor Issues. His practice has been recognized by international directories such as The Legal 500 and IFLR 1000.

About ECIJA

With more than 20 years of experience, ECIJA has positioned itself as one of the best multidisciplinary and independent law firms in the Spanish market. Offering comprehensive legal services, regulatory compliance and cybersecurity consulting services.

In Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Lisbon, Santiago de Chile and Miami (where it has a representative office), ECIJA has a multidisciplinary team of more than 300 professionals, with exceptional experience in their areas of specialization, qualified to work in different jurisdictions, with extensive knowledge of different industries and international markets.

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