

Sáenz & Asociados disputes partner joins ECIJA in Costa Rica

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Arturo Guerrero

A disputes partner of Sáenz & Asociados in Costa Rica has left for Spanish firm ECIJA's local office in San José as a special counsel.

The hire of Arturo Guerrero, 51, was announced on 3 August. ECIJA has five partners in Costa Rica.

Guerrero has some 25 years of legal practice under his belt. He spent six years as a partner at Sáenz & Asociados in San José, which is the Costa Rican office of [Latin Lawyer 250](#) firm

Sáenz & Asociados (El Salvador). Prior to that, he ran his own firm Guerrero Estudio Legal for a year, which followed on from a stint as partner at AB&P Abogados between 2010 and 2013. Guerrero has also worked as a judge in Costa Rica for seven years, and has held several in-house positions.

ECIJA's regional managing partner Mauricio París, who also co-heads the Costa Rican disputes practice alongside partner Mariela Hernández, says Guerrero is an old friend and that the disputes practice was ripe for expansion, given a recent uptick in client demand. "We began to notice a significant growth trend due to covid-19," he says. "There have been many situations of non-payment, breaches of contracts due to force majeure, and cases of insolvency. We believe that this trend will continue to rise," París adds.

Central American law firm Sáenz & Asociados originates from El Salvador but has expanded across the region and has further offices in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. The regional firm is best known for its arbitration and litigation advice, but also offers a range of other services, including corporate and M&A.

Law firm founder and managing partner Mario Enrique Sáenz says Guerrero left on good terms and wishes him well for the future. He adds that the firm is expanding, and points to the launch of the banking and finance practice in El Salvador last month. The firm's partner count across all offices stands at eight, of which three are in El Salvador.

Sáenz & Asociados has faced a turbulent few months, with three high profile departures from its Salvadorian office in May. Partners Humberto Sáenz Marinero, Mario Antonio Sáenz Marinero and Estela Lissette Sáenz Marinero left to [found](#) Novis Estudio Legal in El Salvador and Guatemala.

They were joined at the new firm, which focuses on international arbitration, corporate litigation and disputes resolution, by another group of lawyers that had left Sáenz & Asociados a few months before.

ECIJA has expanded rapidly across Latin America since it first entered the region in 2014, when it set up shop in Santiago. It now has offices in 11 Latin American countries: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, with the most recent additions [being](#) Brazil and Ecuador in June.

Besides its offices in Spain, it also has outposts in Portugal and the US. Last year, it formed a joint venture with the fifth-largest Chinese firm, Grandall, which at the time brought together 3,500 lawyers across 54 offices in 18 countries.