



GIR 100 2017

A guide to the world's leading firms for corporate investigations

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The GIR 100 is an annual guide to the world's leading cross-border investigations practices. Based on extensive research, we have selected 100 firms from around the world able to handle sophisticated cross-border government-led and internal investigations.

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Jenner & Block

JunHe

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Kingsley Napley

Kinstellar

Kirkland & Ellis

Kobre & Kim

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Lenz & Staehelin

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Linklaters

Maeda Ayres & Sarubbi

Mattos Filho Veiga Filho Marrey Jr e Quiroga

Mayer Brown

McCann Fitzgerald

McCarthy Tétrault

McGuireWoods

Meitar Liquornik Geva Leshem Tal

Miller & Chevalier

Morgan Lewis & Bockius

Morrison & Foerster

Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello

Noerr

Norton Rose Fulbright

Nortons

O'Melveny & Myers

Paul Hastings

Pepper Hamilton

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

Pinheiro Neto Advogados

Proskauer Rose

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

Rajah & Tann

Reed Smith

Richards Kibbe & Orbe

Ropes & Gray

Schellenberg Wittmer

Shearman & Sterling

Sidley Austin

Simmons & Simmons

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Siqueira Castro

Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom

Slaughter and May

Squire Patton Boggs

Stephenson Harwood

Stephoe & Johnson

Sullivan & Cromwell

Taylor Wessing

TozziniFreire

Vinson & Elkins

Von Wobeser y Sierra

Weil Gotshal & Manges

White & Case

Wiersholm

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

WilmerHale

WongPartnership

Investigations consultancies

BDO

Berkeley Research Group

EY

Forensic Risk Alliance

Grant Thornton

K2 Intelligence

Swiss FTS

Von Wobeser y Sierra

27 October 2017

Von Wobeser y Sierra is an established Mexican firm and was among first independent firms in the country to open an investigations practice. Among the firm's most prominent clients is the Mexican subsidiary of Belgian-Brazilian brewing company Anheuser-Busch InBev.

The firm

Von Wobeser y Sierra was founded in Mexico in 1986 and built a reputation for representing Fortune 500 companies in legal matters within Mexico. The firm now has 60 lawyers, all of whom are based in its Mexico City headquarters and provide legal advice in all areas of the Mexican legal system, save criminal law.

The firm's investigations practice was launched in 2012 by founding partner Diego Sierra, who remains the head of the firm's anti-corruption practice. Sierra has led several cross-border corruption investigations, particularly in the IT, pharmaceuticals, finance, consumer products and defence sectors.

He has also worked with US lawyers on FCPA investigations and pre-transaction due diligence matters. In 2011, he spent a year on secondment in the Washington, DC office of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom. Sierra is also member of Mexico's International Chamber of Commerce's Anti-Corruption Commission. alongside his investigations practice, Sierra also acts on arbitration matters, as does partner Adrián Magallanes.

In terms of white-collar crime work, Magallanes advises companies on the bribery and corruption risks when companies are expanding to new jurisdictions or acquiring businesses. He also represents global companies caught up in Mexican constitutional and administrative proceedings.

Partner Luis Burgueño is part of the firm's M&A practice, and provides companies with anti-bribery and corruption compliance advice alongside the transactional work.

The anti-corruption team can also count on the additional expertise of partners from its tax, antitrust, and banking and finance partners, when necessary.

The firm's investigations practice has four associates. Pablo Fautsch has been an associate at the firm for eight years and he specialises in commercial litigation, arbitration and anti-corruption compliance. He has represented Fortune 500 companies in several cross-border corruption investigations and also has experience representing local and foreign companies in FCPA investigations.

Katarina Lundahl's practice focuses primarily on arbitration but she also been a part of several FCPA matters that Von Wobeser y Sierra has acted in. She has also helped Mexican companies develop anti-corruption and risk analysis frameworks. Lundahl is licensed to practice in multiple jurisdictions, and is admitted to practice in Finland and Mexico.

Associates Milka López and Juan Francisco Barrera have both built practices based on advising companies on anti-corruption compliance and also helping them develop compliance procedures.

Recent events

GIR understands that the firm is currently conducting an internal investigation into embezzlement at the Mexican subsidiary of US company. However, the matter has not been made public.

Von Wobeser y Sierra recently handled an investigation into a US technology company's conduct within Mexico in collaboration with a US firm. The two firms investigated whether the company had paid bribes to obtain unlawful settlement payments. The outcome has not been made public.

The firm has also recently conducted an internal investigation of a Mexican pharmaceuticals provider and confirmed allegations that company executives had paid bribes to Mexican health sector officials.

The firm was also instructed by a Mexican telecommunications company to investigate corruption among its senior management.

Clients

The firm represents a mix of Mexican and foreign companies. Among the more prominent clients on its books is Mexican brewery Grupo Modelo, which is owned by Fortune 500 Belgian-Brazilian brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev.

It also acts as the compliance counsel for Latin American telecommunications company Centennial Towers, which operates in Mexico, Brazil and Colombia.

Network

The firm's only office is in Mexico City but it has previously worked alongside leading international firms in cross-border matters.

Track record

In 2015, the firm handled an investigation into a multinational company that was accused by a whistleblower of helping Mexico downgrade its debt rating to receive more favourable financing. The firm found no wrongdoing.