

Venezuelan sets up Paris-Caracas boutique

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Former K&L Gates associate Alfredo De Jesús O has launched an international arbitration and litigation boutique with offices in Paris and Caracas.

The firm will be based at 4, rue Quentin Bauchart in the 8th arrondissement, sharing office space with a local litigation firm. De Jesús will also maintain a strategic alliance in Caracas with his father's law firm, De Jesús & De Jesús Abogados Asociados, where he is of counsel.

De Jesús, who is a member of the Venezuela and Paris bars, says he was inspired by the number of arbitration practitioners who have left partnership positions in large law firms to set up their own boutiques in the last couple of years.

"When I approached them to talk about their move, I kept getting the same answer: there is a demand in the arbitration market for highly specialised expertise and cost-efficient approaches," he explains.

De Jesús says the decision to have a foothold in both Paris and Caracas was an easy one. "Paris is the home of international arbitration, and Caracas is one of the most interesting emerging markets." He adds that he has lived between the two cities for the last nine years, and considers that "both are my hometowns".

Until September last year De Jesús worked in the international arbitration group at K&L Gates in Paris with partner **Louis Degos**. He left to defend his PhD thesis at the Sorbonne and sit his French bar exams. He reports that his thesis, entitled *Assignment of International Contracts: a Contribution to Transnational Contract Law*, received the highest honour granted by French universities.

De Jesús's recent engagements include advising a Latin American government on pending ICC and ICSID claims worth several billion dollars and a Latin American state-entity in a US\$450 million ICC arbitration with a European multinational in the mining sector.

He has also advised in an infrastructure dispute between a South American company and an Asian multinational at the ICC.



Alfredo De Jesús O

An associate member of the ICC Institute of World Business Law, De Jesús is also a member of the ICC Latin American arbitration group and the Latin American representative of the LCIA Young International Arbitration Group. In addition he is the founder and deputy secretary general of the Venezuelan Arbitration Committee and the Venezuelan reporter of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration.

He teaches transnational law and arbitration to Masters students at the University of Versailles and the University Panthéon-Assas (Paris II) as well as the University of Monterrey in Mexico. Previously he has been a visiting professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, the University of the Pacific in Peru, the University of Rosario in Colombia, the University of the Americas in Mexico and the Andrés Bello Catholic University in Venezuela, among others.