

11 February 2010

LATINLAWYER announces Deal of the Year winners

LATINLAWYER has announced the winners of its annual 'Deal of the Year Awards' for 2009.

There are five winning deals, one for each category: M&A, corporate finance, project finance, disputes, and restructuring. There are also two runners-up for each category.

LATINLAWYER congratulates the counsel, both in-house and in law firms, working on those deals. A list of the law firms and in-house teams for the winning deals is below.

THE WINNERS

M&A CATEGORY

Winner: Votarantim-Aracruz merger

Runners-up: Brescia acquires Lafarge's Chilean assets

The sale of Costa Rican airport operator, Alterra Partners Costa Rica

CORPORATE FINANCE CATEGORY

Winner: Santander Brasil's IPO

Runners-up: Ecopetrol's US\$1.5 billion debut global debt offering

Banco de Crédito del Perú's Tier 1 bond issuance

PROJECT FINANCE CATEGORY

Winner: Panama Canal expansion financing

Runners-up: Pecém's billion dollar loan

Manzanillo secures Japanese-Korean financing

RESTRUCTURING CATEGORY

Winner: Gruma's derivative restructuring

Runners-up: Santelisa Vale restructuring facilitates takeover

TGN's restructuring

DISPUTES CATEGORY

Winner: *Aguaytia Energy v Peru*

Runners-up: FASA admits price fixing

Nicaraguan and Costa Rican river rights established

An awards dinner for the counsel working on all three deals in each category will be held on Thursday 11 March in São Paulo at the Hotel Unique at 8:00pm.

Counsel on the winning deals:

M&A CATEGORY - Votarantim-Aracruz merger

Counsel to Votarantim Celulose e Papel

In-house counsel - Alexandre D'Ambrosio

TozziniFreire Advogados, Motta, Fernandes Rocha – Advogados and Aires Barreto in Brazil; Shearman & Sterling LLP in the US

Counsel to the Safra Group

In-house counsel - Daniel Pita

Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr e Quiroga Advogados, Pinheiro Neto Advogados, Pompeu, Longo, Kignel & Cipullo Advogados and sole practitioner Helio Nicoleti in Brazil; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in the US

Counsel to Arapar

Barbosa Mussnich & Aragao

CORPORATE FINANCE CATEGORY - Santander Brasil's IPO

Counsel to Santander Brasil

In-house counsel - Marco Antônio Martins de Araújo Filho, Pablo Castilla Peraraz, Rodrigo Zago, Luciana Beraldo and Flavia Pace

Pinheiro Neto Advogados in Brazil and Davis Polk & Wardwell in the US

Counsel to the banks

In-house counsel to Santander – Mara Regina Lima Alves Garcia, Rodrigo Zago and Mercedes Pacheo

In-house counsel to Credite Suisse – Conrad Rubin, Sunil Hosmane, Luis Massud and Rodolfo Lima

In-house counsel to Merril Lynch – André Aulus Teixeira and Fiona Tsu

In-house counsel to Banco Pactual – Leandro Micotti, Bruno Duque and Fabio Federici

Machado, Meyer, Sendacz e Opice Advogados in Brazil and Shearman & Sterling LLP in the US

PROJECT FINANCE CATEGORY – Panama Canal financing

Counsel to Panama Canal Authority

In-house counsel – Alvaro Cabal

Shearman & Sterling LLP in the US and Galindo, Arias & López in Panama

Counsel to the lenders

In-house counsel to IFC - Carloine Kahn

In-house counsel to IDB - Leif Weizman

In-house counsel to CAF - Americo Lorenzo

In-house counsel to EIB - Donald Fitzpatrick

In house counsel to JBIC – Matthew O'Connor

Clifford Chance LLP in the US and Morgan & Morgan in Panama

RESTRUCTURING - Gruma's derivative restructuring

Counsel to Gruma

In-house counsel - Salvador Vargas Guajardo and Rodrigo Martinez Villareal

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP in the US and Mijares, Angoitia, Cortés y Fuentes SC in Mexico

Counsel to an ad hoc committee of Gruma's derivative creditors

In-house counsel to JPMorgan Chase - Eileen Shin

In-house counsel to Bank of America Merrill Lynch - Lily Chang

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in the US and White & Case SC in Mexico

Counsel to Gruma's bank creditors

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in the US and Ritch Mueller SC in Mexico

DISPUTES CATEGORY - *Aguaytia Energy v Peru*

Arbitral panel

Robert Briner, president (Swiss)
J William Rowley QC (Canadian)
Claus von Wobeser (Mexican)

Counsel for Aguaytia Energy

In-house counsel - Dean Moesser

Vinson & Elkins LLP in the UK and the US, and Maldonado & Maldonado in Argentina

Counsel to the Republic of Peru

White & Case LLP in the US and Estudio Echeopar in Peru

Methodology

Submissions for Deal of the Year were accepted from any law firm or company wishing to nominate a transaction. **LATINLAWYER's** editorial team compiled shortlists of up to six transactions per category, and where necessary, shortlists were presented to expert panels of lawyers not working on the transactions they were asked to consider. We publish the results in February to allow firms to report deals closing in the later part of 2009.