



## Mariana Pendás Fernández

Of Counsel

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**Mariana advises clients on U.S. and European economic sanctions, anti-money laundering and anti-bribery/anti-corruption laws and regulations. Mariana also has extensive experience conducting Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and anti-money laundering (AML) internal investigations and participating in international commercial arbitrations. Her civil and common law legal experience and her multilingual skills make her an ideal attorney to represent and advise clients on international matters.**

Mariana is a dual-qualified lawyer and admitted to practice in Spain, New York, and Washington D.C., and holds a Master in Swiss Law (Swiss Juriste). She has a background and experience in civil and common law that helps multinational clients navigate U.S., E.U., and Swiss economic sanctions, as well as AML and anti-corruption/anti-bribery laws and regulations. Mariana's practice has a special focus on Latin America, and she has been recognized as a "Rising Star" and named to "Top 100 Female Lawyers" for international trade matters and international arbitration by *Latinvex*. She has particular expertise in compliance with the full range of U.S. regulations regarding international trade—including economic sanctions, anti-corruption and anti-bribery, anti-money laundering, and export controls. Mariana has further experience in developing internal programs to ensure company compliance with these regulations and leading complex cross-border internal investigations.

Prior to joining, Mariana worked in international arbitration for a well-regarded international law firm in Paris and a well-known law firm in Madrid. Mariana was a key member of the arbitration practice, where she participated in several arbitrations before the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. Mariana also has experience preparing and conducting Spanish national court and arbitration proceedings before Spanish and International arbitration institutions.

Additionally, Mariana maintains an active pro bono practice. She has represented clients in asylum cases requiring Spanish and French language capabilities and is currently representing a U.S. foundation for the enhancement of the performing arts in Cuba.

## Key Matters

Mariana's representative experience includes:

- Assisting clients on regulatory compliance with U.S. and E.U. economic sanctions, Bank Secrecy Act, anti-money laundering (AML) laws and regulations, export controls, and anti-corruption/anti-bribery laws and regulations
- Conducting Foreign Corrupt Practices Act related internal investigations for multinational's subsidiaries in India and Argentina conducting witness interviews, factual investigations and eDiscovery
- Advising financial institutions in internal investigations in the U.S. and Asia related to AML and other financial crimes
- Participating in two commercial ICDR arbitrations arising from breach of contracts as a consequence of the imposition of U.S. sanctions on Russia
- Conducting numerous pre-acquisition due diligences representing an investment group in potential worldwide merger and acquisitions relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and regulations, economic sanctions and export controls
- Assisting several U.S. clients regarding exploration of the Cuban market by ensuring compliance with U.S. laws and providing background on the laws of both jurisdictions
- Drafting license requests to the Office of Foreign Assets Control and Bureau of Industry and Security on behalf of U.S. clients that request to conduct business transactions involving sanctioned parties or countries

## Recent Experience

Arthur J. Gallagher (NYSE: AJG) carveout acquisition of M&T Insurance Agency from M&T Bank Corporation (NYSE: MTB).

ACON Investments' Acquisition of Vitalis Group

Arbor Investments' Acquisition of Oregon Freeze Dry

Terold Acquisition of Majority Stake in WX Brands

The Jordan Company, LP's Acquisition of the Spartech Group

EVE Partners' Minority Interest in Integrity Express Logistics

Hudson Ferry Capital's Sale of ALCOM

# Recognitions

- Recognized as a “Rising Star” for International Litigation by *The Legal 500 US* (2023)
  - Named to “Top 100 Female Lawyers” List by *Latinvex* (2019–2023)
  - Recognized as a “Rising Legal Star” by *Latinvex* (2018)
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# Activities

- Member, ACI Women in Sanctions Network
  - Participant of the Sources of Success Program of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association
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# Credentials

## EDUCATION

Mariana graduated *cum laude* in law from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and validated her law degree in Spain. She received an L.L.M. from the College of Europe where she focused on European law, including E.U. international trade, World Trade Organization law, and E.U. competition law. Mariana also received an L.L.M. in international business regulation, litigation, and arbitration from New York University School of Law.

## ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- New York

## LANGUAGES

- French
- Spanish

# Related Insights & News

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Value and Challenges of Sanctions and the Risks of Doing Business in the Region,” FIBA AML Conference 2024, Co-panelist, March 18, 2024
- “Newly Emerging High-Risk Jurisdictions: Best Practices to Identify & Mitigate Risk in China, Latin America, UAE, Oman, Turkey, and the Former Soviet Union,” ACI Women in Sanctions Network Webinar, Co-presenter, Oct. 25, 2023
- “Fireside Chat with U.S. Department of State,” Cuba 2023 – Navigating Opportunities in the Current Business and Regulatory Environment,” Moderator, May 5, 2023
- “Complying with OFAC Sanctions,” FIBA LATAM FINCRIME 2022 Conference, Co-panelist, Dec. 6, 2022
- “International Trade: 2021 Year End Review and Predictions for 2022,” Winston & Strawn Webinar, Co-panelist, Jan. 20, 2022

- “The State of Play in Venezuela,” Podcast, Feb. 2019

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- “Guide to Monitorships: “Succeeding Across a Monitor’s Audiences.” Global Investigations Review, Co-author, April 2022
- “Russia Sanctions and Considerations in Building a Sanctions Compliance Programme.” *Journal of Financial Compliance*, Volume 4, Number 4, Co-author, Summer 2021
- “Trump Administration Follows Through on Plans to Tighten Cuban Sanctions.” Lexblog, Author, June 6, 2019
- “White House Hints It May Allow Lawsuits Over Cuban-Confiscated Properties.” Lexblog, Author, Jan. 24, 2019
- “TPP and Investor-State Dispute Settlement: An Intertwined Spectrum of Options for Investors?.” Issue 4, pp. 157-164, *Global Trade and Customs Journal*, Co-author, 2016

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## **SPONSORSHIP**

Winston & Strawn Sponsors, Attorneys Speak at FIBA AML Conference 2024

MARCH 18, 2024

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## **SPONSORSHIP**

Winston & Strawn Sponsors ABA ILS Energy Conference

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

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## **WEBINAR**

International Trade 2023 Year In Review and Predictions for 2024

JANUARY 4, 2024

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## **BLOG**

United States Eases Select Sanctions on Venezuela’s Oil Sector

OCTOBER 20, 2023

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## **RECOGNITIONS**

*Latinvex* Recognizes Winston Attorneys on Latin America’s 2023 Top 100 Female Lawyers List

OCTOBER 6, 2023

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## **RECOGNITIONS**

Winston’s Los Angeles Corporate Team Receives Award for Cross-Border Tech Deal

JULY 2023

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## **BLOG**

The EU Issues an Eleventh Package of Sanctions Against Russia

JUNE 26, 2023

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

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## BLOG

U.S. Sanctions and Export Controls Against Russia and FinCEN Alert

MAY 25, 2023

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## NEWS

2022 Pro Bono Impact Report

MAY 1, 2023

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## BLOG

The EU Issues a Tenth Package of Sanctions Against Russia

MARCH 2, 2023

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## BLOG

The United States and the United Kingdom Announce New Wave of Sanctions Against Russia

MARCH 2, 2023

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## Capabilities

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International Trade

Compliance Programs

Financial Services Transactions & Regulatory

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Financial Services

Financial Crimes Compliance