

Gaston P. Fernandez

Office Managing Partner

Hanoi

Ho Chi Minh City

Biography

Gaston handles corporate, project development and finance matters in emerging markets, with broad experience in Asia and Latin America. Fluent in Spanish and Mandarin, in addition to his native English, he facilitates deals for clients across borders and cultures. Gaston relocated to our Vietnam offices in 2021, following assignments in the Beijing (2008-11) and Miami (2011-21) offices of the firm.

He often works for private investors in emerging markets, as well as with and across from national governments and state-owned companies. Gaston has worked on matters involving financing from U.S., European and Asian banks, including China Development Bank, The Export-Import Bank of China, Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), The Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and The Export-Import Bank of Korea.

Representative experience

Advising the Republic of Ecuador in connection with its successful consent solicitation and exchange offer restructuring in excess of US\$17.3bn of sovereign bonds in 2020, and on the simultaneous rescheduling of US\$891m of bilateral debt payments to China Development Bank and The Export-Import Bank of China.



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Languages

English

Spanish

Mandarin

Practices

Infrastructure, Energy, Resources,
and Projects

Commercial

Mergers and Acquisitions

Private Equity

Financial Services

Sovereigns

Industries

Advising the Jackson Laboratory on a public-private partnership with the State of Connecticut for the development of a genomics research laboratory on the campus of the University of Connecticut, including assisting with negotiation of terms of a US\$300m loan agreement from the State of Connecticut to The Jackson Laboratory, subject to forgiveness upon satisfaction of certain contractual obligations, and advising on related transaction documents.

Advising a Latin American beverages bottling company on various credit facilities totaling in excess of US\$250m from international banks such as Bladex, Citi, J.P. Morgan and Scotiabank, including corporate guarantee agreements covering the payment obligations of group companies.

Advising Development Bank of Jamaica on the establishment of a private equity / venture capital fund to support the development of small and medium enterprises, with support from the World Bank.

Advising the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Ecuador on obtaining a US\$50m credit facility from a consortium of banks led by JBIC to develop green projects to achieve Paris Agreement goals.

Advising Latin American governments and state-owned entities on credit facilities from Chinese banks for hydroelectric projects, electricity transmission lines, and highways.

Advising the state-owned electric company of the Republic of Honduras on the negotiation and closing of a US\$298m facility agreement with ICBC for construction of the Patuca III hydroelectric project, the largest infrastructure project in the history of Honduras.

Awards and rankings

- Project Development, Notable Practitioner, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Project Finance, Notable Practitioner, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Energy, Notable Practitioner, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- Natural Resources, Notable Practitioner, *IFLR1000*,

Diversified Industrials
Energy and Natural Resources
Insurance
Technology and Telecoms

Areas of focus

Hogan Lovells China Desk
Sovereigns: Debt & Restructuring
Sovereigns: Infrastructure, Energy and Projects
Sports
Media

Education and admissions

Education

J.D., Indiana University Maurer School of Law, 2005

B.A., Brown University, cum laude, 2002

Memberships

Member, American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China

Member, Florida Bar Association

Bar admissions and qualifications

Florida

District of Columbia

2020

- Utilities, Notable Practitioner, *IFLR1000*, 2020
- International Firms: City Focus: Miami, Project & Energy, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2019,2022
- International Firms: Projects and Energy, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2019
- International Firms: Banking and Finance, *Legal 500 Latin America*, 2018

Latest thinking and events

- Analysis
 - Fundamental Reforms to Environmental Law in Vietnam
- Insights
 - Power market prospects in Vietnam
- Analysis
 - Hogan Lovells Asia-Pacific Data Protection and Cyber Security Guide 2022
- Media Mention
 - Power market prospects in Vietnam *Vietnam Investment Review*
- News
 - Vietnamese antitrust regulator looks back at recent merger control cases
- Awards and Rankings
 - Hogan Lovells' work on Ecuador debt restructuring recognized by LatinFinance in its award of Sovereign Liability Management Deal of the Year 2020