

TITULO: Who is in LACCA Approved 2023?				
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 Print article



The Latin American Corporate Counsel Association has released the latest edition of *LACCA Approved*. Read on to find out who Latin America's leading private practitioners are and which law firms received the most votes.

The latest **edition** of *LACCA Approved*, brings together some of the region's leading private practice lawyers who have been personally recommended by LACCA members, the top general counsel from around the region. We take a look at the results to find out about some of the practitioners and law firms that made the cut.

A closer look at the results

Following the counting of hundreds of votes throughout the year, The Latin American Corporate Counsel Association (LACCA) has compiled a list of private practitioners that Latin America's in-house community has identified as the region's top legal advisers across multiple practice areas.

Over 39% of the lawyers listed come from Latin America's largest jurisdiction, Brazil. The countries with the second largest portion of *Approved* lawyers were Mexico and Argentina with nearly 11% each.

Like in last year's edition, corporate and M&A is the area with the highest number of *LACCA Approved* lawyers, representing 24% of the full list. Despite growing market uncertainty in the first half of 2022, which saw high inflation and interest rates, supply chain disruptions and a political swing to the left in several Latin American countries, M&A remained an active and important area of work for law firms.

The law firm with the most M&A lawyers in *LACCA Approved* is BLP (Costa Rica), with six practitioners. Brazilian firms Pinheiro Neto Advogados and Veirano Advogados follow with five. Some of the lawyers with the most votes in this category are Lefosse partner Christiano Rehder and Daniele Resende, an associate at fellow Brazilian firm Trench Rossi Watanabe. Lefosse partner Carlos Mello, associate Joaquín Martínez from Argentina's Abeledo Gottheil Abogados SC and Veirano partner Robson Barreto were also among the most voted M&A lawyers in the region.

Banking and finance advice is highly sought after by GCs in the region, who must keep up to date with the latest regulations, understand the ever-evolving fintech industry and manage financing transactions that are key for their business operations. Unsurprisingly, banking and finance is the specialisation with the second most listed lawyers in *LACCA Approved*, with over 12% of all listed practitioners.

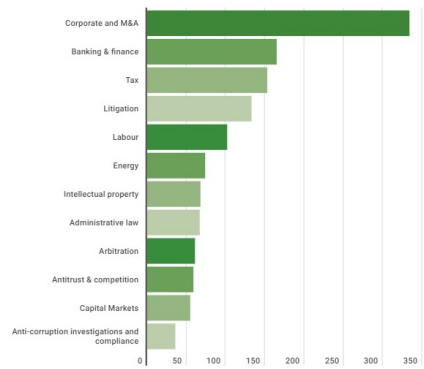
Mexican firm Creel, García-Cuellar, Aiza y Enríquez SC takes the lead here with five lawyers, followed by Argentina's Beccar Varela on four. Guilherme Forbes, partner at Brazilian outfit Stocche Forbes, is a popular choice among GCs, and so are Lefosse partner Carlos Mello and José Augusto Toledo, partner at Clarity Law in Guatemala.

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Approved lawyers by practice area



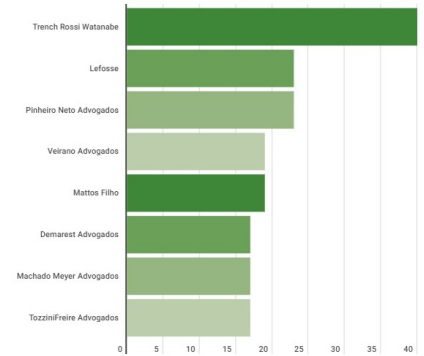
The need for solid tax advice in Latin America is constantly high, irrespective of busts or booms in the market cycle. Brazil is notorious for having a complex tax system and several other jurisdictions have expansive tax frameworks meaning many of the region's GCs rely heavily on the support of their external counsel to navigate the challenges. As a result, we see a significant portion of this year's edition (11%) nominated for their tax expertise.

Brazilian firms have the most lawyers in this area. Trench Rossi tops the list with seven *Approved* practitioners, closely followed by Lefosse and Machado Meyer Advogados with six and five lawyers, respectively. Gustavo Haddad, partner at Lefosse, and Adriana Stamato, in the partnership of Trench Rossi, received the most votes overall.

When running into disputes, corporate legal departments want their most trusted lawyers at the table. Many companies were left facing complex and lengthy litigations following the pandemic, related, for example, to contract breaches, among other things. The high demand for expertise in this area is reflected in the large volume (nearly 10%) of *Approved* lawyers in this field.

Brazil's Trench Rossi boasts the highest number of *Approved* lawyers in the litigation practice, with five in total. Demarest Advogados and Mattos Engelberg Echenique Advogados share the second spot with four each. Marcio de Souza Polto, partner at Trench Rossi, received the most votes from GCs. Carlos Andrade, partner at Brazil's Didier Sodre & Rosa, Rodrigo Carneiro de Oliveira, partner at Pinheiro Neto Advogados, and Daniel Posse, partner at Posse Herrera Ruiz in Colombia, are also popular.

1. Brazilian firms with most Approved lawyers



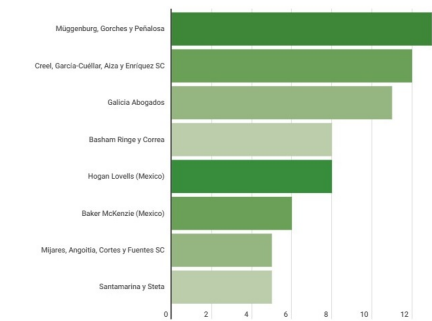
In LACCA's latest research, Trench Rossi maintains its leading position with the most *Approved* lawyers across all practice areas in the region. The firm has 40 in total, one more than last year. Out of these, seven are in tax, followed by five in litigation and four across its administrative law, corporate and M&A, and energy departments, respectively. Lefosse and Pinheiro Neto share the second place with 23 lawyers listed, while Mattos Filho and Veirano land on 19 each.

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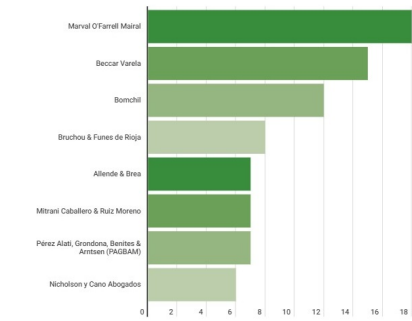
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2. Mexican firms with most *Approved* lawyers



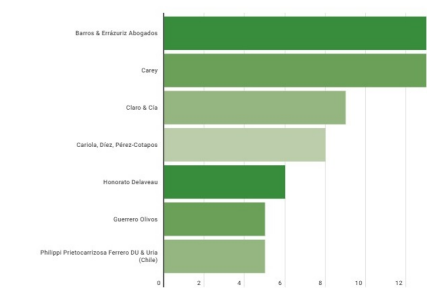
Latin America's second largest economy, Mexico, also has the second largest portion of *Approved* lawyers, but only one more than Argentina. Muggenburg, Gorches y Peñalosa tops the table with 13 nominations. Creel García-Cuellar lands on 12 *Approved* lawyers, five of whom are in banking and finance, and Galicia Abogados on 11, including four in corporate and M&A.

3. Argentine firms with most *Approved* lawyers



Argentina is the country with the third highest number of practitioners on the list. At the head of the table sits Marval O'Farrell Mairal with 18 nominations. These are spread across multiple practices, including three in IP and tax, followed by two in administrative law, banking and finance, and labour. Beccar Varela and Bomchil follow on 15 and 12 listed lawyers, respectively.

4. Chilean firms with most *Approved* lawyers

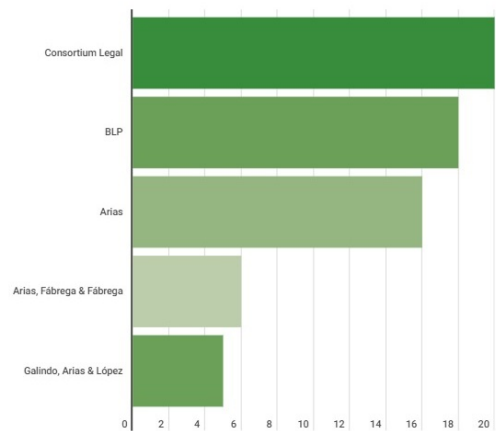


Barros & Errázuriz Abogados and Carey have the most *LACCA Approved* lawyers in Chile this year with 13 each. Barros & Errázuriz has three listed in banking and finance and two each in capital markets, corporate and M&A, and energy. Carey, on the other hand, has four listed in corporate and M&A and two in capital markets and banking and finance, respectively. In second place with nine is Claro & Cía, followed by Carliola, Díez, Pérez-Cotapos with eight.

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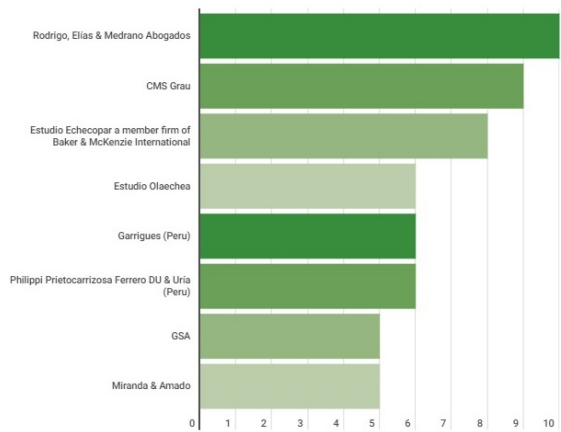
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5. Central American and Panamanian firms with most *Approved* lawyers



In the five Central American countries and Panama, the regional law firms lead in *LACCA Approved* ranking. Consortium Legal leads with 20, followed by BLP with 18 and Arias' 16. BLP (Costa Rica) stands out with 14 of the regional firm's listed lawyers, of which six are in corporate and M&A. Consortium Legal and Arias are the only regional firms to have at least one *Approved* lawyer in each of the five Central American jurisdictions: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In Panama, Arias, Fábrega & Fábrega brought home six *LACCA Approved* nominations.

6. Peruvian firms with most *Approved* lawyers

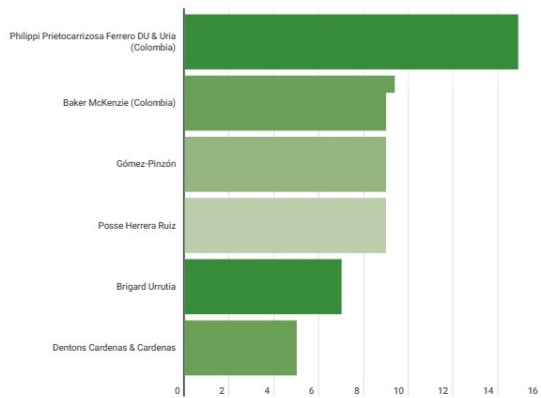


Peru sees Rodrigo, Elías & Medrano Abogados at the top of the table for another year. It has 10 *Approved* lawyers, including three in corporate and M&A and two in both energy and labour. Closely behind is CMS Grau on nine lawyers, while Estudio Echeopar member firm of Baker McKenzie International lands on eight.

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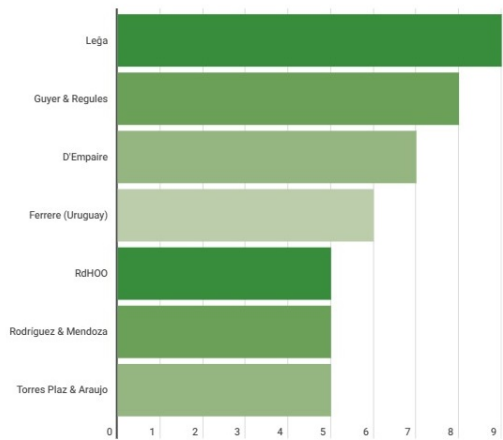
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7. Colombian firms with most *Approved* lawyers



Regional law firm Philippi Prietocarrizosa Ferrero DU & Uría (Colombia) sits comfortably in pole position in Colombia with 15 *Approved* lawyers. Four of those are in corporate and M&A, while the firm also has two lawyers listed in energy and labour. Three firms share the second place: Baker McKenzie (Colombia), Gómez-Pinzón and Posse Herrera Ruiz.

8. Firms with most *Approved* lawyers from elsewhere in the region



Elsewhere in Latin America, LACCA members put forward the most lawyers in Venezuela and Uruguay for *LACCA Approved*. Leğa from Venezuela and Guyer & Regules from Uruguay have nine and eight lawyers listed, respectively. Venezuela's D'Empaire and Ferrere (Uruguay) follow on seven and six.

In other countries, Pérez Bustamante & Ponce (PBP) in Ecuador and Dentons Guevara & Cutiérrez in Bolivia received the most nominations in their jurisdictions with three *Approved* lawyers each, while Headrick Rizik Alvarez & Fernández in the Dominican Republic and Gross Brown from Paraguay landed on two.