



HOPE, DUGGAN & SILVA

ABOGADOS

EXPERIENCE, EFFICIENCY AND PROFESSIONALISM

The mission of Hope, Duggan & Silva is the provision of high quality legal services, with a primary (though not exclusive) focus on corporate clients. The firm has a strong commitment to EXPERIENCE, EFFICIENCY and PROFESSIONALISM.

The experience acquired since its creation in 1990 has benefited its clients. The firm has also since then increased and expanded its number and areas of practice.

A strong emphasis is placed in teamwork and integration of different areas of legal knowledge so as to bring to each case, enquiry or transaction the full human and technological resources of the firm in order to ensure that the frequently diverse aspects of a single case receive the best expert skills and timely attention.

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY WITH AN INTERNATIONAL VISION

The lawyers of Hope, Duggan & Silva have been educated at readily recognized law schools in Argentina, and the majority of them have continued their legal education by earning master degrees at prominent universities in the U.S. and the U.K. Most of the firm's attorneys have also acquired significant experience in legal practice abroad with leading law firms of New York, Washington and London, among other cities.

For this reason the firm has developed a strong international dimension to its practice and has received awards from important publications such as CHAMBERS GLOBAL, CHAMBERS LATIN AMERICA, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW REVIEW, LATINLAWYER 250 and THE LEGAL500.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Banking and Financial Transactions
- Capital Markets
- Oil, Gas and Energy
- Mining
- Real Estate
- Engineering and Construction
- Privatizations
- Media and Entertainment
- Debt Restructurings and Bankruptcies
- Litigation
- Arbitration and Mediation
- Corporate
- Administrative Law and Regulations
- Tax and Customs Law
- Labor and Social Security
- Pro Bono
- Aviation Law
- Consumer Law and Advertising
- Environmental Law
- Antitrust Law
- Insurance and Reinsurance

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Hope, Duggan & Silva has advised local and international clients, acting as buyers, sellers and financial advisors in many readily recognizable international and domestic M&A transactions linked to the Argentine market. These include mergers, acquisitions of banks and companies of a variety of sectors.

This practice often entails the need for creating and developing innovative financing and tax structures to ensure the success of each transaction and minimize its costs. Furthermore, the firm's lawyers stand ready to assist its clients in the drafting and negotiation of agreements among co-investors and shareholders, and have developed a high level of proficiency in sophisticated corporate reorganizations.

The firm's clients include strategic investors as well as investment funds. The teams of lawyers who practice tax, corporate, labor, antitrust, financial and administrative law, as well as those belonging to its litigation department, are actively and regularly involved in transactions of this nature.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Hope, Duggan & Silva has a substantial experience in the drafting and negotiation of documents, in Spanish and English, that satisfy both local and international standards, for a broad spectrum of investment projects, financing structures for the public and private sector, structured finance and derivative products. Such experience derives from the advise rendered to local and international banks, lenders and borrowers.

Due to the ongoing capital needs of the public and private sectors in Argentina and as a response to the numerous fluctuations in the domestic and regional economic environment the firm has developed a substantial expertise in bilateral and syndicated credit facilities, project financing, asset securitization, derivatives, financial trusts and import and export financing.

Hope, Duggan & Silva is recognized as one of the leaders in this area of practice.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Hope, Duggan & Silva has helped many of its clients, whether from the public or private sector, in gaining access to international capital markets.

Hope, Duggan & Silva has been at the forefront of legal developments in capital markets regulations and has been instrumental in the drafting of the agreements that implemented the first capital markets transactions, and in adapting to Argentine law the documents that were drafted following international standards. This has enabled the firm to play a key role as counsel to the main equity and debt public offerings with a variety of features aimed at satisfying the increasing need for international financial products.

The firm has a significant expertise in structuring secured transactions to assist the insertion of first-time corporate issuers in the international capital markets. The members of the firm are devoted to remaining constantly updated in all legal, regulatory and market developments and are prepared to identify and assess the trends of this particularly changing market environment.

OIL, GAS AND ENERGY

The investments in these industries during the last years reached unprecedented levels in Argentina and in the region. This has allowed the firm to gain significant experience participating in a wide variety of acquisitions and investments in these areas.

Many of those investments were made through incorporation of domestic legal entities or the creation of investment consortia, in which investors sought to regulate their rights and obligations as well as their relationships with the technical operating companies. The lawyers of the firm are reputed as having attained the highest level of excellence in drafting and negotiating agreements governing long-term partnership and joint venture relationships of their clients vis-à-vis their corporate or consortium counterparts.

The results of these efforts have allowed the firm to have a sizeable team of experienced professionals with the ability to detect, understand and propose solutions to a wide variety of business and regulatory matters.

MINING

Hope, Duggan & Silva has a very well known background in advising mining companies. Since the beginning of the mining practice in Argentina, the firm has actively participated in this industry. It has advised its clients, whether local or international companies, in all regulatory, contractual and environmental matters related to mining, among others. For all of the above, the firm has a substantial experience in advising mining companies and is reputed to be one of the leaders in this market.

REAL ESTATE

The attorneys of Hope, Duggan & Silva have formed a team serving both domestic and international clients in numerous real estate projects in Argentina. The firm has helped developers, investment funds and construction companies in the acquisition, development and construction of office buildings and residential real estate projects. Its extensive practice has enabled the firm to be very knowledgeable about the local and regional real estate markets and to become closely familiar with its key players.

The longstanding and dynamic expertise accumulated during more than two decades representing real estate clients with a significant volume of transactions both in the domestic market and in other jurisdictions, and the knowledge acquired from the legal, business and financing aspects of the local and regional market, are made available to the firm's clients doing business in this active sector of the economy.

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

The firm has gained extensive experience as legal counsel to worldwide leading companies engaged in construction, engineering and high technical equipment. That breadth of the expertise drawn by Hope, Duggan & Silva in this area allows the firm to be ranked as one of the most active firms in this area of practice. Such expertise includes having successfully acted as legal advisor in numerous projects, including the construction of thermal and hydroelectric power plants, oil and gas pipelines, aqueducts, distilleries, offshore oil platforms, transmission lines and buildings.

The firm has also gained valuable experience with its involvement in projects developed abroad, in countries such as Malaysia, Portugal, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sudan, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago and Paraguay.

PRIVATIZATIONS

The firm is identified as a leader for its critical role in the privatization process which took place in Latin America during the nineties, having advised both, bidders and Governments. It has not only participated in the most significant privatization transactions in Argentina, but also in other Latin-American countries.

Hope, Duggan & Silva has advised bidders in various public bids pertaining to diverse industries, including the privatization of companies doing business in the areas of telecommunications, postal services, oil and gas, thermal and hydroelectric plants, port operation services and drinking water services, and in many of these processes its clients have successfully become awardees.

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

The firm has played a key role in the acquisition of and advise to television channels and radio stations, cable companies and sports programming companies. Hope, Duggan & Silva can show credentials that include having represented clients in the most highly publicized transactions, which is characterized by its remarkable dynamism.

These solid professional and legal backgrounds coupled with its in-depth knowledge of the key players of the Argentine market constitute an added-value perspective available to the firm's clients. The impressive records in this industry allow the firm to become one of the firms specialized in media and entertainment law in Argentina.

DEBT RESTRUCTURINGS AND BANKRUPTCIES

Hope, Duggan & Silva has a high reputation for its solid background in providing legal advise to debtors in financial distress as well as to their creditors. This experience includes the indebtedness refinancing of well-known Argentine corporate clients, the negotiation of out of court restructuring agreements (acuerdos preventivos extrajudiciales) and the active involvement in composition and bankruptcy proceedings.

Members of the firm who regularly participate in credit, banking, financing and securities transactions often seek the contribution and advise of the firm's bankruptcy specialists. And, at the same time, the preeminent background of the firm in financial matters coupled with the solid legal education of the members of its team of litigators has allowed it to position itself at the forefront in this area.

LITIGATION

The litigation practice of the firm is focused on giving advise to corporate clients in connection with conflicts arising from the various areas of practice on which the firm is engaged. As a result, the firm has always fostered teamwork and promoted the continuing personal and professional interaction between its litigation department and all other practice areas.

With a wide expertise in highly complex litigations associated with corporate as well as administrative law matters, the credentials of the firm's team of litigators include having handled a variety of major cases, including corporate debt restructurings and significant arbitration proceedings in Argentina and before international arbitration panels.

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION

Hope, Duggan & Silva, has a broad experience in arbitration, both local and international, including ICC and ICSID arbitration. Its members have acted as attorneys in significant arbitration cases.

The firm is a member of the prestigious Centro Empresarial de Mediación y Arbitraje organized in Argentina by the leading law firms.

CORPORATE

Hope, Duggan & Silva has a team of highly specialized lawyers devoted to building a creative expertise in corporate law. Together with finance and banking, these have been the traditional core practice areas of the firm since its creation. Such practice includes advisory services to local and foreign clients on corporate organization, law compliance, administration, governance, shareholders' agreements, drafting of by-laws for local corporations, corporate reorganizations and conflicts between shareholders.

Many of the members of the corporate practice group often participate in mergers and acquisitions deals, credit, financing and securities transactions and capital markets assignments, so as to offer a particular and complementary perspective.

Due to its experience, the firm is in a position to assure that the assessment made by the tax experts has been critical for the creation and design of the most adequate corporate and business structures. That is one of the reasons why the policy of the firm is that both the expertise and the skills of the members of each practice group be put together to deliver the highest quality work product.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND REGULATIONS

Since its foundation, the lawyers of the firm have had a substantial exposure to all types of regulatory matters.

The firm gives advise on administrative law representing its clients in their relations with the National and Provincial Governments, the regulatory bodies and other players in the regulated industries.

Hope, Duggan & Silva has a widely recognized experience and specialization in the field of Administrative Law and Regulations which are available to its clients in order to obtain the best results in each case.

TAX AND CUSTOMS LAW

The tax lawyers of Hope, Duggan & Silva are highly experienced in tax planning for investments and in the tax issues normally involved in the structuring of mergers and acquisitions, and credit, banking, financing and debt restructuring transactions.

The firm also represents and advise clients on tax matters related to their day-to-day business. Furthermore, the tax department has a solid tax and customs litigation practice.

LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

As legal counsel to various corporate clients, Hope, Duggan & Silva, gives advise on labor and social security matters.

The firm's practice includes not only the general advise on labor and social security and the strategic design of labor policies for its clients, but also the labor related matters of the managers of its corporate clients, corporate downsizing and restructuring and the implementation of voluntary retirement programs.

Hope, Duggan & Silva has an extensive and recognized practice in the drafting and negotiation of collective bargaining agreements, including the negotiation with labor unions.

PRO BONO

Among the values of the firm, one of the most important ones is to collaborate with the community in matters concerning the public interest and, in our case, through free legal advice to non-profit projects, ventures, partnerships and foundations that have the purpose of collaborate, somehow, with our community.

AVIATION LAW

Hope, Duggan & Silva has advised its clients in all matters related to aviation law including the registration of aircrafts in Argentina within the framework of leasing agreements and related transactions such as mortgages, purchase of aircrafts and guarantees.

CONSUMER LAW AND ADVERTISING

Hope, Duggan & Silva advises its clients on an array of matters related to consumer law and advertising.

To this end, the firm advises and represents its clients in product liability issues, distribution and marketing of products in the local market.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Environmental matters have become an important issue for the firm's clients. For purposes of addressing these needs, Hope, Duggan & Silva renders advise on a variety of environmental matters and keeps its clients updated on the new legislation enacted and which may affect their businesses.

Within the framework of keeping its clients updated, the firm advises those clients in their compliance with environmental standards set out in federal, provincial and municipal legislation as well as in the implementation of new projects.

ANTITRUST LAW

Hope, Duggan & Silva advises buyers, sellers and financial advisors whether, locals or foreigners, in their mergers and acquisitions transactions, restrictive practices and economic concentrations.

The firm represents its clients in all proceedings related to the obtention of the regulatory approvals and clearances by the relevant governmental agencies as well as in antitrust litigation.

INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE

Since the opening of the reinsurance market to the private sector in Argentina, Hope, Duggan & Silva has advised local and foreign reinsurers. The firm has a solid background in the local reinsurance legal market.

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