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Lalive promotes in Geneva and London

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Huber and Velarde Saffer

Lalive has promoted **Kevin Huber** in London and **Luis Miguel Velarde Saffer** in Geneva to its partnership.

The promotions were announced today and will take effect on 1 January.

An Irish-US national, Huber joined Lalive's London office in 2020. He specialises in international commercial and investment arbitration, advising clients across industries including nuclear energy, oil and gas, mining and financial services, with a particular focus in disputes arising out of large construction and infrastructure projects.

His recent experience includes being part of the Lalive team that **secured a €606 million award** for Finnish nuclear power company Fennovoima in an ICC dispute with Rosatom concerning the terminated Hanhikivi-1 nuclear power plant project in Finland. He is also defending Latvia in an ICSID claim brought by **an insolvent**

Latvian bank and its UK shareholders under the UK-Latvia bilateral investment treaty.

Huber studied international relations at the London School of Economics, political science at Villanova University, and law at the University of Miami. He joined WilmerHale in 2012 and was promoted to counsel in 2019, before joining Lalive. He is admitted to the New York bar.

He was **promoted** to counsel at Lalive in January 2023. He is admitted to practise in New York and as a registered foreign lawyer in England & Wales.

Wilhelm Guthwert, senior advisor at Fennovoima, says: “Kevin combines his New York relentlessness with being a true team-player. Always on top of the file, unflappable in the face of surprises, fearless in cross-examination.”

Veijo Heiskanen, a former Lalive partner who now practises as an independent arbitrator at Arbitra, says: “This is a thoroughly deserved promotion. When you have Kevin on your team, you never have to worry about the quality of the final product – or lose a night's sleep. He is a mature, rock-solid arbitration lawyer with excellent judgment. Lalive is lucky to have him.”

Steven Finizio, who recently left WilmerHale to join the partnership at King & Spalding, says: “Kevin is a smart and energetic lawyer, and it is great to see his continuing success.”

Velarde Saffer joined Lalive’s Geneva office in 2022 after eight years with Dechert. He practises international commercial and investment arbitration with a particular focus on Latin America and Spain. He was **promoted** to counsel in January 2024.

His recent experience includes being part of the Lalive team that helped Canadian mining company Lupaka Gold win a US$68 million ICSID award against Peru over the seizure of a mine by members of a rural community. The parties subsequently reached an **agreement** to settle the award.

Velarde Seffer also **successfully defended** Panama in an ICSID claim lodged by a Venezuela-based banking group Banesco, that accused state entities of improperly drawing on bonds issued to guarantee public works contracts.

He began his career in 2008 at Benites Forno & Ugaz Abogados in Lima where he spent four years. He completed an LLM at Harvard Law School and spent a year at Baker Hostetler's Washington, DC office before joining Dechert as an associate in Paris in 2014.

Velarde Saffer also holds a degree in Law from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru. He was admitted to practise in Peru in 2010.

Gordon Ellis, chairman of Lupaka Gold, says: “Luis Miguel was an integral member of our team during the arbitration against the Republic of Peru. His quick response, knowledge and efficient manner were key in driving us towards a very successful conclusion.”

Eduardo Silva Romero, a partner at Wordstone who worked with Velarde Seffer at Dechert, says: “I met Luis Miguel when he was finishing his LLM at Harvard. Since then, I was impressed by his genuine interest in contract law and international arbitration. He then worked in our team for several years, always demonstrating an outstanding legal talent as well as an unconditional dedication to client work. I have no doubt that all these premises, already present at the beginning of his international arbitration career, are solid foundations on which Lalive can rely to have in Luis Miguel a wonderful partner.”

Ives Becerra, a legal executive at Brookfield and former legal director of Aleatica, says: “Luis Miguel is an outstanding lawyer who pays meticulous attention to the most important details of a case and is consistently coming up with new angles to further strengthen his client’s position. His extensive knowledge of international arbitration, his full commitment and availability, and his excellent interpersonal skills are truly valued when working with him. Lalive has an excellent new partner, and I have no doubt that Luis Miguel will be a great success in his new role.”

Commenting on the promotions **Domitille Baizeau**, co-chair of Lalive’s international arbitration practice, says: “Congratulations to Kevin and Luis Miguel on their thoroughly deserved promotion to the partnership. They will both play a pivotal role in maintaining our reputation as one of the world’s go-to firms for complex international commercial and investment treaty arbitration.”

Following the new promotions, Lalive’s arbitration team now has a total of 16 partners, one senior counsel, three counsel and 23 associates, based across its Geneva, Zurich and London offices.



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