

Uría Menéndez and PPU promote in Madrid and Bogotá

Susannah Moody
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Heidi López and Juan Sebastián Arias

Uría Menéndez has promoted **Heidi López** to partner in Madrid, while its Latin American affiliate Philippi Prietocarrizosa Ferrero DU & Uría has promoted **Juan Sebastián Arias** to its partnership in Bogotá.

Both their promotions became effective at the beginning of January.

López joined Uría Menéndez in 2007. She [represented](#) Saudi energy company Alfanar in its ICC dispute with Spanish wind farm developer Capital Energy, resulting in a €7 million award. She was also part of the team that [advised](#) Spanish energy company Iberdrola in an UNCITRAL treaty claim against Guatemala.

She also [served](#) on the coordination committee of the Spanish Arbitration Club's under-40 club between 2021 and 2023.

A graduate of Saarland University and the University of Salamanca, López also spent seven months at Bredin Prat in Paris. She speaks Spanish, French, English, Italian and German.

Jesús Remón, senior partner at Uría Menéndez, describes López as a “brilliant and totally versatile lawyer”. He adds that she is “very experienced in energy arbitrations and has contributed significantly to the growth of that practice” at the firm.

Arias joined PPU in 2018 from Jones Day in Miami. Before joining Jones Day in 2016, he spent nearly five years at Brigard & Urrutia and eight months at Uría Menéndez.

Arias has represented clients in international and domestic arbitrations, with a focus on the oil and gas, telecommunications and real estate sectors. He is a referee at the Conciliation and Arbitration Centre at the Bogota Chamber of Commerce.

He graduated from Bogota University and gained his LLM at Columbia University.

PPU's head of international arbitration **Ramiro Portocarrero** describes Arias as a “very effective lawyer and a respected team leader”. He adds: “Clients have full confidence in him given his wide experience in international arbitration.”

In September, PPU also promoted **Manuela Cross** to counsel and head of its dispute resolution team in Chile.

Cross joined PPU's Chilean office as an associate in 2021 when it acquired Chilean natural resources and litigation boutique Carcelén Desmadryl y Tapia. Prior to joining the boutique, she worked at Bofill Mir & Alvarez Jana between 2012 and 2018.

She is a graduate of the Diego Portales University and gained her LLM at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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