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Hernández & Cía restocks restructuring team with new co-head

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Gerardo Guzman

Highly Recommended Peruvian firm Hernández & Cía has strengthened its restructuring practice by hiring a counsel from local outfit Arbe Abogados to co-lead the department, just days after the firm's former practice head left to join Rebaza, Alcázar & De Las Casas.

Gerardo Guzmán will join the firm as counsel on 1 June. With his addition, Hernández & Cía will have 25 partners and five counsel on its legal team.

He will share the leadership of the restructuring group alongside co-head Alfredo Filomeno.

Guzmán's arrival comes just days after Hernández & Cía's insolvency head Pamela Arce **left** the firm to join the partnership at fellow Highly Recommended outfit Rebaza, Alcázar & De Las Casas.

With over 20 years' experience in restructuring law matters, Guzmán joins Hernández & Cía following an eight-month stint at Arbe Abogados, having **arrived** there in October after a year-and-a-half as the restructuring head at Highly Recommended firm Rubio Leguía Normand. Before that, he spent over four years at BBGS Abogados (Peru), including three as partner.

Earlier in his career, he worked at Recommended firms Philippi Prietocarrizosa Ferrero DU & Uría (Peru) and Benites, Vargas & Ugaz Abogados. He has worked as an international associate at Elite Mexican outfit Galicia Abogados and Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York.

Managing partner Juan Luis Hernández assures that Guzmán is a "recognised specialist in insolvency and corporate restructuring law" and notes that his leadership – alongside Filomeno – will help to strengthen the firm's capabilities in these areas and "significantly enrich [its] value proposition of client services, as a general practice firm."

Hernández also highlights that Telefónica del Perú's recent filing for Chapter 15 bankruptcy protection has set an important precedent as one of the most prominent cases in Peru's history so far, as one of its most high-profile insolvency cases and one that may garner international attention. The partner explains that "the coming months will be very important, not only from a bankruptcy perspective but also in the telecoms and related services market."

He adds that the case is precedent-setting, as it could trigger reforms to Peru's bankruptcy law, which has seen little change in over 25 years. This has caused Peruvian restructuring departments to be more focused on "pre-bankruptcy negotiations than on the proceedings themselves" in general.

Hernández & Cía is commended for its services in a variety of practice areas, including banking and finance, tax, capital markets, corporate and M&A, disputes and antitrust. In August, the firm **appointed** an associate from Elite outfit Payet, Rey, Cauvi, Pérez Abogados as the head of its competition law department.

The firm has been flexing its transactional muscle in recent deals, having **assisted** Canada's Silver Crown Royalties with the structuring of a royalty agreement with Toronto-based counterpart PPX Mining for a gold and silver mine in northwestern Peru in February. It also **helped** Peruvian fruit producer Agrícola Andrea obtain a US$25 million loan in November.

Arbe Abogados is known for its corporate and M&A, disputes, public law, real estate and capital markets offerings, among others. Latin Lawyer contacted the firm for comment but did not hear back before publishing.