

Von Wobeser y Sierra S.C.

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aw firm ranking agencies confirm that Wobeser y Sierra, S.C. (VWyS) is the leading firm for dispute resolution services in Mexico and one of the most prominent in the field in the Latin American region. VWyS is the only firm in Mexico ranked by Global Arbitration Review among the best 100 law firms worldwide and Chambers & Partners has ranked its dispute resolution team in the top tier.

The dispute resolution practice of VWyS is domestic and international, and its clients include many Fortune 500 companies. Over the past 25 years, the firm has successfully represented several companies and foreign governments in a wide variety of disputes of different sizes and complexities, ranging from a fully successful defense of a 2.5 billion dollar commercial arbitration claim between two shareholders of a beer company, to a 130 million dollar judicial claim involving the malfunctioning of a satellite in outer space, just to mention some representative examples.

As to the arbitration practice, members of the firm have acted as counsel to parties, arbitrators, experts on Mexican law and secretaries to tribunals, and are frequent speakers on arbitration conferences all over the world. The added experience of the practice group members sums well above 150 complex proceedings involving commercial, construction and investment. All the practice group members are very familiar with the implementation of the arbitration rules of many international institutions, such as the ICC, AAA, ICDR, ICSID and LCIA, and many domestic institutions, such as CANACO and CAM.

The dispute resolution practice group of the firm is co-headed by Claus von Wobeser and Marco Tulio Venegas, who lead a team of 15 attorneys, all graduates with honors from the top law schools in Mexico, U.S. and Europe, and many of them trained in New York, Washington D.C., The level of sophistication of this practice group is unparalleled in Mexico and highly competitive worldwide.

## **Key Achievements**

- We obtained a favourable award in arbitration between an two entertainment parks companies, in which our client was allowed to keep US\$4 million as price of a purchase option.
- We obtained an award in a construction dispute in which we represented the largest Mexican construction company against the Federal Commission of Electricity, obtaining an amount of more than US\$22 million.
- We were able to nullify before Mexican Courts, two arbitral awards of more than US1.3 million each, based on violations of due process.
- We prevailed in enforcing three arbitral awards, before Mexican Courts.



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s a result of the new legal developments in the energy and natural resources sector, our law firm continues to expand the services it offers in this area. Business opportunities are emerging primarily from renewable energy projects, as well as from the mining and fossil fuels sector in Mexico, taking advantage of the more open legal framework.

The firm provides counsel on the planning, negotiation and operation of projects concerning the energy and natural resources sector, as well as on renewable energy projects. We have vast experience advising national and international companies on the development and financing of these projects in Mexico. Our understanding of the key industry drivers and risks affecting our clients' businesses and our familiarity with the corporate, financing and investment structures commonly used in the mining and natural resources sectors enable us to add value for our clients and execute transactions efficiently.

We also provide counseling with respect to environmental impact authorizations and audits, in order for clients engaging in this complex sector to comply with the local legal framework and national regulations related to environmental compliance, such as waste management, air emissions, water supply, waste water treatment and discharges, environmental site assessments, among others.

Taking advantage of the experience and specialization of our lawyers in litigation and administrative proceedings, we are also qualified to challenge all types of infringement claims and sanctions imposed in this area.

We work with a broad range of clients in the sector, including developers and exploration companies, mine operators, smelter and refinery operators, ore processors, steel and metal manufacturers, as well as mining and renewable energy technology suppliers and producers.

## Recent Experience

- Advice to a Colorado based mining group on negotiating and securing a revolving credit facility for up to US\$25 million;
- Advice to a Toronto based mining conglomerate on structuring, negotiating and operating a worldwide asset-based credit facility up to US\$150 million;
- Advice to a primary gold mine in Mexico on negotiating with the Mexican authorities the discharge of several liens attached to several mining concession titles;
- Counsel for the acquisition of a wind farm located in a northern state in Mexico;
- Counsel for the development and operation of an important photovoltaic energy project by a Spanish company, which intends to include energy end users in several self supply company schemes;
- Advice to a major North American retail supplier of agricultural products and services in North and South America and a leading global producer and marketer of fertilizers and industrial products regarding the environmental, political and risk assessment for the acquisition of an important Mexican agro industrial group with mining activities:
- Counsel for the development and operation of a 3 MW Biogas plant in the State of Jalisco for a group of companies in the tequila industry operating in the same industrial park.