



PAOLA HERNÁNDEZ VILLALVAZO

Counsel

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Areas of Practice

Environment, Agrarian & Social Impact

About

Paola has over 30 years of professional practice in both the private and public sectors in matters related to the industrial sector.

She also has a high reputation and invaluable experience in the environmental legal area, but also knowledge and practice in the environmental technical area, which led her to lead the environmental technical area in all AMC's mining operations in Mexico, United States, Peru and Spain for three years.

Among her many achievements are the elaboration and implementation of the legal strategy to release the first two private in situ stable geological formation landfills in Mexico along with the remediation of the land, when there was still no regulation in this regard. The methodology used would later be taken up by the Mexican government in the current regulations in force. She was also in charge of all the proceedings initiated in connection with the Sonora River spill (achieving their closure), as well as the defense of the first 3 environmental class actions (achieving their conclusion at the certification stage).

Her legal and technical expertise led her to be appointed as one of the five representatives of Mexico in the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (from 2018 to 2020 a body that advises the Commission on multiple issues related to the Parallel Agreement on Environmental Matters).

Experience

- IMMSA Lead industrial Plant in Monterrey.- In charge of designing and implementing the legal strategy to obtain the environmental authorization for the first in situ hazardous mining private waste confinement, as well as the soil remediation of 56 hectares. The methodology used later became the Mexican official standard
- IMMSA Copper Industrial Plant in San Luis Potosí.- In charge of designing and implementing the legal strategy to obtain the environmental authorization for the in situ hazardous mining private waste confinement, as well as the soil remediation
- Buenavista del Cobre in Sonora.- Head negotiator on the administrative agreement of the “Río Sonora Trust” established for the reparation of damages caused by the copper sulphate drain in 2014. In charge of defining and supervising the legal strategy of all environmental, national waters and occupational health procedures, including the soil remediation procedure
- Minera Los Frailes in Spain.- In charge of the environmental due diligence and later of approving and supervising legal actions in order to obtain environmental authorizations for the operation
- Americas Mining Corporation.- Designed and implemented the Compliance function. Also worked as Environmental Director in México, Perú, USA and Spain
- Minera México.- In charge of the legal environmental area

Awards & Recognitions

Environment recommended, The Legal 500

Member of the Joint Public Advisory Committee as an environmental expert in the NAFTA Agreement from 2018 to 2020

Special acknowledgment for obtaining the best grades in the Environmental Law LLM 2016-2017

Honorable mention in my grade level exam and paperwork in the Bachelor’s Degree in Law, 2007

Environmental Commission Coordinator in the National Association of Business Lawyers, 2019-2020

Academia

Currently, teaches Compliance and good corporate practices module for the diploma course in Corporate Law, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico (2022)

Honorary Professor of the Environmental Law Seminar in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico (2016)

Education

ESG Professional Certificate Specialist Level II: International Sustainable Business (ISB)

Compliance Officer Certification by the World Compliance Association (2021-2022)

Compliance Specialization, Miguel de Cervantes University (2021-2022)

Master's degree in Environmental Law, University of the Basque Country (2016-2017)

Negotiation School, Diploma: "Dealing with Difficult Conversations", Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States (2013)

Negotiation School, Diploma: "Obtaining Value from Disputes and Settlements", Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States (2011)

Foreign Trade Specialization, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) (2000-2002)

Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, Escuela Libre de Derecho, Mexico City, Mexico (1998)

Law Degree (J.D. equivalent), Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City, Mexico (1993-1997)

Memberships

Women in Mining Mexico

Women in Compliance

Publications & Collaborations

Article: "Regulations for lithium exploitation: Mexico and Bolivia's advancements." Published by LexLatin [Download](#)

Article: Reform to the Mining Law in Mexico: New crimes, grounds for cancellation and prohibitions, published by LexLatin [Download](#)

Languages

Spanish

English