

Rafael A. Diaz Oquendo

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LICENSES

Admitted to practice law in Venezuela, February 1999

EDUCATION

Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, LA

Doctor of Juridical Science – SJD (Candidate) Under the Supervision of Professor Robert Force

Dissertation proposal: "The United States Law of the Gulf of Mexico applied to oil and gas drilling operations. Regulations and Maritime Law Implications."

Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, LA

LL.M in Admiralty Law, May 2016

Honors: Maritime Law Fellow at Tulane Maritime Law Center – Scholarship

“Harry F. Stiles, Jr. Scholarship” in Maritime Law

Prizes: Winner of the 2016 Maynard Cooper Writing Competition of the Tulane Maritime Law Society with the paper “Post-*Lozman* decisions within the Fifth Circuit, and the interplay of *Stewart* and *Lozman* in the vessel status determination.”

Universidad Pontificia de Comillas, Madrid, Spain

Specialization in International Maritime Law, December 2013

Universidad de Alicante, Alicante, Spain

Master in Intellectual Property Law and Information Society “*Magister Lvcentivvs*”, June 2002

Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Caracas, Venezuela

Abogado (equivalent to Juris Doctor), October 1998

EXPERIENCE

Thomas Miller Americas, Jersey City, NJ

Senior Claims Executive, August 2016 – Present

Claims handling of UK P&I Club members (ship-owners/charterers) in North and South America.

DPZ Abogados Corporativos, Maracaibo, Venezuela

Partner, December 2006 – July 2016

Founding and Managing Partner.

Drafted legal memoranda and liaised with international clients in Oil and Gas, Maritime Law and Corporate Law in Venezuela, such as Britannia P&I, Halliburton, Weatherford, Baker Hughes, National Oil Well, Wood Group, Shell, among others.

Supervised a team of attorneys, paralegals and administrative personnel of up to 30 persons.

The Law Office of Rafael Diaz Oquendo, Maracaibo, Venezuela

Solo Practitioner, May 2003 – December 2006

Represented local clients in commercial law and maritime law litigation.

Clarke, Modet & Co., Alicante, Spain

Lawyer, July 2002 - January 2003

Drafted briefs of opposition to the registration of community trademarks at the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM).

Intellectual Property Agency, Ministry of Production and Commerce, Caracas, Venezuela
Lawyer at the Legal Department, August 1999 - July 2001

Drafted administrative decisions of oppositions to the registration of trademark, industrial designs and patents.

Invited by the US Ambassador in Venezuela to participate in the International Visitors Program of the Department of State.

Represented Venezuela in the Standing Committee of Trademarks of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Universidad Rafael Belloso Chacín, Maracaibo, Venezuela

Adjunct Professor in the Master in Commercial Law, the Certificate in Corporate Law, and the Certificate in Maritime Law, June 2003 – April 2015

International Conferences

Presented conferences in relation to Oil and Gas and International Petroleum Transactions, as one of the experts that were invited by PEMEX, Mexico, 2009 (ITAM); and ECOPETROL, Bogota, 2009 (Universidad de la Sabana).

PUBLICATIONS

Published the **“Book of Maritime Law.”** Maracaibo, 2013. ISBN 978-980-6510-92-0.

Wrote the article **“Ideas about the Procedure of Limitation of Liability of the Ship-Owner according to the Maritime Commerce Act,”** published in the **“Book of Maritime Law.”** Maracaibo, 2013.

Wrote the article **“Corporate Social Responsibility in the Hydrocarbons Sector in Latin America,”** published in the book **“International Oil and Gas Transactions in Latin America,”** by the University of Houston and the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. Mexico, 2011. ISBN 978-607-09-0733-3.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Houston, TX
International Oil & Gas Law, Contracts and Negotiation, October 2014

Georgetown University (International Law Institute), Washington, DC
International Program in Oil and Gas, June 2012

Institute of Graduate Studies in Administration, Maracaibo, Venezuela
Advance Program in Management, September 2011 - Management Program for Lawyers, April 2006

Universidad de los Andes, Merida, Venezuela
International Graduate Program in Copyright, May 2001

MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN).
Member of the Caracas Bar Association and Zulia State Bar Association.

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, Spanish (native speaker), and Portuguese.