

Lourdes Dávalos León
Managing Partner

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Lourdes holds degrees in law from both Cuba and Spain and is internationally recognized as one of the most influential lawyers practicing in Cuba, thanks to her extensive experience negotiating foreign investment projects with the Cuban government and state-owned companies at all institutional levels and in a wide range of economic sectors.

Until November 2023, she served as Counsel in the Commercial and Financial Department and head of the Cuban desk at the prestigious law firm Uría Menéndez.

She is ranked Band 1 among leading lawyers in the prestigious Chambers and Partners Latin America legal directory.

Education

2007 – B.A., Law, Summa Cum Laude, University of Havana, Cuba

2008 – M.A., International Business Law, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, with honors

2010 – B.A., Law, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

2022 – Changing The Game: Negotiation and Competitive Decision – Making International Business. Harvard Business School, United States

Experience

After working for 13 years as Counsel in the Commercial and Financial Department and head of the Cuban desk at the prestigious law firm Uría Menéndez, in August 2023 Lourdes founded Dávalos Abogados, her own firm, where she serves as Managing Partner.

Her professional practice focuses on advising foreign investors (both private and public) from different jurisdictions on international contracting, project financing, and the creation of joint ventures in foreign investment projects in Cuba (including the Mariel Special Development Zone). She provides advice on transactions in a wide range of economic sectors, especially those linked to the tourism and hotel industry, construction, real estate, energy, transportation, infrastructure, food, and beverages, among others. She also has extensive experience advising major financial institutions on regulatory matters and funding in Cuba.

Academic Work

She has given lectures on the Cuban legal system for foreign investment at various academic institutions, including the Center for American and International Law in Plano, Texas, United States, the M.A. program in International Law at the Instituto Superior de Derecho y Economía (ISDE), and at seminars organized by the Complutense University of Madrid. She has also taught classes on joint venture contracts in the M.A. program in International Business at the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM).

Furthermore, she regularly participates as a speaker on commercial law and foreign investment in Cuba, contributing to training programs and seminars organized by various institutions and in partnership with other international firms.

Publications

- Cuba, crónica de una transición anunciada [Cuba, chronicle of a transition foretold], *Expansión* (expansion.com), May 10, 2021
- El Título III de la Ley Helms Burton desde el Derecho internacional. Un nuevo elemento de tensión jurídica entre Estados Unidos y Cuba. [Title III of the Helms-Burton Act from the perspective of international law. A new source of legal tension between the United States and Cuba], *Actualidad jurídica Uría Menéndez*, no. 51, 2019.
- La hipoteca inmobiliaria en el marco de la inversión extranjera para el desarrollo inmobiliario en la República de Cuba [Real estate mortgages in the context of foreign investment for real estate development in the Republic of Cuba], *La Ley*, no. 9060, 2017.

- La reestructuración de la deuda soberana en Cuba y los programas de conversión de deuda con España. Una alternativa para financiar inversiones. [Sovereign debt restructuring in Cuba and debt conversion programs with Spain. An alternative for financing investments], *Actualidad jurídica Uría Menéndez*, no. 45, 2017.
- Breve screening sobre la inversión extranjera en Cuba. [Brief overview of foreign investment in Cuba], *Actualidad jurídica Aranzadi*, no. 927, 2017.
- Cuba: hacia cinco años de reformas. [Cuba: towards five years of reforms], *Actualidad jurídica Uría Menéndez*, no. 39. Also in *Notimérica* (notimerica.com), January 21, 22, and 23, 2015.
- El régimen jurídico de la Zona Especial de Desarrollo de Mariel en Cuba. [The legal system of the Mariel Special Development Zone in Cuba], *Actualidad jurídica Uría Menéndez*, no. 37, 2014.
- El contrato internacional en la nueva Ley cubana de Contratación Económica [International contracts under the new Cuban Economic Contracting Act] *Revista Electrónica de Estudios Internacionales*, no. 26, 2013.

Affiliations

- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Colegio de Abogados de Madrid
- Club Español de Arbitraje (CEA)
- ICC Young Arbitration Forum (YAF)

- Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in the Caribbean (OHADAC)
- Hispano-Cuban Bilateral Committee, Higher Council of Spanish Chambers of Commerce

Acknowledgement

Chambers and Partners. Band 1.



Languages

Spanish, English, French.