

Mayer Brown Lands Deals Wiz From Allen & Overy In NY

By Igor Kossov

Law360, New York (August 20, 2013, 2:43 PM ET) -- Mayer Brown LLP has added a Latin America deals expert to its New York roster from Allen & Overy LLP, where he was senior counsel in the international capital markets group, the firm announced Monday.

A fluent Spanish speaker with knowledge of Portuguese and French, George Baptista has spent his career working on deals in countries including Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay and others. He worked predominantly out of New York and Washington, but also spent a year in Buenos Aires.

"Mayer Brown has a very long history of doing transactional work in Latin America," Baptista said. "It's a perfect platform for me."

Baptista represented both investment banks as underwriters and Latin American companies and governments as issuers. He also advises clients on corporate and infrastructural financing in emerging markets, knowing Latin American countries' regulatory climate well.

From 2006 to 2011, he was an executive director at JPMorgan Chase & Co., heading transaction management for debt capital markets Latin America. He also worked as a lawyer at Overseas Private Investment Corp., an arm of the U.S. government.

"George has focused on finance matters in Latin America throughout his career in private practice, in investment banking and as a lawyer with OPIC," said Douglas A. Doetsch, leader of Mayer Brown's Latin America group. "In particular, his extensive experience in Latin American capital markets transactions will further strengthen our capabilities in these areas."

Baptista, who will continue working on capital markets and financing out of Mayer Brown's New York office, said that the region offers good opportunity for deals.

"Many of the region's economies continue to grow and the demand for legal services to do cross-border work will continue to grow as well," he said.

Baptista received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, and a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Brown University.

--Editing by Andrew Park.

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