

## ABRIL VILLEGAS PÉREZ

2201 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20037 · (646) 753-4282  
[abrilvillegasperez@gmail.com](mailto:abrilvillegasperez@gmail.com) | [abrilvillegasperez@paulhastings.com](mailto:abrilvillegasperez@paulhastings.com)

English | Spanish | Portuguese

### EDUCATION

#### **Columbia Law School**, New York, NY

Master of Laws - LL.M. received May 2024

Honors: Columbia Law School Merit Award

Activities: Columbia International Arbitration Association, Member  
Research Assistant for Prof. Duggal and Prof. Bermann: International Arbitration  
Columbia Latin American Business Law Association, Co-founder & Board Member

#### **American University Washington College of Law**, Washington, DC

Certificate in International Commercial Arbitration, received June 2021

Honors: Obtained the highest grade

#### **De La Salle University**, San José, Costa Rica

Specialization in Registry and Notary Law, *Highest Honors*, received April 2022

Juris Doctor, *Thesis with Highest Recognition*, received June 2020

Thesis: "The use of child labor as a lack of conformity of goods in accordance with the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods"

Activities: Moot Court – "Competencia Eduardo Jiménez de Aréchaga" – CEJA, at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

### EXPERIENCE

#### **Paul Hastings**, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

*Foreign Associate of the Complex Litigation and Arbitration Group*

July 2024 - Currently

#### **Costa Rican Bar Association**, San José, Costa Rica

*Member of the Board of Directors and Law Review Director*

December 2021 –

January 2024

The work for the Costa Rican Bar Association is *ad-honorem*, board members are democratically elected by all the qualified lawyers of the country. Oversaw daily decision-making about the legal profession. Also participated as a member of the Civil Law, ADR and Construction Law Commissions.

#### **BLP**, San José, Costa Rica

*Arbitration and Litigation Associate*

September 2017 – August 2023

Provided advice to national and international companies on negotiation and conciliation processes to settle disputes before going to the arbitration or judicial courts. Represented clients before judicial and arbitration proceedings. Experience concentrated in the resolution of commercial disputes and white-collar crimes.

#### **Oller Abogados**, San José, Costa Rica

*Legal Assistant*

March 2016 – September 2017

Assisted lawyers throughout public procurement proceedings, as well as on commercial litigation and white-collar crimes. Visited courts and worked with clerks and prosecutors to assist the lawyers with their judicial processes.

### **BAR ADMISSIONS:**

Costa Rica (December 2020).

## **ADDITIONAL COURSES:**

**Leiden University & Permanent Court of Arbitration**, The Hague, The Netherlands.  
International Arbitration Training Course, 2022.

**The Hague Academy of International Law**, The Hague, The Netherlands.  
Private International Law, 2019.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

*El incumplimiento contractual producto del COVID-19, desde la perspectiva de la legislación de Costa Rica*, IJ Editores, Buenos Aires, Argentina (April, 2020).

## **MEMBERSHIPS:**

**Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)**: MCIArb Member since 2022.

**Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA)**: Former Deputy Secretary, 2023-2024.

**Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje (CEIA)**: CEIA NY & DC Member since 2023.

**Latin-American Association of Construction Law (ALDEC)**: Member since 2019.

**ICC Costa Rica**: International Arbitration Commission Member since 2022.

**International Bar Association (IBA)**: Arbitration Committee Member since 2022.

## **INVOLVEMENT**

**Columbia University**: Research Assistant to Professor George Bermann and Kabir Duggal (International Commercial Arbitration), Columbia Law School, 2023-2024.

**Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)**: As a board member of the Costa Rican Bar Association, coordinated and executed the first MCIArb course in Costa Rica and second in Latin America. Also participated in and completed the course, now holding the MCIArb title, 2022 - 2023.

**Law Review**: As Director of the Costa Rican Bar Association's Law Review, launched a special edition dedicated solely to arbitration and published for the first time the "Basic Manual of Commercial Arbitration," prepared by renowned arbitrators in the country.

**ICC Costa Rica & Latin Counsel**: As a member of ICC Costa Rica and a correspondent for Latin Counsel, participated in the International Arbitration Congress Costa Rica 2023, where I wrote the article "CAI Costa Rica 2023," published on the Latin Counsel website.

**International Bar Association (IBA)**: As a board member of the Costa Rican Bar Association, coordinated and presented the event "The New Trends Among Young Lawyers" to introduce the IBA's "2022 Young Lawyers Report.", 2022.

**Ibero-American Association of Private Law**: As a member of the Civil Law Commission of the Bar Association, coordinated and moderated the International Congress of Private Law of the Ibero-American Association of Private Law, 2022.

**ICC Institute of World Business Law – Ibero-American Chapter**: Coordinated and moderated the event "International Arbitration in Costa Rica," held at the Costa Rican Bar Association, to present the report titled "ICC Highlights Costa Rica as an International Hub in Ibero-America", 2022.

**Costa Rican Young Arbitrators:** Speaker in “Arbitration Day 2022” presenting on "Enforceable Awards: A Case Law Study of the Supreme Court", 2022.

**ICC Costa Rica:** Participated as Arbitrator for the Moot ICC Costa Rica’s written and oral rounds, 2021 and 2022.

**Mexican Arbitration Center (CAM):** Participated as Arbitrator for the Moot Mexico’s oral rounds, 2022.

**Costa Rican Bar Association:** As part of the Construction Law Commission, coordinated and moderated the event "Implementation of Dispute Boards in Costa Rica," 2022.

## **LANGUAGES**

**Spanish:** Native

**English:** Fluent

**Portuguese:** Fluent

## **REFERENCES**

- 1. Jonathan C. Hamilton (Current employer)**  
MA University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | J.D. University of Virginia  
2050 M St NW, Washington, D.C. 20036  
[jonathanhamilton@paulhastings.com](mailto:jonathanhamilton@paulhastings.com)  
P: +1 (202) 551-1992
- 2. Mauricio Salas (Former employer)**  
LL.M. Georgetown University | J.D. Universidad de Costa Rica  
Head Partner at Dispute Resolution Dept. BLP, Costa Rica  
BLP Building, Vía Lindora Business Center, Santa Ana, San José, Costa Rica  
[msalas@blplegal.com](mailto:msalas@blplegal.com)  
P: +506 6040-8380
- 3. Dyalá Jiménez (Worked together: UNIDROIT – CR Bar Association)**  
LL.M. Georgetown University | J.D. Universidad de Costa Rica  
Founder Partner at DJ Arbitraje | Attorney and Arbitrator  
Oficentro Momentum, of. 03, Momentum Escazú, San José, Costa Rica  
[dyala.jimenez@dj Arbitraje.com](mailto:dyala.jimenez@dj Arbitraje.com)  
P: + 506 8303 6116
- 4. Cesar Pereira (Worked together: CIArb Brazil – CR Bar Association)**  
LL.M. & PhD Pontificia Universidad Católica de São Paulo  
Chair at CIArb Brazil Branch | Attorney and Arbitrator  
[cesar@justen.com.br](mailto:cesar@justen.com.br)  
P: + 55 11 97596-0077
- 5. Prof. Alejandro M. Garro (current professor at Columbia Law School)**  
J.S.D. Columbia University | LL.M. LSU Law School  
International Business Transactions Professor  
Jerome Greene Hall Room 601435 West 116th Street New York, NY 10027  
[garro@law.columbia.edu](mailto:garro@law.columbia.edu)  
P: +1 (212) 854-2692