

## MoFo hires Clifford Chance LatAm partner in New York

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Jay Gavigan

Morrison & Foerster LLP has bolstered its recently launched Latin America group by hiring a finance partner from Clifford Chance LLP.

The firm announced Jay Gavigan's hire on 19 November.

Gavigan brings 25 years' experience of advising borrowers and lenders in acquisition and project financings and syndicated loans.

He has worked on several transactions and cross-border deals in Latin America: he recently appeared on US packaging company Sealed Air's syndicated loan in Mexico, advising the borrower, and in a revolving credit facility to Canadian oil company Frontera's operations in Colombia, representing the lenders.

Randy Bullard, co-chair of Morrison & Foerster's Latin America group, says Gavigan strengthens the firm's offering to lenders and borrowers. "His arrival underscores the firm's commitment to further growing our Latin America capabilities and enhancing our offering to clients with a focus on the region," he says.

The group's other co-chair, Ruti Smithline, adds that the Latin America team will benefit from Gavigan's experience on cross-border matters and complex finance transactions.

Clifford Chance confirmed Gavigan's departure. The Magic Circle firm is very visible in Latin America and is particularly sought after for its project finance, banking and capital markets offering. Clifford Chance's Americas banking and finance practice lists 19 partners. Project finance partner Fabricio

Longhin is very active in the region out of Washington, DC, while several New York-based partners are visible too, including Jonathan Zonis, Gianluca Bacchiocchi and Alex Camacho. The firm also has a strong hand in São Paulo, including capital markets partner Anthony Oldfield and projects partner Chris Willott.

Clifford Chance boosted its Latin America hand earlier this year, promoting Argentine project finance lawyer Guido Liniado to partner in New York.

Gavigan joins months after Morrison & Foerster launched its Latin America group, poaching Greenberg Traurig LLP partner Randy Bullard and three others. The team joined Morrison & Foerster's new Miami office in June. Bullard co-leads the Latin America practice alongside New York partner Smithline.