

**NICOLÁS CÓRDOBA**

Senior Associate

**Bar admissions**

Colombia, District of Columbia (Special Legal Consultant)

**Languages**

Spanish and English

✉ [ncordoba@adellmerizalde.com](mailto:ncordoba@adellmerizalde.com)

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**AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Investment Arbitration
- Commercial Arbitration
- Mining and Natural Resources
- Oil & Gas
- Telecommunications
- ESG matters

**PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

Nicolás focuses on investor-state and international commercial arbitrations involving Latin American parties. With more than 10 years of experience, he has advised and represented numerous clients in over 26 international disputes.

He has expertise in disputes in the mining, oil and gas, and telecommunications sectors, as well as in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matters.

Before joining Adell & Merizalde, Nicolás was a Senior Associate at a top-tier law firm in its Washington D.C. office and previously worked at the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). He also served as an advisor for international affairs at the Attorney General's Office in Bogotá and gained further international experience with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg.

Nicolás is admitted to practice in Colombia and as a Special Legal Consultant in the District of Columbia. He earned his Law Degree from Universidad del Rosario (Colombia), holds a Master's Degree in Law from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), and an LL.M. in *International Legal Studies* from Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), both with highest honors. He is also a member of the International Coalition for Animal Protection (ICFAP).

**EDUCATION**

- Georgetown University, LL.M. in International Legal Studies
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Master's Degree in Law
- Universidad del Rosario, Law Degree

**MEMBERSHIPS**

- Member of the Arbitration Committee of the International Bar Association (IBA)
- Member of the Colombian Academy of International Law (ACOLDI)
- ICC Young Arbitration and ADR Forum (ICC YAAF)
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration (Young ICCA)
- Young ICSID
- Member of the International Coalition for Animal Protection (ICFAP)

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## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

### Investment arbitration (counsel)

- Represents an investor in an investment treaty dispute against a South American State under the Pacific Alliance Additional Protocol related to adverse measures adopted by the State that affected its investments in the construction and oil and gas services sector.
- Represents a Caribbean State in an investment dispute with a US company regarding alleged rights associated with a salvage concession. Amount in dispute to be determined.
- Represented 2 investors in an ICSID arbitration against Colombia, under the Switzerland-Colombia BIT, concerning state measures affecting their investments in a coal mining project. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$590 million.
- Represented an investor in its US\$750 million ICSID arbitration claim against Colombia under the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.
- Represented 2 investors in an investment treaty dispute against Colombia under the Switzerland-Colombia BIT, concerning adverse anticompetitive measures affecting its investment in the mining and transport sector. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$40 million.
- Represented an investor in an ICSID claim against Colombia under the UK-Colombia BIT, arising in response to measures taken by the Colombian National Mining Agency and the Comptroller General's Office. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$90 million.
- Represented an investor in relation to an investment treaty dispute against Colombia under the Switzerland-Colombia BIT, concerning the Constitutional Court's indefinite suspension of an authorized mining expansion project. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$480 million.
- Represented an investor, in relation to an investment treaty dispute against Colombia under the UK-Colombia BIT, concerning the Constitutional Court's indefinite suspension of an authorized mining expansion project. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$450 million.
- Represented four investors in their investment treaty claim against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in a claim related to measures taken by Venezuela which affected the claimants'

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investments in the dairy production and distribution sector. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$800 million.

- Represented an investor in an ICSID arbitration against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concerning the State's temporary takeover and interference with the claimant's local paper and manufacturing enterprise, securing an award of US\$394 million.
- Represented an electricity company and its parent company in an ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Peru arising from the regulatory agency's withdrawal of an exclusive right to provide services related to the frequency of the power generation system, in a dispute valued at approximately US\$200 million.
- Represented an international mining company in its notified dispute against Colombia regarding the State's suspension of an authorized mining project due to environmental considerations. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$450 million.
- Represented an international conglomerate and its local mining company in a notified investment treaty dispute against a South American country as a result of the State's measures relating to the environmental licensing of their mining project. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$500 million.
- Advised a US fund in a potential investment treaty claim against a South American state in connection with their investments in a local telecommunications company.
- Advised a US company in a potential investment dispute against a South American State due to the impossibility of continuing the development of two unconventional hydrocarbon deposits. Amount in dispute exceeds US\$500 million.

Commercial arbitration (counsel)

- Represents a telecom tower developer in a multi-party ICDR arbitration seated in New York against a financial institution concerning the performance and enforcement of a contract for the development of telecommunications infrastructure in Latin America. The amount in dispute exceeds US\$150 million.
- Represents a Central American fruit producer in an ICC arbitration based in Miami, Florida, against one of the world's largest fruit companies concerning the termination of a long-term distribution contract. Over US\$50 million in dispute. The language of the arbitration is English and Spanish.

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- Represents a telecommunications company in an ICC arbitration against a Latin American State arising from the breach of a PPP contract. The amount in dispute exceeds US\$28 million.
- Represented four subsidiaries of a Swiss multinational in a multi-party ICC arbitration regarding claims and counterclaims arising from two long-term contracts for the transportation of coal by rail. The amount in dispute was over US\$1 billion.
- Represented a State-owned entity and its international subsidiaries in a multi-party ICC arbitration against a State-owned mining company, regarding claims arising from agreements for the set-up and operation of a large copper mining project.
- Represented a Mexican conglomerate in a threatened LCIA arbitration against a State-entity in relation to the construction and operation of a gas pipeline in North America.
- Represented 2 international mining companies in an ICC arbitration against a Latin American State in connection with the State's arbitrary and inconsistent conduct in the reassessment and collection of royalty payments.

ESG matters (counsel)

- Represented three international mining companies and their local joint ventures in a class action litigation before the High Courts of England and Wales, stemming out from alleged breaches of environmental and social obligations under Colombian law.
- Represented an international oil & gas company in a class action litigation before the High Courts of England and Wales, stemming out from alleged breaches of environmental and social obligations under Colombian law.
- Represented three international mining companies, their local joint venture, and their international marketing company, in an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) complaint filed before five different National Contact Point offices, regarding alleged breaches of environmental and social obligations under international law.
- Represented three international mining companies and their local joint venture in a United Nations (UN) Special Proceedings complaint regarding alleged breaches of environmental and social obligations under international law.
- Represented an international manufacturing company and its local subsidiaries, in a United Nations (UN) Special Proceedings

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complaint regarding alleged breaches of environmental and social obligations under international law.

### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Arbitrating Energy Disputes in Latin America", The Guide to Arbitration in Latin America – Fourth Edition, Global Arbitration Review, August 2025.
- Assistant Editor, "Arbitration Beyond Borders: Essay in Memory of Guillermo Aguilar Álvarez", Wolters Kluwer, April 2023.
- Co-author, "Traducción del Fallo de la Corte Internacional de Justicia en el caso "Diferendo Marítimo" (Perù c. Chie) Decisión sobre el fondo", ACDI - Anuario Colombiano de Derecho Internacional, Volume 7, April 2014.
- Author, "Overlapping claims concerning a continental shelf within and beyond 200 nm: an equitable perspective", Winner of the ACCOLDI Essay Competition, 2015.

### RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Curso de Verano en Arbitraje Nacional e Internacional y Amigable Composición", Universidad Externado de Colombia, July 2025.
- "Arbitration Agreements 'Under Fire': Insights from the UK, France, and Latin America", VII Congreso de Derecho Internacional, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, April 2025.
- "Estándares de Protección en el Arbitraje de Inversión", Universidad de la Sabana, March 2025.
- "Uso de la IA en el Arbitraje", VI Congreso Nacional e Internacional de Resolución de Conflictos, un Centro para las Américas, Barranquilla, Colombia, September 2023.
- "Investment Arbitration", International Arbitration Month, Georgetown International Arbitration Society, February 2018.