

Von Wobeser Partner Appointed Chair of ITA Americas Initiative

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Montserrat Manzano, a partner at Mexican law firm Von Wobeser y Sierra, has been named the new chair of the Americas Initiative at the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA), effective July 22nd.

Manzano, who replaces Eduardo Gonçalves in the role, an arbitration partner at Brazilian firm Mattos Filho, has been at Von Wobeser y Sierra for 19 years, and from where she has arbitrated on a number of cases at the International Court of Arbitration (ICC), the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

She specializes in the resolution of commercial investment disputes, administrative law, and in the energy, construction and shipping sectors, among others. Prior to joining Von Wobeser y Sierra, Manzano was at law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

"Our plan for the Americas Initiative is to expand the opportunities for the Latin American and Canadian arbitration communities to collaborate with the ITA. I envision that by the end of my term we will have an increasingly diverse membership base and a wide range of practitioners from these regions actively involved," Manzano said.

"In the short term, as public health takes priority and economic uncertainty prevails, the Americas Initiative will be producing content and opportunities adapted to serve the community remotely. Our team will concentrate efforts to bring energy and creativity to provide further opportunities to strengthen the exchange of ideas among arbitration practitioners all over the Americas," she added.

Commenting on Manzano's appointment to the ITA, Von Wobeser founding partner Claus von Wobeser commented: *"I am very proud of my partner, she will be fantastic in this role. Having a Latin American woman lead the initiative is a big win for our region and it is a well-deserved recognition for her work both at ITA and in the field of arbitration as a top lawyer."*

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