



GLOBAL INVESTIGATIONS REVIEW (GIR), 2023 EDITION

Miami-based **Diaz Reus** has a strong presence in Latin America, where it represents many companies and wealthy individuals facing US investigations.

The firm

Diaz Reus has worked on some high-profile money laundering and public corruption cases in Latin America including the representation of a bank in an undercover Drug Enforcement Administration operation. The firm has also been representing clients in Russia, China and Latin America who have been targeted by the US government for money laundering, human rights abuses and sanctions violations.

As well as a thriving white-collar defence practice, the firm has strong asset recovery, due diligence and compliance offerings.

The investigations practice is predominantly housed in the firm's Miami office and is led by founding partners Michael Diaz and Robert Targ.

Diaz is the firm's global managing partner and has over 30 years of experience advising clients on compliance, fraud, money laundering and asset recovery matters. Prior to becoming a prominent private practice lawyer, Diaz worked as an assistant state attorney in Miami-Dade County between 1986 and 1990, serving under Janet Reno, who later became the first female US attorney general.

Like Diaz, Targ is a skilled hand at advising clients on anti-money laundering, fraud and white-collar matters, and also has prior government experience to boot. He is a former assistant US attorney in the Southern District of Florida, where he was in charge of handling civil fraud and civil forfeiture cases.

In Miami, administrative managing partner Marta Colomar Garcia focuses on government and internal investigations related to money laundering. She also handles international commercial litigation.

Washington, DC partner Richard Wiedis spent over a decade as a trial attorney for the Fraud Section, including in the FCPA Unit. Prior to joining the firm, he was an executive vice president for software company MicroStrategy where he oversaw its risk management and compliance teams.

Other names to know include Marcela Blanco, a certified anti-money laundering specialist who serves as head of the Bogota office, and South Africa-based Diaz Reus Africa CEO Yamkela Makupula, who has done extensive work with African governments to resolve US sanctions issues. Other local partners in the Dominican Republic, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and Russia give the firm a strong international presence.

Recent events

The firm has a busy practice advising many high-profile businesspeople in Latin America facing US money laundering investigations focused on crimes including sanctions evasion, foreign bribery and drug trafficking. Diaz Reus also regularly engages with the US Treasury Department's office of foreign assets control (OFAC) and the State Department on behalf of foreign companies facing thorny US sanctions issues.

