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A significant case I've worked on

I had the opportunity to work on my firm's successful representation of Jaime and Yani Rosenthal, along with their companies, in their removal from the US Department of the Treasury's office of foreign assets control's (OFAC) specially designated nationals and blocked persons list.

The late Jaime Rosenthal was the founder of one of Honduras's largest banks and served in several public offices including as vice president of Honduras. His son Yani had been a member of the Honduran Congress and a presidential candidate. In 2015, our clients were designated by OFAC under the Kingpin Act. The impact of the sanctions was profound, leading to the freezing of assets and negatively impacting the family's business operations. Through persistent legal efforts, Diaz Reus was able to argue for the removal of these sanctions. Jaime was de-listed in 2020, followed by Yani in 2022. This case is a testimony to our firm's expertise in sanctions and our commitment to providing vigorous legal representation.

A significant person in my career

I have been fortunate to be mentored by two exceptional attorneys at Diaz Reus, each embodying complementary approaches to the practice of law. Michael Diaz Jr, our global managing partner, is a force of nature. His approach to practice is assertive and creative, embodying a "make it happen" philosophy. Michael's expertise in international investigations and litigation, coupled with his asset and visa recovery techniques, has profoundly influenced my practice. On the other hand, Robert "Bob" Targ, a founding partner, exemplifies the virtues of diplomacy and thoroughness, embodying a "dot-the-i's" approach. His careful review of every aspect of a case, combined with his expertise in sanctions and corporate governance, has also been significant to my career. Both Michael and Bob are exceptional attorneys, and they are also generous mentors for whom I will always be grateful.

A piece of advice I would give to my 25-year-old self

My advice to my younger self would be to deepen my understanding of policy and geopolitical issues. The complexity of white-collar investigations, especially in areas such as sanctions, government investigations and white-collar crimes, demands a robust grasp of the global political landscape. Government investigations are not isolated; they are deeply influenced by political climates, international relations and economic policies across borders. I would urge my younger self to immerse in literature that sheds light on how geopolitical shifts shape legal frameworks and enforcement actions in the realms of sanctions, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering. Understanding the geopolitical underpinnings is crucial for crafting effective legal strategies in international investigations. In essence, the advice I would give to my 25-year-old self is to never underestimate the power of geopolitical awareness.

My favorite movie is...

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Estrategia del Caracol (The Strategy of the Snail), a Colombian comedy-drama film released in 1993. It is a heartwarming tale of a group of tenants living in a rundown house in Bogotá, my home city. When the tenants learn that they are about to be evicted by the landlord, they come together to formulate an ingenious plan to outwit him and save their home. This Colombian classic resonates deeply with me because it is a tale of resilience, resourcefulness and teamwork. These themes mirror the ethos I seek to embody as an international lawyer. Moreover, the movie underscores the importance of understanding local cultures and socio-political dynamics – perspectives that are invaluable in my practice.

If my job wasn't a lawyer...

I would likely find myself in the role of an investigator. My work often involves close collaboration with investigators, particularly through my firm's association with the Diaz Reus investigations practice and its team of seasoned former law enforcement agents. This unique partnership has afforded me an in-depth look into the world of asset recovery and the investigative process across multiple jurisdictions.

I have developed a profound admiration for the key role the investigators play in our cases, contributing their expertise to unravel complex financial webs and trace obscured assets internationally. What captivates me about the investigator role is the thrill of following leads and conducting asset tracing, as well as the hands-on fieldwork which includes exploring diverse countries and cultures.

References

“ I have had the utmost pleasure and privilege of collaborating closely with Javier on a great range of legal issues, including multiple government investigations matters. Javier's unwavering dedication to his craft, unparalleled sense of responsibility, responsiveness and meticulous attention to detail, enriched by his international background, unquestionably position him as a standout amongst his peers in the realm of white-collar practitioners. ”

Xingjian Zhao

Head of dispute resolution and regulatory investigations at Alibaba International Digital Commerce

“ I have had the privilege of witnessing Javier's talents and contributions firsthand. Javier is a dynamic force in the realm of international investigations and litigation. With a diverse legal background spanning multiple jurisdictions and expertise in anti-money laundering and global economic sanctions, Javier consistently delivers outstanding results for our clients. Javier is one of the most impressive lawyers that I have worked with in my 38 years of practice and I highly recommend him. ”

Michael Diaz Jr

Global managing partner at Diaz Reus

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