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Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque ("HPCD"), established in 1942, is one of the oldest and most prominent law firms in Venezuela and a market leader across a range of practice areas. HPCD renders services to many top Venezuelan companies and leading foreign companies, as well as banks doing business in Venezuela.

HPCD's corporate attorneys have built years of experience in diverse business environments, as well as in major transactions. The team provides clients with practical and effective advice covering all legal issues while maintaining a strong business perspective. Similarly, the firm's tax lawyers are integrated into the M&A and corporate practice group, enabling cost-effective assistance, while our labor experts specialize in assisting and communicating with our international clientele, providing services and navigating national risks and obligations in the client's own language.

As public law now touches all fields of business and industry in Venezuela, HPCD provides its clients with an excellent combination of expertise and hands-on solutions. A comprehensive compliance department provides cost-effective legal and paralegal assistance to ensure that clients comply with corporate, labor, tax, foreign exchange, foreign investment and other regulations at national level.

HPCD is active in a wide range of banking and finance matters relevant to the current market, and its outstanding track record in banking and finance includes front-line involvement in all the key cycles of the sector in recent decades. In addition, the firm's energy department is renowned for its vast experience in the development, construction and financing of major oil and gas, power and infrastructure projects, under the guidance and expertise of talented specialists.

The firm's dispute resolution, arbitration and litigation practice area stands out for its keen knowledge of the courts. Our specialists have particularly strong experience in providing judicial and out of court services. In addition, HPCD's criminal litigation group is trained to assist corporate clients in regard to fraud, asset protection and criminal actions.

As the leading Venezuelan Intellectual Property (IP) law firm, HPCD offers prosecution and enforcement services covering administrative, criminal and civil actions, providing IP clients a one-stop service with immediate results, avoiding expensive procedures and enabling the best protection of their IP portfolios.

HPCD's main goal is to bring value to its clients, identifying solutions to complex problems through the complete and timely satisfaction of their requirements, while complying with international standards. Quality and efficiency are always present in our professional relations with clients.

*For more information regarding Hoet Peláez Castillo & Duque, please contact **Fernando Peláez, Luis López, María M. Nebreda, or Patricia Hoet** in Caracas.*