



# Francisco Obando

## DIRECTOR

### ABOUT

Francisco Obando is a Director of BLP in San José, Costa Rica, with more than 20 years of experience in Public Law, Administrative Contracting & Economic Regulation, Energy & Infrastructure and Telecommunications, Media & Technology. He is a specialist in complex administrative proceedings, administrative litigation, public law arbitration, and advising on Constitutional, Public-Private Partnerships and Municipal matters. He has been a university professor and contributes regularly to academic journals and the press.

As a specialist in Public Law, he has also participated in the direct legal advice of successful projects related to Public Infrastructure (both in road and airport projects), highlighting his work as Legal Director of the company in charge of the execution of the Interested Management Contract of the Juan Santamaría International Airport, as well as Legal Manager of the Concessionaire Company of the San José-Caldera Toll Road. He was an Associate at BLP between 2012 and 2013, returning to the Firm in 2017 as a Senior Associate. He was later appointed Director of the Public Law, Administrative Contracting & Economic Regulation Practice in 2022.

### EXPERIENCE

**Permanent legal advice to Globalvia** in all matters related to the Concession Contract for the San José-Caldera Route 27, the country's flagship highway infrastructure project. Specialized legal advice in public law, including administrative claims and administrative proceedings before the National Concessions Council, arbitration, and administrative litigation.

**First bond issue for infrastructure financing in Costa Rica.** BLP advised Autopistas del Sol, a subsidiary of Globalvía, on the first bond issue for infrastructure financing in Costa Rica, a \$300 million senior secured notes issue in the international markets and a \$50.75 million issue in the local markets. This is the first time an infrastructure company issued international and local bonds simultaneously.

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#### PRACTICE AREAS

- Public Law, Public Procurement & Regulation
- Telecommunications, Media and Technology
- Energy & Infrastructure

#### ACCREDITATIONS

##### Education

- Diploma in Economic Regulation and Competition, Universidad de Valladolid, Spain, 2016
- Diploma in Business Administration for Lawyers, INCAE Business School, Costa Rica, 2012
- Specialization in Regulation in Telecommunications, Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional, 2010
- Master in Public Law, Universidad de Costa Rica, 2009
- Law Degree with honors, Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica, 2003

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### EXPERIENCE

**Caldera Port Modernization Project.** INCOP has contracted the International Finance Corporation to structure and oversee bidding on a new concession to an experienced private port operator responsible for designing, financing, and constructing new infrastructure, investing in new equipment, and operating and maintaining the Port of Caldera. The bidding process must comply with Costa Rica's General Law of Concessions for Public Works with Public Services. Puerto Caldera is Costa Rica's most significant port on the Pacific Ocean. BLP advised during the structuring and bidding phases of the transaction.

**Cementos Progreso expands in Central America.** As part of the BLP team, Francisco advised Cementos Progreso Holdings, S.L. on acquiring CEMEX's assets in Costa Rica and El Salvador for approximately \$335 million. The acquisition includes a cement plant, a cement mill, several ready-mix concrete plants, an aggregates quarry, and distribution centers in Costa Rica and El Salvador.

**Financing and construction of infrastructure projects.** BLP is legal counsel in public law for the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) on a contract with the Government of Costa Rica for the financing, acquisition, construction, lease, and transfer of government buildings.

**BLP represents GRUMA DEMASA on a Sanction** before the national competition authority. This case is of great relevance in the country.

**Historic intervention in Costa Rica.** As part of the BLP team, he acted as an expert legal advisor to the Intervention Board of INFOCOOP, one of only two such interventions in the country's history.

### RECOGNITIONS

- Recognized as a Recommended Lawyer in Public and Administrative Law by WWL (Lexology)

### LANGUAGES

- Spanish
- English

### ASSOCIATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

- Costa Rica Bar Association
- Ibero-American Association for Regulation Studies
- Member of the Public Procurement Commission of the Costa Rican Bar Association for the period 2024 to 2026
- International Bar Association: Member