

James E. Ritch

James was born in Mexico City. He was admitted to practice law in Mexico in 1989. He joined Ritch Mueller in 1992 and was a partner of the firm from 1996 to 2011. James was a foreign associate at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York City in 1991. He is counsel of Ritch Mueller since 2016.

He has extensive experience in competition and antitrust, finance and mergers & acquisitions, including private equity, project finance, structured finance, cross-border secured and unsecured loans, debt and equity offerings. James regularly advises clients on merger control and other Mexican competition issues and has participated in many important and complex transactions within those practice areas.

Additionally, he has been consistently acknowledged as a leader in his areas of practice by publications such as Latin Lawyer, Chambers & Partners, Latin Finance and Euromoney. He participates regularly as a speaker in international conferences such as the Latin American Corporate Governance Roundtable of the OECD and the International Bar Association. James has also acted as an arbitrator in international arbitration proceedings administered by the Centro de Arbitraje de México (CAM).

James graduated as a lawyer from the Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City and has a master's degree in international and comparative law (LL.M) from Duke University School of Law, where he also was a visiting scholar in 2012. James has post-graduate studies in competition law at the Technologic Autonomous Institute of Mexico (ITAM), as well as studies in philosophy at Mexico's National Autonomous University (UNAM), studies in documentary arts at Duke University's Center for Documentary Arts, a certification in collaborative conversations from Instituto Matriztica of Humberto Maturana, and studies in systemic and regenerative design and thinking at Berkeley, the Capra Institute, Regenesis, and other institutions in the United States.

From the start of his career, James has been a frequent collaborator of initiatives related to social entrepreneurs and impact investing, and national and international organizations that work in these fields. He is the co-founder of Desarrollante, a social enterprise that assists social entrepreneurs, impact funds and investors and non-governmental organizations by providing governance resourcing.

He is the former chairman of the board of directors of Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, A.C., a leading Mexican environmental defense non-profit organization and is a co-founder and former chairman of the board of directors of Conservación Humana, A.C., a Mexican non-profit organization that works with the indigenous cultures of Mexico. James is also a member of the board of directors of Sistema B México, Centro Mexicano Pro Bono (a Mexican clearinghouse of legal pro bono cases) and Red Turismo Sustentable y Desarrollo Social, AC. (a non-governmental organization based in La Paz, Baja California Sur that works in regenerative tourism and economies).