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# Jorge A. Obando

## *Professional Profile*

- Oversight and professional direction of judicial procedures in international, constitutional, commercial, and family cases. Advisory role for other national attorneys and oversight of cases in “ghost attorney” capacity.
- Chief lawyer in more than 200 cases and alternative dispute resolutions concerning constitutional, business, and family cases.
- Chief lawyer in major human right cases. Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (Washington D.C.) and Inter American Court of Human Rights (Costa Rica).
- In depth knowledge and expertise in Latin-American administrative contracting regulations (competitive government and other state agencies RFPs)
- Expert in the preparation of technical and financial competitive proposals, as well as, the direction of legal, judicial and public safety reform projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of international cooperation organizations (United Nations, European Union, USAID/Millennium Challenge Account) and International Banks (Inter-American Development Bank and The World Bank)
- In-site direction/management of projects, including the technical and strategic formulation of legal reforms in financial, criminal, commercial and family law and jurisdictions; reform of administrative systems; and, training, as well as, formulation and oversight of public awareness campaigns.
- Counsel to local governments in writing presidential decrees (Costa Rica: New technologies for public safety; citizen protection against small crimes and misdemeanors; design of policy against organized crime) and the Central America Free Trade Agreement for the Costa Rican government
- Consultant to local governments (police, army, municipalities, attorney general’s offices) in institutional development as a key element of the national peace process.
- Expertise in penitentiary reform (Panama: Dismantling of the “Carcel Modelo” due to Human Rights violations on the inmate population.)
- Mediation between armed rebels (Peru, Guatemala, El Salvador and Colombia) and the national penitentiary and penal systems.
- Oversight of social re-insertion programs for minorities – Popular legal education and awareness campaigns.

**Work  
Experience**

**Attorney at Law** (Private Practice and international consulting)

*Independent - PenalCorp Abogados*

Costa Rica

2003/Present

Legal specialized practice in international, constitutional, international business, and family Law. Counsel to the Costa Rican judiciary and government in reforms of public safety and free trade agreements. Advisor to the Conference of Justice Ministries (COMJIB) in judicial reforms and analysis of the delivery of penal justice in Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Senior project manager for Latin America, National Center for State Courts (International Division, Arlington, Virginia, USA)

**Global and Regional Senior Advisor, "Access to Justice & Judicial Reform Programme"**

*United Nations Development Programme*

New York City, New York

1996/2005

Direction, technical management and oversight of the legal reforms of Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina (Buenos Aires), Uruguay and Chile.

**Project Director, "Judicial reform I & II"**

*Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc./USAID*

El Salvador

1989/1996

Direction of a \$25 Million project -- sponsored by USAID/State Department -- included the management of over 200 staff and international, multi-disciplinary consultants.

**Program Coordinator, Regional Justice Program for Latin America & the Caribbean**

*Checchi and Company Consulting, Inc.*

Washington, DC

1986/1989

Coordinator for the USAID Latin American Legal Justice Programme. Activities included the analysis of the judicial systems and the introduction of oral proceedings in the judicial procedures.

**Consulting**

The United Nations System, The European Union, The United States Agency for International Development/State Department, The World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank, The University of Salamanca, Government of Spain, and national judicial systems of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, and Argentina.

**Publications**

"Reformas del Proceso Penal y Seguridad Ciudadana en Iberoamérica" - Criminal procedures of Latin America, Spain and Portugal. General coordinador and co- author. *Tyrant lo Blanch Publisher*, Spain, 2009.

"De las Repúblicas Aéreas al Estado de Derecho," Justice sector institucional reform. Co-Author. *Ad Hoc Publishers*, Argentina, 2004.

"Justice & Society Journal", Director. *United Nations*, New York, 2000.

"Manuals and Guidelines in Financial Laws, Constitutional Justice and Penal Proceedings," Coordinator. Ministry of Justice, El Salvador, 1994.

Numerous newspaper articles and interviews published in Costa Rica, Peru, El Salvador and Argentina.

*More publications available upon request*

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| <b>Education</b>   | <b>International Economic Law (International Trade Law)</b><br>UNED. On-line training. Graduate studies<br>In process  | Costa Rica      |
|  | <b>Lawyer as Business and Strategic Advisor</b><br><i>Georgetown University - Law School (Continuing/online education)</i>                                   | Washington D.C. |
|  | <b>Legal English</b><br><i>Georgetown University - Law School (Continuing/online education)</i>  | Washington D.C. |
|  | <b>Ph.D. Coursework -- Business Law (ABD)</b><br><i>Universidad de Salamanca</i>   | Spain           |
|  | <b>LL. M. Business Law</b><br><i>Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de Mexico</i>  | México, D.F.    |
|  | <b>“Licenciatura” in Law (equivalent to J.D.)</b><br><i>Universidad Autónoma de Centro América</i>   | Costa Rica      |
| <b>B. A. in Law</b><br><i>Universidad Autónoma de Centro América</i> | Costa Rica   |                 |
| <b>Languages</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English (fluent)</li> <li>• Spanish (native)</li> <li>• French (reading)</li> <li>• Portuguese (reading)</li> </ul> |                 |