

Samuel T. Céspedes Jr.

Capital Member, Corporate Practice Group

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Member, Policy Committee

Chairman, Pro-Bono Committee

Leader, Mergers & Acquisitions
Practice Team

PRACTICES

Act 60

Antitrust

Aviation and Aerospace

Bankruptcy & Debt Restructuring

Corporate

Corporate & Commercial Finance

Cuba

Distribution & Franchising

Government Affairs & Public
Policy

Infrastructure/Public-Private
Partnerships

International & Cross Border
Transactions

Mergers & Acquisitions

Nonprofit Organizations

PROMESA Task Force

Securities & Public Finance

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
- Pennsylvania

His main areas of practice are mergers & acquisitions, public financing, debt restructuring, project finance, distribution & sales representation laws and contracts, government bids & contracts, and public-private partnerships.

Mr. Céspedes chaired the Firm's Corporate Practice Group from 2002 to 2018. He is ranked as one of Puerto Rico's Leading Attorneys in the Corporate/Commercial field by the international publication Chambers & Partners in both its Global and Latin America Guides. He is also ranked as a Highly Regarded attorney in Banking, Capital Markets and M&A by IFLR1000, the international guide to the world's leading financial and corporate law firms. He is also ranked in the Corporate and M&A Law field of *The Best Lawyers in Puerto Rico* guide.

Before joining the Firm in 1993, he worked as law clerk to then Chief Judge Juan M. Pérez-Giménez of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, and as a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice, selected as part of the Attorney General's Honors Program. He also served as Deputy Director and General Counsel of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration in Washington, D.C., and as Legal Counsel to Governor Rafael Hernández Colón.

Mr. Céspedes serves as Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Universidad del Sagrado Corazón; as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Corporación La Fondita de Jesús, a not-for-profit organization that provides assistance to homeless people in San Juan; and as Trustee of Guayacán Endowment Fund, dedicated to invest in Puerto Rico's local entrepreneurial system. He also serves as Puerto Rico Liaison to the Corporate Laws Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

J.D., Columbia Law School

MEMBERSHIPS

- Puerto Rico Bar Association

REPRESENTATIVE TRANSACTIONS

His experience spans a wide range of practice areas. Some of his representative transactions include:

- Working in major corporate acquisition transactions in Puerto Rico, such as America Móvil's purchase of Puerto Rico Telephone Company, Liberty Cable's acquisition of OneLink, Hub International's purchase of Carrión, Laffitte & Casellas' stock, the sale of Puerto Rico television assets by Univision to Liberman Media Group, the sales of EDIC College and Columbia Central University stock, and the sale of the San Lucas Guayama Hospital, as well as major corporate reorganizations (Kraft/Mondelez, Pfizer, Covidien and Medtronic, amongst others).
- Leading the team of Firm attorneys that assisted Autopistas Metropolitanas de Puerto Rico LLC ("Metropistas"), an Abertis/Goldman Sachs consortium that was awarded a concession to operate and maintain two major toll roads in Puerto Rico. This is the first public-private partnership project developed under the Puerto Rico Public Private Partnerships Act of 2009. He has also worked on all of Metropistas' debt financing transactions.
- Serving as bond counsel and underwriter's counsel in bond issuances of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its agencies and instrumentalities, such as Puerto Rico Public Buildings Authority, Puerto Rico Municipal Finance Agency, Puerto Rico Housing Finance Authority, Puerto Rico Infrastructure Finance Agency, Puerto Rico Industrial, Tourist, Educational, Medical and Environmental Control Facilities Financing Authority (AFICA) and Puerto Rico Public Finance Corporation.
- Counseling AmeriNational Community Services, servicer of GDB Debt Recovery Authority, in the sale and restructuring of debt issued by the Puerto Rico government, its instrumentalities and municipalities.