

## FRONTIERS

# 35 years serving clients in Miami

Our Miami office celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. Here, we look at some of the highlights from three and a half decades of success and get a sense of what makes the office so special from the people who know it best.

**F**or more than 35 years, our award-winning Miami team has been providing comprehensive legal and business solutions to clients in Florida, across the Americas and throughout the world.

From groundbreaking infrastructure projects and first-of-a-kind financings in Latin America, to record-setting restructurings and landmark litigation in the United States, the office has consistently delivered innovative, effective solutions when it matters most.

It started from small beginnings. White & Case Miami was established with just eight lawyers in 1987 through a merger with the top boutique corporate law firm in Miami – Bill Walker, Ken Ellis, Larry Gragg and Daryl Deaktor – but the office expanded rapidly.

Global Head of our Financial Restructuring and Insolvency Group Tom Lauria, who joined the office in 1996, says: “When I arrived, the office was still very small. I was the 13th lawyer and I’m now officially the oldest!”

“Back then, I was the only restructuring lawyer and one of the highlights of my time here came shortly after I joined when I represented the bond holder committee of Marvel Comics.

“I had to go around the office drafting young lawyers (who knew nothing about bankruptcy or restructuring) to join my restructuring team. It was very new and exciting but, 35 years later, the office’s restructuring practice is 30 lawyers strong.”



**“The culture here definitely helps us attract top talent. We also offer the chance to be part of a large, global firm while living in a beautiful area with beaches, palm trees and mild winters.”**

**TOM LAURIA, PARTNER,  
MIAMI AND NEW YORK**

# Miami timeline

## 1987

the office is opened  
under the leadership of  
H. William Walker

## 1988

a litigation  
capability is added

## 1990

Charles Kline is  
appointed OEP

## 1991

the Miami  
reputation  
Firm leads  
to contri  
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our pres  
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has been incredible  
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have been part of the  
Miami success story.”**

**RAOUL CANTERO,  
OEP, MIAMI**

Miami’s family atmosphere, coupled with the draw of a global firm, is one element that’s made Tom and many others stay for decades.

He says: “Over the years, the atmosphere in Miami has been very collegial. I think that’s testament to the founding partners, who created a great atmosphere.

“The culture here definitely helps us attract top talent. We also offer the chance to be part of a large, global firm while living in a beautiful area with beaches, palm trees and mild winters.”

Current OEP Raoul Cantero, who joined the office in 2008, adds: “I think it’s the quality of our team that sets us apart.

“Many of our people have been here for between 10 and 30 years. They’re loyal, dedicated, and great to work with, as well as being extremely talented.”

Indeed, the office has a long track record for nurturing leadership talent.

Raoul says: “So many lawyers who started here have gone on to become regional section heads or have opened offices elsewhere, including in São Paulo, Mexico City and Chicago. It seems to be a place where Firm leaders are bred.”

As well as attracting the best people, the office has also been attractive to clients.

Raoul says: “They choose us because we have the resources to take on the biggest cases and matters across a broad range of practices and jurisdictions. They know we can provide the depth of knowledge and bench strength they need, coupled with a truly global footprint. Ultimately, they recognize the quality of our people and the culture we embrace.”





# Miami through the years



Christmas 1988

Tom adds: "Our collegiality sets us apart. Other firms have talented, hardworking people, but the difference is having people who treat each other with respect and work as a team.

"On top of that, we pride ourselves on being creative, thinking outside the box and being brave. I think that's been a differentiating factor for us during my entire time here."

Tom reflects that both the office and the city have changed dramatically since he joined.

He says: "Neither would be recognizable – Miami has grown leaps and bounds and has become one of the most important cities in the United States.

"The office has followed the same track. What was a small, localized practice is now working on transactions throughout Latin America, the United States and across Europe and Asia.

"Looking back, my time at White & Case has been filled with achievements, accomplishments and passion. I've seen so many young lawyers grow from being law students to becoming partners as well as passing milestones in their personal lives.

"My time at White & Case Miami has been a great joy to me and something that I will always cherish."

Raoul adds: "My time here so far has been incredible and it's a privilege to have been part of the Miami success story.

"Not only that, but I've been blessed to be part of a team of extraordinary lawyers and Business Services people who all share the same vision and culture.

"Thank you to everyone, including our clients, for your loyalty and the part you've all played in the history of the Miami office. It's exciting to see what we can achieve together in the future and to see the next generation coming through."



**"I most love the collaborative team and the interesting matters we work on together."**

**JAMES ROBINSON, PARTNER**





**"For over 17 years, I've been fortunate enough to work with others who have provided me with countless opportunities to grow professionally. The family culture is like no other."**

SADENA BLATT MIROPOL,  
SENIOR LITIGATION PARALEGAL



**"Working alongside people I respect and admire has been the key to my longevity at White & Case – nearly 20 years!"**

WILLIAM SANCHO,  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



**"I relocated here in 1998 to start the Trusts and Estates practice and was thrilled to find that the office was still as warm and welcoming as the Florida sunshine."**

MICHAEL KAVOUKJIAN,  
PARTNER



**"It's our people that I like the most. We work as a team and genuinely care for each other. I'm extremely proud to have played a part in my 25 years here. Happy 35th Anniversary Miami office!"**

ROXANA VAZQUEZ,  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE  
COORDINATOR



**"For me, it's the people that I work with, the opportunities that I've had, and the sense of family."**

JOHN LARRALDE,  
TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT LEAD



**"What I like most about the Miami office is the sense of family. It's nice to come to work and know people genuinely care about you. It's been a home away from home for me for the past 34 years."**

REGINA SANTOS, MANAGER,  
DOCUMENT PRODUCTION SERVICES



**"What's made me stay for almost two decades? The coworkers who became friends and then became family. A true blessing."**

CONNIE PEREZ,  
PRACTICE ASSISTANT



**"My time at the Miami office has been exceptional, ever since I arrived in 2015. Everyone is exceptional. I would not want to work anywhere else."**

EDNA PADILLA,  
PRACTICE ASSISTANT

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**1990s**

the Miami office builds a  
reputation for developing  
Firm leaders who go on  
to contribute to the  
opening of our Mexico  
City and development of  
our presence in Asia,  
Africa and Latin America

**1996**

Miami opens a  
bankruptcy/restructuring  
practice led by Tom Lauria

**1999**

The office passes  
the 50-lawyer  
mark as Victor  
Alvarez becomes  
OEP

**2000**

a decade of growth as  
we add to our disputes  
and regulatory,  
litigation, and appellate  
and cross-border  
disputes practices

**2012**

the office reaches 90  
lawyers at Christian  
Hansen becomes OEP

**2015**

Jaime Bianchi  
succeeds Christian  
Hansen

**2019**

Raoul Cantero is  
appointed OEP

**2022**

boosted by the  
appointment of even  
more market-leading  
partners, the office nears  
100 lawyers and 50  
Business Services  
professionals