

October 25, 2018

Voluntary Ethical Guidelines Available for Adoption by International Lawyers and Law Firms

After two and a half years of hard work and commitment to enforce Ethics in the Latin American Community, on **August of 2018** The New York State Bar Association (*the largest voluntary state bar association in the United States, committed since 1876, to help shape the development of law, educate and inform the legal profession and the public, and championed the rights of New Yorkers through advocacy and guidance in towards the communities*) announced its final approval of the **NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ETHICS BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**, guidelines that that are available for voluntary adoption by lawyers and law firms in jurisdictions without well-established ethical rules governing lawyers.

This project started through an initiative promoted by the Latin American Council, a Super Chapter of NYSBA'S International Section. The Council, through its Latin American members "recognized the need for strong ethical principles that lawyers and law firms in jurisdictions lacking well-developed ethical rules could subscribe to voluntarily, and thus let clients and colleagues know that they would be bound to a high ethical standard of conduct."

The Guidelines are the result of the study of various national laws (a total of 18), codes, rules and judicial decisions on ethical obligations of attorneys, as well as practical considerations. LAC obtained the views of leading international institutions, including the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, practicing attorneys in Latin America engaged in cross-border representations, and corporate counsel engaged in work in Latin America or with Latin American attorneys.

With the full support of the New York State Bar Association International Section, the adoption of the Guidelines developed over the last several years, have become a reality and that need has now been filled. So, today in representation of the Latin American Council and its hard work we officially inaugurate the Montreal Section's Seasonal Meeting as the kickoff of the effort.

Now is up to us (Global Law firms, International and Latin American Community) to grab this non-precedent opportunity to adopt them as a standard of ethical conduct; through its promotion, subscription and implementation.

The Latin group of Lawyers that represent NYSBA's International Section are very proud to have contributed from Latin America to the United States (usually is the other way around) to enforce Ethics.

The main objectives of the Guidelines are:

- To promote, advance and support values and principles of ethics, integrity and the rule of law throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on public and corporate responsibility and best practices.
- to promote uniformity of ethical commitments and expectations for Lawyers and Law Firms working across national borders in the Americas
- to provide an endorsed platform to lawyers practicing in other jurisdictions without clearly articulated ethics rules or guidelines

During our Ethics Panel in Montreal we will learn more about the Guidelines, the main values and principles that are included within the Guide and the strategy to promote them throughout Latin America and the World.