

Taisa Markus

Adjunct Professor, University of Illinois College of Law

Tmarkus2@illinois.edu

Visiting Professor, Kyiv Mohyla Faculty of Law

Taisa.markus@ukma.edu.ua



After 35 years in private practice focused on capital markets and finance in emerging markets, I currently teach, serve on various non-profit boards and volunteer to support Ukraine.

Current appointments

Adjunct Professor, University of Illinois College of Law at Urbana – Champaign (2021 – present)

Visiting Professor, Kyiv Mohyla Faculty of Law (2022 – present)

Special Counsel – Ukraine Project at the Vance Center affiliated with the New York City Bar (2021 – present)

Role at University of Illinois

I will teach a short survey course entitled “Doing Business in Emerging Markets – Geopolitical Conflict” in the spring of 2025. For the last three years, I taught “Doing Business in Latin America”. At Illinois, I also coordinate various initiatives related to Ukraine in which Illinois students participate.

Role at Kyiv Mohyla Faculty of Law

I guest lecture on cross border finance and US law topics, assist with building out the business law curriculum and support the English language program by running a peer to peer writing workshop with US law schools.

Role at the Vance Center/New York City Bar

I run projects related to Ukraine which fit programmatically with the Vance Center mission on supporting rule of law and access to justice in emerging market countries.

Summary of private practice experience

35 years of experience in private practice with a focus on emerging markets, in particular, Latin America, and cross-border financings including:

- ◇ SEC registered and 144A equity and debt issuances
- ◇ high yield and investment grade bond issuances
- ◇ sovereign debt issuances and restructurings
- ◇ cross-border bank finance and structured finance
- ◇ corporate restructurings
- ◇ general securities law matters
- ◇ Tier 1 and Tier 2 bank capital securities.

Accolades

- ◇ Chambers Latin America - ranked Band 3 for Latin America Capital Markets
- ◇ Chambers Latin America - ranked Band 3 for Latin America Banking & Finance
- ◇ Chambers USA Banking & Finance - Foreign Expert for Latin America
- ◇ Chambers USA Capital Markets Debt & Equity- Foreign Expert for Latin America
- ◇ Legal 500 - recognized for Latin America capital markets
- ◇ Latinvex - recognized as one of the top 100 lawyers and one of the top 100 female lawyers in the region

Law firm experience

- ◇ White & Case LLP, NY, NY - 2018-2021 Partner Americas Capital Markets
- ◇ Paul Hastings LLP, NY, NY - 2012-2017 Partner Latin America Capital Markets
- ◇ Milbank LLP, NY, NY -2004 – 2011 Partner Capital Markets
- ◇ Sidley LLP, NY, NY -1993-2004 Counsel 1997-2004, Associate 1993 -1997
- ◇ Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, NY, NY - 1988-1993 Associate
- ◇ Dentons LLP, Chicago, IL - 1986-1988 Associate, 1985 Summer Associate
- ◇ Cardenas, Hope y Otero Monsegur, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Fall 1986 Intern

Speaking and media engagements

- ◇ “Human Rights and Heightened Due Diligence Requirements in Business Transactions”; Krakow, Poland December 2024; conference on Strengthening Human Rights Protection in Ukraine for EU Integration, Jagellonian University
- ◇ “How Should the Next US President Handle Sanctions Against Russia”; online October 2024; Illinois News Press Bureau
- ◇ “Businesses Increasingly Need to Anticipate Public International Law Issues – Focus on the REPO Act”, Kyiv Mohyla Academy - KMA Talks Series June 2024
- ◇ “US Sanctions on Russia” online lecture for members of the Ukrainian Parliament under the auspices of USAID

- ◇ “Seize or Freeze – The Evolving Landscape and What You Need to Know” New York, New York May 2024; presentation to journalists
- ◇ Keynote address; Chicago, Illinois April 2023; conference on Reimagining Transitional Justice in Ukraine; Northwestern University School of Law
- ◇ Moderator, “The Crime of Genocide and Destruction of Culture”; New York, New York November 2023; Ukrainian Institute of America
- ◇ Moderator, “Russian Government Assets - Seize or Freeze?”; New York, New York May 2023; New York City Bar Association
- ◇ Moderator, “Russia’s War Against Ukraine – Atrocity Crimes”; New York, New York February 2023; New York City Bar Association
- ◇ “How Effective Have Economic Sactions Been Against Russia”; online 2022; Illinois News Press Bureau
- ◇ “The Importance of Anti-Corruption Efforts”; Sao Paulo, Brazil 2017; Financial Times conference on “Powering Brazil’s Future Growth”
- ◇ “Technology and Women’s Advancement in Law Firms”; Mexico City, Mexico 2017; Abogadas MX leadership conference
- ◇ Guest lecturer on accessing the US capital markets; Buenos Aires Argentina: Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA)
- ◇ Speaker - Euromoney/Economist Private Equity conference – Capital Markets Exits in LatAm
- ◇ Speaker - Latin Lawyer Annual Corporate Finance Conference – Integration of LatAm Markets
- ◇ Speaker - PLI’s Annual Private Placement conference – Rule 144A – 2010 through 2014
- ◇ Speaker at numerous internal law firm CLEs and client teach-ins on securities law issues including private placement exemptions, high yield covenants, liability management and SEC reporting for foreign financial institutions

Publications

- ◇ “Lifting Russia Sanctions – What Can a President Do Unilaterally?” Just Security, October 16, 2024; <https://www.justsecurity.org/103743/lifting-russia-sanctions/>
- ◇ Latin Lawyer blog – Convergence of private placement regulation
- ◇ Law firm client alerts on securities law matters

Education

- ◇ University of Illinois College of Law, J.D. cum laude 1986
- ◇ Loyola University of Chicago, B.S., B.A. cum laude 1983, Mathematics and Philosophy

Board service

- ◇ Vance Center of the New York City Bar Association (an access to justice/rule of law organization) - board member 2005 to present
- ◇ University of Illinois College of Law Dean’s Advisory Board 2014 to present
- ◇ Ukrainian Institute of America – 2023 - present

- ◇ Women in Law Empowerment Forum - board member 2014 to 2021
- ◇ Abogadas MX (largest women's bar organization in Latin America and first women's bar association in Mexico) - ad hoc advisor

Law firm leadership

- ◇ Hiring partner at Milbank LLP 2007 – 2011
- ◇ Lead partner Latin America Fellows Program at White & Case LLP – 2018-2021
- ◇ Relationship partner for key clients at Paul Hastings LLP and White & Case LLP

Languages

Fluent in English, Ukrainian, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French

Admitted to practice in New York

Appendix

Select representations

Sovereign matters

- ◇ Republic of El Salvador on Rule 144A bond issuances
- ◇ Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on Rule 144A bond issuances
- ◇ Republic of Guatemala on 144A bond issuances
- ◇ Certain creditors in connection with Argentine debt restructurings

Mexico

- ◇ Certain creditors in the restructuring of US\$6 billion of structured notes issued by the Mexico City Airport Trust intended to finance construction of Texcoco, a new airport in Mexico City, after construction was halted by the government
- ◇ Initial purchasers on the IPO of Casa Cuervo, a leading tequila maker, in its initial public offering of equity listed on the Mexican Stock Exchange and offered in the United States pursuant to Rule 144A
- ◇ Various fintech consumer lenders, a growing sector in Mexico serving underbanked segments of the population, on numerous financings including Rule 144A high yield bond issuances and structured finance transactions
- ◇ Initial purchasers on the IPO of the Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, S.A. de C.V. (the Mexican Stock Exchange) in its initial public offering of equity listed in Mexico and offered in the United States pursuant to Rule 144A (International Financial Law Review Deal of the Year)
- ◇ Aerovías de México, S.A. de C.V., the largest Mexican airline, on its Rule 144A bond issuance in 2020, the first time in decades that a Mexican airline accessed the international unsecured bond market
- ◇ The dealers in various securities offering by BBVA Mexico, the largest bank in Mexico, including establishment of a US\$10 billion Rule 144A/Reg S medium term note program, issuances of senior and subordinated Tier 2 notes under the program and related tender offers

Brazil

- ◇ Initial purchasers on first ever Tier 1 securities offering by Banco Itau, Unibanco and Pactual
- ◇ Cemig, one of the largest Brazilian power generators and distributors, in its NYSE listing, ongoing SEC reporting, general corporate matters and inaugural bond issuance

Peru

- ◇ Banco del Credito del Peru, a leading Peruvian, on the first ever Tier 1 bond issuance in the international capital markets by a Peruvian bank
- ◇ BBVA Peru, a leading Peruvian bank, on senior, subordinated Tier 2 and Tier 1 issuances, various bank financings and other structured financings
- ◇ Southern Copper Corporation, the world's largest publicly traded copper miner, on SEC reporting matters, SEC equity offerings, Rule 144A bond issuances, restructuring matters and general corporate matters

Colombia

- ◇ BBVA Securities, as arranger, on a multi-currency US\$300 million loan facility to Latin American automotive finance subsidiaries of a multi-national entity
- ◇ Various fintech consumer lenders, a growing sector in Colombia serving underbanked segments of the population, on numerous structured finance transactions

Chile

- ◇ WOM S.A., a leading Chilean cellular services provider, on its inaugural US\$450 million high yield bond issue and entry into a new US\$200 million (equivalent) pari passu senior credit facility and on the subsequent reopening of the bond issuance
- ◇ Banco Santander Chile on its SEC registered IPO
- ◇ Scotia Chile on the establishment of its US\$3 billion medium term note program and various issuances under the program
- ◇ The underwriters on the issuance of SEC registered debt securities by Banco de Chile

Argentina

- ◇ Privatization of Banco Hipotecario
- ◇ IPO of Banco Rio
- ◇ Fintech company in the expansion of their business into the United States
- ◇ Various US funds and entities in connection with exchange control issues

Paraguay

- ◇ Telefónica Celular del Paraguay S.A., the leading provider of cellular phone services and a wholly owned subsidiary of Millicom International, on acquisition finance matters and on various high yield bond issuances.

Central America

- ◇ The initial purchasers on Rule 144A bond offerings by utilities and telecommunications companies
- ◇ The initial purchasers in the first ever Rule 144A Tier 1 offering by Banco Industrial