

# **EXPANDING CANNABIS OPERATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**



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## Jurisdictions, Contacts, and Information

*(Current as of June 1, 2019)*

As many people are aware, Canada recently became the first G7 country to legalize and regulate the medical and adult-use of cannabis. This change in legislation has led to Canada holding a unique position in the emerging global cannabis market. Canada is home to some of the largest cannabis companies in the world.

This Practice Group was created because of rapid development that is occurring in the cannabis global industry. Notably, much of this growth is occurring in Latin America.

A strong relationship now exists between Canadian cannabis companies and the Latin America cannabis market.

Due to this new relationship, our Ottawa affiliate, Brazeau Seller Law, has been working closely with our Colombian affiliate, Posse Herrera Ruiz. As the cannabis industry will only continue to grow in Canada, Latin America, and beyond, Meritas has taken the proactive step of creating this Practice Group with a view to offering clients top-notch legal services for cannabis ventures in every major Latin American market.

The Practice Group is led by Mario Torres from Brazeau Seller Law in Ottawa, Canada and Monica Bonnett from Posse Herrera Ruiz in Bogota, Colombia.

Mario is a member of Brazeau Seller's CannaLaw group and has experience assisting clients as they expand their cannabis operations into Latin America.

Mario's skill set makes him extremely well positioned to assist clients with interests in Latin America. He is able to communicate fluently, both orally and in writing, in English and Spanish. Mario was born in Costa Rica, has lived in Guatemala, and obtained his M.A. in Latin American Studies from Columbia University.

Mario has experience working on legal matters in several Latin American countries and can be reached at [mtorres@brazeauseller.com](mailto:mtorres@brazeauseller.com) or 613-820-8301.

Monica is an Associate at Posse Herrera Ruiz. Her practice focuses on Intellectual Property.

Her experience includes filing, prosecution and enforcing patents, industrial designs and utility models rights. Due to her experience, handling big patent portfolios from U.S., Asia and Europe, Monica is the person in charge of developing business relationships with international clients.

She has advised American, European and Asian clients in various fields of technology: bio, life-science, telecommunications, software, consumer products and pharmaceutical industries. Likewise, she has participated in technology-transfer negotiation processes between Colombian and multinational companies, achieving win-win agreements.

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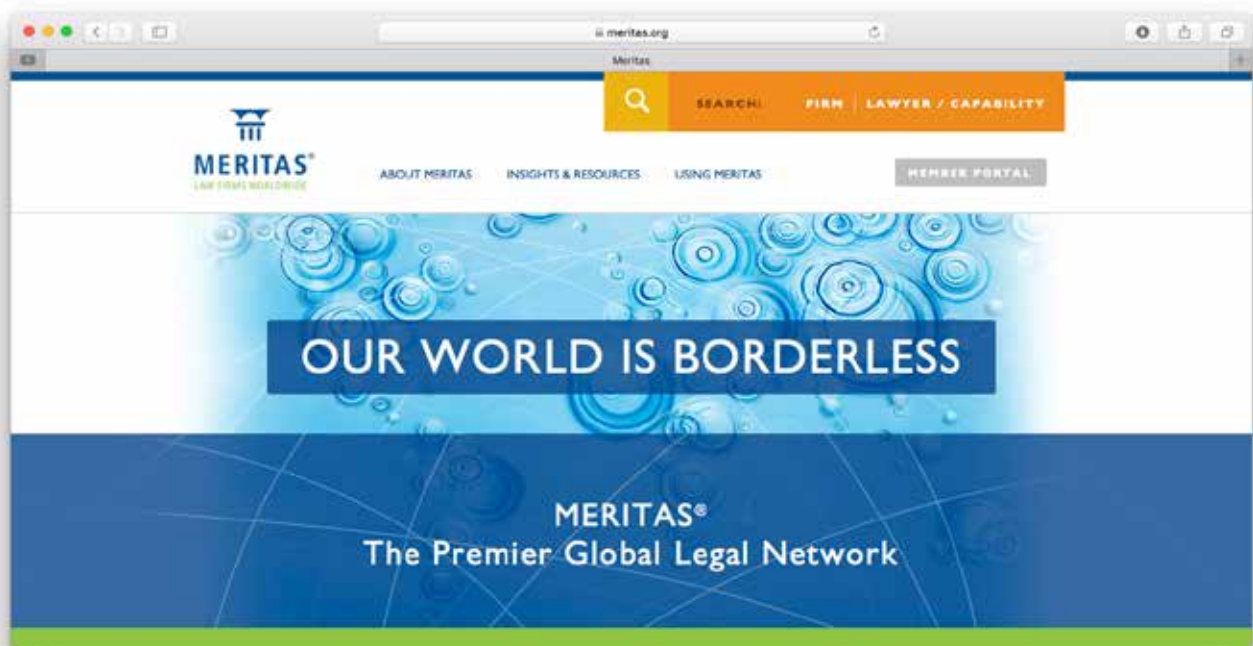
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## GUATEMALA

**FIRM:** Marroquín, Pérez & Asociados, S.C.

**CONTACT:** Maria Mercedes de Pemueller  
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Medical Use	Medical use is not permitted. In October 2017 an unfavorable opinion was issued regarding an initiative of legalizing it for medical use. The opinion was issued by the Congress' Health Committee. CBD products or cannabis derivatives are not expressly prohibited; however, there is no registration authorized of any product, since all activities related to cannabis are criminalized.
Recreational Use / Adult Use	Recreational use is not permitted.
Current Regime / Legislation (or Proposed Legislation)	Criminal law prohibits farming, importing, exporting, commerce, leasing of land related to cannabis.
Import / Export Opportunities	None, since it is prohibited and considered a felony.
Market Size	Population: 16 million.
Current Context	It is considered a felony and there is no current initiative to change legislation.
Cultural Considerations	Current conservative culture, there is no interest in legalizing.
Investment Considerations	Given the legal context, Guatemala is not ripe for investment.

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Latin America/Caribbean

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