

TITULO: FerradaNehme increases partnership by a third				
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FerradaNehme increases partnership by a third

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Mabel Ahumada, Marcela Rodríguez, José Tomás Correa & Tomás Pérez

Chile's FerradaNehme has made its second significant partner promotion round in three years by elevating four associates – two of them women – to the partnership, strengthening its competition, litigation and public law practices.

Mabel Ahumada, 37, Marcela Rodríguez, 36, Tomás Correa, 36, and Tomás Pérez, 35, were made partners on 29 April.

The firm's new partner count is 16, of whom seven are women. That is significantly higher than the average female partner count at **Latin Lawyer 250** firms in Chile. Latin Lawyer's most recent **Women in Law** survey showed that about 10% of Chilean law firm partners are women.

Ahumada and Pérez work in the firm's competition and economic regulation team. Ahumada focuses on regulated and unregulated markets, merger controls and anti-competitive conduct, with previous experience at the National Economic Prosecutor's Office. Pérez previously served in the litigation division of the National Economic Prosecutor's Office, with experience advising large national and international companies in economic and commercial disputes.

New partner Rodríguez is in the firm's complex litigation team, where she advises clients in major civil, commercial and consumer litigation and arbitration proceedings. She previously coordinated the firm's pro bono matters for over three years.

The fourth new partner Correa advises on public law and government affairs, specialising in regulatory issues, administrative concessions and sanctioning procedures. He has advised several private companies and trade associations on regulatory matters and public-private partnerships. Correa also helped to coordinate the firm's pro bono work at the firm while an associate.

Managing partner Rodrigo Ferrada says the firm added to its competition area in anticipation of the recovery of the Chilean economy following the covid-19 pandemic. Once the pandemic is over, "there will be a significant growth in all types of civil and commercial disputes," as well as an avalanche of litigation work once the judiciary system returns to normal, he adds. According to Ferrada, competition and litigation issues are undercut by a need to liaise with public and governmental bodies – hence the need for a partner in the area too.

The promotion round expands the firm's partnership by a third. Ferrada says the appointments are part of the firm's expansion plans and he hopes the firm will continue to grow in the future. The relatively young firm – founded in 2000 – has seen its group of younger talent grow, which made it "need more partners to support the management and the firm's plans for the future," he says.

FerradaNehme has made large promotion rounds before. Back in 2018, the firm **made** Chile's biggest round of promotions by nearly doubling its partner count from seven to 12. At the time, the firm cited wanting a more balanced partner-associate ratio.

Founding partner Nicole Nehme says that the latest promotion round reflects the firm's commitment to gender balance. "The four new partners will be vital for our future development. Their unique differences will help us enrich our work."

Looking ahead, the firm intends to consolidate its corporate and technology offerings. "We have a specially earmarked budget to invest in these," says Ferrada.

FerradaNehme has a wide breadth of specialisms across several areas. In particular, it has a strong regulatory practice that complements its equally adept antitrust, administrative, compliance and environmental groups.