

Shook Lands New Global Arbitration Leader

by Meghan Tribe

Nearly three years after leaving his own firm to join Jones Day in Miami, Carlos Concepción is heading to Shook, Hardy & Bacon to serve as chairman of its arbitration group.

“Shook Hardy is an elite trial and disputes firm and I have an opportunity to lead their international global arbitration practice,” said Concepción, who will officially join the firm’s partnership on Nov. 5. “It’s an opportunity that I could not pass up.”

Over the last three decades, Concepción has built a reputable international litigation and arbitration practice with a focus on the Caribbean and South America. He began his legal career more than three decades ago at Hughes Hubbard & Reed.



In 1995, Concepción formed Concepción, Martinez & Bellido, a Coral Gables, Florida-based boutique that specialized in international business disputes and commercial business transactions. Following the departure of former Shook Hardy of counsel Nelson Bellido in 2014 to Roig, Tutan, Rosenberg, Martin & Stoller and the promotion of Ricardo Puente to name partner,

Concepción’s old firm rebranded itself as Concepción, Martinez & Puente.

But in May 2015, Concepción and Puente decamped for Jones Day’s global disputes practice in Miami, where their former colleagues subsequently joining another local boutique. (Puente remains a partner at Jones Day in Miami.)

“There’s fundamental differences between Big Law



Carlos Concepcion

and a small boutique disputes firm, but I certainly enjoyed my time at Jones Day,” Concepción said about his transition to Jones Day, which set up shop in Miami in 2013 in an effort to capitalize on business emanating from Latin America. “They have tremendous lawyers and it’s been a privilege to be part of that firm.”

As head of Shook Hardy’s global arbitration group, Concepción said he is looking forward to developing

the firm’s client base through relationships he’s developed over the last 30 years throughout Europe and Latin America.

“Shook is deeply invested in the success of our clients, who are increasingly turning to arbitration to help resolve complex, cross-border disputes,” said a statement from Shook Hardy chairwoman Madeleine McDonough, who assumed leadership of the firm last year. “[Concepción] brings decades of experience that will help these companies protect their assets and talent and continue to expand their businesses across the globe.”

Coinciding with his move to Shook Hardy, Concepción will also chair Miami’s International Arbitration Society for a one-year term beginning on Jan. 1.

The hire of Concepción is the second recent lateral recruit in Miami by

Shook Hardy, which saw its gross revenue and equity partner profits rise in 2017. In September, the firm added Ricardo Ampudia, most recently a principal at International Dispute Resources LLC, as of counsel for its local arbitration and litigation group.

As for Jones Day, Concepción’s move marks the second notable departure from the firm’s Miami office in recent weeks. Pedro Jimenez, a Miami native who helped Jones Day set up shop in the city five years ago, left last month to join Paul Hastings as a corporate restructuring partner in New York.

Meghan Tribe is a reporter covering the changing face of Big Law, from lateral moves and work-from-home programs to diversity initiatives. Contact her at mtribe@alm.com. On Twitter: @TribeMeghan