

# Canadian joins Mexican boutique

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Devin Bray

**Devin Bray**, who has worked with Todd Weiler on various investment treaty cases, has accepted an offer to work non-exclusively as counsel in Mexican international arbitration and trade boutique Wöss & Partners.

Bray, 33, is from a small town in the Rockies in British Columbia and has Canadian and British nationality. He is currently a SJD (doctor of juridical science) candidate on the international trade and business law programme at the University of Arizona, writing a thesis on legitimate expectation in international investment law.

He is also a participant in a European Research Council-funded project at the University of Amsterdam, overseen by **Stephan Schill**. The project focuses on the role of transnational public and private arbitration as a form of global

regulatory governance and aims to chart and codify the *lex mercatoria publica*.

He regularly undertakes legal research for Weiler, an Ontario-based investment arbitration specialist, and has assisted him with the editing of various publications and the maintenance of his online legal databases. He also does editing work for Juris.

He will continue to do all these while serving as counsel at the Mexican boutique, with Amsterdam as his principal base. He will mainly meet colleagues at the boutique's office in Washington, DC, where much of its international arbitration work is handled.

Bray got to know the boutique's Austrian founder **Herfried Wöss** and members of his team while working with them and Weiler on Renée Rose Levy de Levi's attempt to annul an ICSID award dismissing her US\$7 billion-worth of claims against Peru over the takeover of her family bank.

Levy de Levi abandoned the annulment attempt within six months of launching it in 2014 and paid Peru the costs of the arbitration (on which Wöss, Weiler and Bray did not advise).

Bray has also worked with Weiler on commercial and investment treaty disputes under ICSID, UNCITRAL and ICC rules, including under the North American and Central American Free Trade Agreements.

He tells *GAR*: “Joining Wöss & Partners was an easy decision. It enables me to gain practical experience by contribution to its caseload, while continuing to work on my dissertation and the *lex mercatoria publica* project. It is the best of both worlds.”

Weiler, who is close friends with Bray and his wife and godfather to his son, says: “Devin is one of the most diligent and tenacious lawyers I know. He definitely has a bright career ahead of him. I’m looking forward to continuing to collaborate with him and my friend, Herfried Wöss, on future investor-state matters.”

Bray attended law school in Fredericton, New Brunswick, before undertaking an LLM in international investment law at the University of Western Ontario, supervised in part by Weiler.

His wife, Heather, is also a Canadian international law specialist who has conducted research for Weiler and Schill. Their research has taken them to the German cities of Heidelberg and Frankfurt as well as to the US and Holland.

Wöss & Partners has four partners, Wöss and **Adriana San Román Rivera** in Mexico City, **Dante Figueroa** in Washington, DC, and **Christian Carbajel** in its third office, in Lima. The firm also has a “summer office” at Wöss’s home in Austria, where he grew up and did his undergraduate and doctorate studies before leaving for the legal service of the European Commission.

The other partners are Mexican (San Román Rivera), Peruvian (Carbajel) and Chilean-American (Figueroa, who is qualified to practise in New York, DC and before the US Supreme Court).

Wöss says: “We are one of the few truly international boutique law firms, with all our partners being of different nationalities.” Bray will bring an added common law perspective, he says.

Wöss also mentions the outstanding academic as well as professional achievements of all his team – “those joining our practice must offer a combination of both.”

The firm also focuses on international trade and is currently representing US manufacturers of steel pipes for gas pipelines in two major anti-dumping investigations in Mexico. In addition, in Mexico it handles corporate law, M&A, competition law and construction, pharmaceutical and automotive law.