## **A&O ADDS BORJA CONTRERAS AS B&F COUNSEL**

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Allen & Overy has appointed Borja Contreras as its new Banking & Finance counsel for Spain



Allen & Overy has hired Borja Contreras (pictured) as counsel to strengthen the Banking and Finance area in its Madrid office. With Borja, Allen & Overy's Banking and Finance team now has five partners, two counsels and more than 25 associates in Spain. This new addition will strengthen the firm's Banking and Finance practice, with a special focus on the sale and purchase of credit portfolios and transactions related to companies in special situations, a practice currently led by Juan Hormaechea.

Borja holds a degree in Law and Business Administration from the Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid (ICADE E-3) and, to date, has developed his professional career at Uría Menéndez.

During his more than ten years of experience, he has been involved in all types of Financing transactions and has been a leading advisor to major Spanish financial institutions and funds in the sale and purchase of non-strategic asset portfolios, including non-performing loans (NPLs) and real estate assets (REOs). In addition, Borja has advised financiers and debtors in the main Debt Restructuring transactions of Spanish companies to date and, in particular, in the Real Estate sector, especially those related to the hotel sector.

Ignacio Ruiz-Cámara, Banking and Finance partner and co-head of Allen & Overy in Spain, added: "The incorporation of Borja Contreras is a response to the needs of our clients and the market, in which the situation of the last year has led to an increase in distressed and restructuring transactions. Borja will be a key member of our team to advise financial institutions and funds on these types of transactions, which we expect to see an even greater upturn in the coming months.

Borja Contreras commented: "Joining Allen & Overy is a great professional challenge, which I am very excited about. Being part of a leading global firm in the practice of Banking and Finance Law is an excellent opportunity to participate in transactions involving the sale and purchase of credit portfolios and those related to companies in special situations, which currently have a high level of activity."

With the incorporation of Borja Contreras, added to the recent appointments of <u>Vanessa Cuellas</u> as a partner and <u>José Luis Terrón and Alfonso Gutiérrez as counsels</u>, the firm now has 17 partners, eight counsels and more than 100 lawyers in Spain, demonstrating the strength of the firm in our country and its strategic commitment to the Spanish market.