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## Environment: Argentina

### 1 [Rattagan, Macchiavello, Arocena & Peña Robirosa Abogados](#)

There is no doubting the strength in depth of this leading environmental practice: the 13-strong team has five partners and can draw on the additional support of six paralegals. In recent work highlights, the firm advised Brazilian conglomerate Votorantim on its acquisition of Argentine steel producer AcerBrag. It is representing six oil and gas companies in the ASSUPA v YPF case, which is presently awaiting a Supreme Court decision, and acting for three manufacturers in the high-profile Río Matanza-Riachuelo case. However, sources perceive the firm's dominance to be lessening as more players enter the market, and some clients also raised concerns about the pricing structure. Outstanding and experienced lawyer [Gabriel Macchiavello](#) is "excellent on defence and litigation work," while junior partner and environmental expert [María Magdalena Venditti](#) has a background in hydrocarbons law.

### 2 [Brons & Salas](#)

Active since the early development of the sector, this full-service firm has a well-established environmental practice: "Two decades of experience is a considerable competitive advantage," commented one market observer. The six-strong team has maintained a considerable workflow despite the economic downturn, notably advising clients in the electronics sector on the regulation of electronic waste and the compulsory collection of batteries. It recently acted on the sale of Inquimex to Brenntag Argentina and, like all its leading competitors, is involved in the Matanza-Riachuelo case, where it obtained a favourable Supreme Court decision for Mercedes-Benz Argentina and other clients. [Guillermo Malm Green](#) is "courteous, responsive and deeply knowledgeable." Clients particularly appreciate his efficient team leadership and proactive, business-minded approach. Senior associate [Ángeles Murgier](#) is praised for "the clarity and realistic nature of her advice," and is "skilled at reaching solutions via negotiation - an important asset in a sector where your counterpart is the state!"

### 2 [Estudio Bec](#)

This dedicated boutique offers a full service in the environmental sector. It is particularly adept at the technically demanding administrative - rather than judicial - side of the practice, where it handles auditing, registration (requiring third-party certification) and compliance work. The 13-strong team has enviable strength in depth but clients indicated that, while the firm is "probably the best in terms of environmental knowledge," it cannot handle multiple cases or multi-jurisdictional issues. Numerous clients suggest the firm is at its strongest in the local Buenos Aires area. Estudio Bec has played a leading role in the Riachuelo case, and sources highlight that its keen pricing makes it a competitive option. The team is led by a husband and wife with considerable experience in the sector. Formerly in-house at DuPont Argentina, [Horacio Franco](#) is "an outstanding and hard-working professional." [Eugenia Bec](#) is "a principal figure in the niche of environmental auditing work." She previously worked at the Center for

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## Chambers News

March 2010

Launch of Chambers Asia in 13 days

The [Chambers Asia Awards](#) and [Chambers Asia: China Awards](#) are coming soon. Follow the links for more information.

The [Chambers Global Guide 2010](#) is now available.

Following the postponement of the IBA conference in Santiago, we have postponed the [Chambers Latin America 'Meet the Editors' evening](#) to **Tuesday, 13th April**. For more information click [here](#).

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## Calendar

20th April 2010

Launch of Chambers Asia 2010 edition

April 13th, 2010

Chambers Latin America Meet the Editor in Santiago, Chile

April 20th, 2010

The [Chambers Asia Awards: China](#). To be held in Beijing.

May 1st, 2010

The [Chambers Asia Awards](#). To be held in Singapore.

May 20th, 2010

The [Chambers Europe Awards for Excellence](#), London

May 21st, 2010

Launch of Chambers Europe 2010 edition

June 10th, 2010

The [Chambers USA Awards for Excellence](#), New York.

June 11th, 2010

Launch of Chambers USA 2010

International Environmental Law in Washington, DC. Indicating the firm's growing strength and presence, associates María Luján Azcurra and Martín Naveira are beginning to gain a profile in environmental consulting and litigation respectively.

## 2 Marval, O'Farrell & Mairal

This is Argentina's largest firm, and its broad expertise and deep resources enable it to offer advice in almost all legal fields. The 12-strong team includes two partners and handles the full range of environmental work, including technical assessment and environmental due diligence, contentious cases, and preventative and auditing issues; a number of sector specialists also provide in-house technical capacity and expertise, and the firm's network of contact lawyers in the provinces handles regional matters effectively and quickly. Clients praise the team's strategic and analytical thinking, and its commitment and efficiency. However, due to pricing issues, some only use the firm for complex work, such as Supreme Court claims and matters involving huge amounts of data and discovery, where it is "simply unmatched." Team leader [Francisco Macías](#) is primarily a hydrocarbons lawyer with a strong profile in litigation but is also "strong on environmental defence work." Senior associate [Federico Sebastian Deya](#) provides "top-notch case evaluation," while [Marina Cabral](#) is noted for her "excellent handling of any matter, regardless of its complexity."

## 3 Nicholson y Cano Abogados

This is one of the few full-service firms to have established a separate environmental department. The small dedicated team focuses primarily on advice and preventative work, and has built up a considerable clientele, particularly in the food and energy sectors. With support from the firm's litigation department, the team also undertakes a steady flow of contentious work. It is involved in major cases such as Riachuelo and ASSUPA v the petrochemical industry in Neuquén, and is also active with regard to recent legislation concerning environmental insurance requirements and the protection of native forests. Clients praise the good service and note that the firm's reliable litigation profile "allows you to feel very comfortable when contentious issues arise." With considerable in-house experience in the energy sector, [Horacio Payá](#) is "a renowned figure in the market," according to peers. Indeed, many regard him as "the foremost practitioner in this field outside the firms dedicated to environmental law."

## 3 Pozo Gowland Abogados

This mid-sized firm is primarily recognised for its work in the administrative and energy sectors, particularly electricity, where environmental compliance is compulsory. Clients are full of praise for the firm: "It's a one-stop shop for environmental issues, offering assessment, advice, litigation services and contacts, as well as invaluable knowledge of the Supreme Court, where so many cases in this area end up." Sources also highlight its excellent value for money and outstanding team work. Litigator [Gustavo Campobassi](#) has extensive experience of handling damages relating to insurance companies and the construction sector, and is increasingly dedicated to environmental law. One long-standing client noted: "I think of him as part of our in-house team."

### Other Notable Practitioners

[María Marcela Flores](#) is now a sole practitioner based in La Plata, the capital of Buenos Aires province, but retains links with her former firm, M & M Bomchil. She is frequently consulted for judicial opinions, and her multinational clients report that her "service and prices are well balanced." [Martín Moncayo von Hase](#) recently joined leading real estate

edition.

September 16th, 2010  
The Chambers Latin America Awards for Excellence, Miami

September 30th, 2010  
The Chambers Bar Awards 2010, London

For more information [contact us](#).



firm Zang, Bergel & Viñes. He has a doctorate in environmental law and is praised for his business-minded approach and *"absolutely up-to-the-minute knowledge."* *"He's a great asset to both Zang and ourselves,"* noted one client.

39-41 Parker Street, London, WC2B 5PQ

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7606 8844

Fax: +44 (0) 20 7831 5662

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