



Ricardo Arias

Associate



arias@scmv.com



619.685.3172



619.702.6853

Ricardo Arias is an associate in Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek's Litigation Department. He represents clients primarily in the areas of white collar criminal defense, cross-border litigation, and business litigation.

Practice Groups

- White Collar Criminal Defense/Government Investigations
- Cross-Border
- Litigation

Education

Mr. Arias earned his law degree from California Western School of Law, where he was a member of the Pro Bono Honors Society, Moot Court Honors Board, and finalist in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. He also holds a bachelor's degree in International Security and Conflict Resolution from San Diego State University. While at SDSU, Mr. Arias studied abroad at the European School of Economics in London and Rome, earning a Certificate in International Finance.

Employment Background

Prior to joining SCMV as an associate, Mr. Arias served as a law clerk for Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. and as a certified legal intern for the San Diego County Public Defender's Office. He also worked as a law clerk for the Florida Immigration Advocacy Center in Miami, Florida. In 2013, Mr. Arias joined the Litigation team at SCMV, first as a paralegal and then as a law clerk.

Representative Matters

Representation of:

- Sitting Congressman in criminal investigation and prosecution in the Southern District of California
- Cross-Border entity in successful significant reduction of post-trial damages award
- Various individuals successfully in forfeiture actions against the U.S. Government resulting in thousands of dollars returned after being seized at the US/Mexico border
- Multinational corporation in tech industry as local counsel in False Claims Act/Qui Tam action led to dismissal of charges
- Former employees in False Claims Act/Qui Tam action by the government against multinational corporation in health care industry
- Employees in a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigation into conduct by a U.S. company in Latin America
- Former director of major retailer in Mexico in a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigation
- Individual in defense of civil harassment action led to dismissal with prejudice

Served on Legal Team:

- Involved in high-profile extradition from Mexico to the United States
- Defended business executive during federal trial against charges of criminal copyright infringement in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- Defended foreign business executive indicted by U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California related to the "Fat Leonard" U.S. Navy bribery scandal
- Defended former shareholders in litigation involving a Mexican land corporation located in Jalisco, Mexico
- Defended local business against claims by multinational corporation alleging violations of the Lanham Act
- Defended local businessman against allegations of violations under the Lacy Act

Professional Affiliations & Admissions

- State Bar of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- San Diego County Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- U.S.-Mexico Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- American Inns of Court (Hon. William B. Enright Inn), Associate

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- *Mexico's New Anti-Corruption Laws*, California International Law Journal of the California Lawyers Association Vol. 27, No. 1, Summer 2019

Professional Awards & Honors

- San Diego Super Lawyers Rising Star (2020-2022) (*fewer than 2.5 percent of eligible attorneys receive this honor*)

Languages

Mr. Arias is fluent in spoken and written Spanish, and has reviewed and analyzed Spanish-language legal documents in connection with his representation of clients.