



## Antonio R. Pavía-Vidal\*

Of Counsel

Washington, D.C. | 202.508.3406 | [apavia@bakerdonelson.com](mailto:apavia@bakerdonelson.com)

Antonio Pavía-Vidal helps clients navigate the laws, regulations, policies, and procedures involving eligibility for federal disaster and mitigation assistance. He also has extensive experience in Puerto Rico real estate transactions and municipal law, as well as financing matters.

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Antonio R. Pavía-Vidal represents clients in matters involving real estate, infrastructure, governmental affairs, recovery financing, grant management, federal acquisition and procurement, and manufacturing. He assists clients with Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit findings, as well as countering disallowance and deobligation of federal grant funding.

Antonio also manages and conducts competitive procurements for clients in order to assure compliance and to obtain the best value at fair and reasonable prices.

Prior to joining the Firm, Antonio served as Deputy Executive Director for the Central Office of Recovery and Reconstruction (COR3), which is Puerto Rico's centralized oversight authority for grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He oversaw the island's recovery efforts, with direct responsibility for guiding policy and implementing the FEMA Public Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Disaster Grant Program. Antonio also acted as Chief Legal Counsel of COR3, where he oversaw procurement, contracting, and legal compliance. He led the administrative appeals process under FEMA's Public Assistance Program and the arbitration process promulgated by Section 1219 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. He helped draft COR3 policies, procedures and internal controls to ensure full compliance with all federal and local rules and regulations in the disbursement of funds.

In these prior roles, Antonio managed all Congressional status reports on the Economic and Disaster Recovery Plan sent to U.S. Congress after hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Antonio has also worked at McConnell Valdés, the largest and oldest law firm in Puerto Rico, in the Real Estate and Finance Department, and V2A Consulting, a Puerto Rico consulting firm providing legal and contract guidance to reorganization projects, such as the reorganization plan that regulated the consolidation of several agencies under the Puerto Rico Economic Development and Commerce Department, the first reorganization done under Act 122 of 2017, known as the New Government Law. He has also advised businesses in manufacturing activities such as industrial R&D for new product development, recycling, and software and video-game development.

### Representative Matters

- Drafted request for qualifications for a \$50 million combined heat and power (CHP) plant project under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- Successfully led efforts in appeal by more than 100 churches of denial of Public Assistance Program funding.
- Obtained a \$250 million line of credit to a mobile laboratory for work under the Health Resources and Services Administration's COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund.

- Spearheaded the restructuring of various government agencies into two agencies through the analysis of real estate and more than 1,200 third-party contracts with a potential savings of over \$75 million in a four-year time span.
- Audited all vendor and third-party contracts for a financial institution to achieve compliance with all federal and local rules and regulations. Before the audit, compliance was at 30 percent and subsequently achieved 90 percent+ compliance rate.
- Oversaw the opening of various integrated services centers for potential savings of more than \$100 million in a five-year span.
- Examined and revamped all contracts for a medium-sized business resulting in immediate savings of almost \$1 million.
- Assisted with an American multinational coffeehouse's arrival to Puerto Rico and aided in the opening of 20 stores in a five-year span.
- Assisted with the restructuring of real estate contracts for an automotive service chain that prevented more than \$15 million in potential loss.
- Collaborated with a client to open a loss mitigation department, which generates more than 5,000 mortgage modifications, payment plans and forbearance cases a year.



## Professional Honors & Activities

- Member – Bar Association of Puerto Rico
- Member – Notary Bar Association of Puerto Rico



## Publications

- "FEMA Increases Public Assistance Program's Simplified Procedures Small Project Threshold" (August 2022)



## Speaking Engagements

- "Compliance with Federal Funding Requirements," Puerto Rico Hospital Association (September 2022)



## Education

- Interamerican University of Puerto Rico School of Law, J.D., 2004
- University of Puerto Rico, B.B.A., 2000



## Admissions

- District of Columbia, 2022
- Puerto Rico Bar, 2006
- Puerto Rico Notary Bar, 2006

\* Antonio R. Pavía-Vidal is employed by Baker Donelson Caribe, LLC.