



## Mariana Santo

Lawyer - Partner

Office  
Montevideo

Tel  
(598) 2 902 1515 Ext. 253

Email  
[mariana.santo@guyer.com.uy](mailto:mariana.santo@guyer.com.uy)

Linkedin  
[linkedin.com/in/mariana-santo-735a8813b](https://linkedin.com/in/mariana-santo-735a8813b)

## Experience

Mariana Santo, Lawyer and Notary Public graduated from the Universidad de la República, works mainly in the Litigation Department. Her practice includes active participation in Public, Civil, and Commercial Law litigation and arbitrations. She holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Law from Universidad Austral de Buenos Aires (2015-2016), a Post-Master's Diploma in Administrative Law from Universidad Austral de Buenos Aires (2022), a Diploma on Administrative Law from Escuela de Derecho de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile (2018) a Specialization Diploma on Administrative Law from Universidad de Salamanca, Spain (2018), and a Diploma in Government Contracts and Public Infrastructure from Universidad Austral de Buenos Aires (2014). She also completed all coursework required for the Master's Degree in Economic Administrative Law from University of Montevideo (2005-2006).

She is an Adjunct Professor of Administrative Law at Universidad de la República and a Postgraduate Professor at the same institution. . She has taught the Administrative Law Introductory Session at the Bar Association of Uruguay course.

Being Administrative Law her main area of expertise, she leads the team of lawyers working in this area. She has extensive experience assisting companies and individuals in several expropriation, procurement, and tender proceedings, public contracts, and negotiations with the government and public entities. She further specializes in administrative proceedings, annulment actions, writs of amparo, litigation and arbitrations against the government and public entities.

She has participated in major infrastructure projects, public-private partnerships, and public works, advising clients in all stages of these areas. She has extensive experience with clients in the energy sector, particularly in natural gas and electricity.

She is a member of the Bar Association of Uruguay and the Institute of Administrative Law at Universidad de la República, Uruguay. She is a Founding Member of the SUFOMUJAD Association (Uruguayan Section of the World Forum of Young Administrative Law Scholars).

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## Work highlights

- She advised Acciona on its participation as bidder on the tender proceedings before the Ministry of Transport and Public Works for "Proyecto Ferrocarril Central" (FCU), the most important public work project ever in Uruguay, with an estimated value of roughly one billion US dollars, and key for UPM's projected multi-billion USD dollar investment to build a second pulp mill in Uruguay. She advised Acciona through the tender proceedings, including administrative litigation proceedings before the Administrative Litigation Court once Acciona was disqualified on the grounds of an alleged breach to tender documents, even though Acciona obtained the highest technical qualification and had the lowest price.
- Also advised Abal Hnos. S.A., local branch of Philip Morris International, on five administrative litigation proceedings against the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) before the Administrative Litigation Court, claiming annulment of penalties imposed by the MSP on the grounds of alleged infringements to national tobacco advertising restrictions. Abal Hnos. S.A. obtained a favorable ruling on two of the cases and awaits decision on the remaining cases.
- She successfully represented the affiliate of the Brazilian government-owned oil company Petrobras (PUDSA) and Axion Energy in two separate arbitration proceedings against Administración Nacional de Combustibles Alcoholes y Portland – ANCAP, the Uruguayan government entity that holds the monopoly over petroleum importation and refining.
- Mariana represented GNLS in a 310-million-dollar case before the Uruguayan judiciary and in a more than 400-million-dollar case in a ICC international arbitration in Spain against OAS regarding the construction of a regasification plant in Uruguay.

## Conferences and publications

She has given several lectures on Public Law and has published essays on topics of interest in her area of expertise. Some of her publications are detailed below:

- Modifications to the Annulment Litigation Process and brief reference to the Draft Code of the Annulment Litigation Process: an analysis of the Jurisprudence of the Administrative Litigation Court. In: S. Theoduloz (coord.). Introducción a la abogacía nacional (2ª ed., pp. 161-179). Montevideo: Fundación de Cultura Universitaria, 2024

## Publications

- Justice and Acquired Rights. In: M. C. Vázquez Pedrouzo (coord.) y G. Ruocco (coord.). Estudios de derecho administrativo en homenaje al Prof. emérito Dr. Carlos E. Delpiazzo (pp. 305-309). Montevideo: Fundación de Cultura Universitaria, 2021
- Applying the concept of "good management" in certain cases to render general effects to an annulment judgment. A case law analysis. In: C. Pérez Novaro (coord.) y M. Patritti Isasi (coord.). Actualidad y perspectivas en el derecho público (pp. 703-712). Montevideo: Fundación de Cultura Universitaria, 2021
- Subjective aspects of procurement resolutions: general effects annulment of a specific act. In: G. Ruocco (coord.). Jurisprudencia contencioso-administrativo: 16 al 18 de noviembre de 2021 (pp. 353-368). Montevideo: Fundación de Cultura Universitaria, 2021
- Negligence Principle in Disciplinary Administrative Law, a review in the light of case law. FCU, 2019. School of Law, University of the Republic (Uruguay). Institute of Administrative Law.
- Deliberation and Discretionality. FCU, 2018. School of Law, University of the Republic (Uruguay). Institute of Administrative Law. Sources of Administrative Law. Current view from theory and practice.
- Mixed Economy Companies. School of Law, University of the Republic (Uruguay). Institute of Administrative Law. Studies on the Uruguayan Administration: developments in the administrative legal scheme. FCU, 2016.
- Effects of Annulment Judgment on Third-Parties not convened to the Proceedings, with special reference to Administrative Litigation Court Judgment Number 309 dated April 26, 2006. Administrative Litigation Court: IV Academic Workshop in homage to Mr. Mariano R. Brito, Attorney-at-Law. Montevideo: FCU, 2010.
- Government Liability due to Legitimate Governmental Activity. School of Law, University of the Republic (Uruguay). Institute of Administrative Law. Current Transformations of Administrative Law. Montevideo: FCU: 2010.

## Languages

Spanish, English, Portuguese