As the world moves closer to a global business framework, business lawyers can no longer afford to ignore the international components of their daily practices. As companies around the world move from the local to the global, lawyers and businesspeople face myriad new questions depending on different legal texts and, most importantly, the cultural and legal contexts that they encounter.

Amid current financial and economic hardships and against the backdrop of slow-paced recovery in the more developed regions of the world, South America has increasingly attracted the eyes of the world. Though still a region of many contrasts, the continent plays an increasing role in the business strategies of multinational enterprises. However, South America’s legal and business environment is still highly complex for many.

This book discusses the legal environment for business in the 10 major countries of South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The chapters focus on national regulations that affect companies aiming to set up operations in these countries, including the regulatory framework; purchase of property; hiring of employees; aspects of environmental, consumer, and antitrust legislation; and other matters. The objective of this book is to provide the reader with a common language for business and a road map for investments in South America.

Each chapter has been written by a country coordinating author, invited by the editors, or jointly with coauthors and/or contributors, who offer domestic law expertise and firsthand experience, drawing on the knowledge and skills obtained in their day-to-day activities advising foreign companies doing business in South America.

However, due to certain production and space limitations, the authors were asked to discuss only the issues that they consider most important in each jurisdiction. Thus, readers should not expect to find complete coverage of every legal aspect of any issue in the following pages.
Your comments on this book are most welcome, and we will endeavor to incorporate your suggestions into future editions. We hope you enjoy reading this book and find it instructive.

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