



RUIZ HUERTA & CRESPO SPORTS LAWYERS

JUAN DE DIOS CRESPO PÉREZ, LL.M.

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THE FIRM IS A SMALL BOUTIQUE LAW FIRM THAT IS MOSTLY INVOLVED IN SPORTS LAW AND HAS A HIGH DEDICATION TO FOOTBALL MATTERS. RUIZ HUERTA & CRESPO'S INSIDE KNOWLEDGE OF UEFA, FIFA AND THE COURT OF ARBITRATION (CAS) ISSUES FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, HELPS THE FIRM STAND OUT WHEN COMPARED WITH OTHER COMPETITORS. THE FIRM IS ESTABLISHED IN COMMERCIAL AND CIVIL LAW, BOTH IN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AREAS, WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE FOUNDER, JUAN RUIZ HUERTA THE FIRM HAVE OPENED INTO OTHER LEGAL FIELDS LIKE SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW IN WHICH JUAN DE DIOS CRESPO PÉREZ, IS A VERY WELL-KNOWN SPECIALIST IS THE LEADER TEAM.

The firm is based in Valencia but has also several agreements with legal companies in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Paris, Rome, Brussels, Zurich, Geneva, Manchester, London, Sofia, Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires and is a member of the International Union of Lawyers (UIA) which permits the knowledge and co-operation with high profile lawyers' firms worldwide.

The legal team is committed to giving advice in contracts and commercial fields, both domestic and international for the world of commerce, sport and art/entertainment. Ruiz Huerta & Crespo Sports Lawyers also have litigators and a well established experience in the area of arbitration, both as members of panels and representing parties. The team speaks Spanish, English, French and Italian as working languages. The firm contributes in training of businessmen and lawyers in the indicated fields in several business schools and sports seminars and MA courses in sport law.

Partner Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez, LL.M commented on the type of work he has been able to conduct thanks to his high level of experience and the quality of the law firm:

"I have been involved in Sports Law before I was even a Lawyer, and as a Student I was already a member of the Board of the Indoor Soccer Valencian Federation by 1981. After that I was a Disciplinary Judge in the same federation. Once I got my degree, I started working in the international area, (as I am bi-lingual), with some incursions into Sports Law until I really became involved at the beginning of the 1990's. I work for clubs, agents, federations, in UEFA, FIFA and CAS cases, as well as in international and national transfer agreements, in which I have been instructed by some of the most famous football players and clubs."

Mr Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez, LL.M. is a professor of the FIFA-CIES MA program, as well as in several others well-known sports law or sports management masters throughout the world. He also dedicates his time to write academic and legal papers and has been a co-author and participant in seven books. Furthermore he assists clients in sporting litigation cases (FIFA and CAS) as well as in civil courts, by preparing the statements or counter-statements as well as the hearings in such cases. Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez has also been involved in several disciplinary cases in UEFA for several European top-level clubs, as well as acting as an external lawyer for a number of worldwide football clubs who are seeking legal advises. Further duties include drafting or reviews of transfer contracts, agents' contracts, employment contracts and image rights agreements.

"The most common legal issues involved in the firm's work are the litigations in UEFA, FIFA and CAS as well as in civil courts and the advising, drafting and reviewing of contracts. There is also the high level of cross-border work needs, and of course the need for a fluent knowledge of languages, as well as a knowledge of Swiss Law (that governs UEFA, FIFA and CAS procedures) and of the regulations of each Federation. You need to have a network of trusty colleagues who work on the same field of Sports Law," added Mr Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez.

The firm has been involved in a lot of leading cases in which it was victorious, such as the Mexès case in which the firm reduced a sporting sanction that was given to AS Roma. Another interesting example is the Webster case in which Andrew Webster, a Scottish player, used for the first time article 17 of the FIFA Regulations. The firm managed to have the player reduce the amount of indemnification to be paid to his former club, and highlighted the success and ability of Ruiz Huerta & Crespo Sports Lawyers.