

# INTERNATIONAL TEAM CV

Borja Brañanova Rodríguez |

Dubai, UAE | 00971504546012 | [borjasebastianolaya@gmail.com](mailto:borjasebastianolaya@gmail.com)



Borja Brañanova is a Spanish father that studied Mining Engineering in University of Oviedo & Polytechnic of Madrid, and Business in ESHAL University of Brussels and Wollongong from Australia.

Currently, together with a team of International Experts, is litigating in a foreign Sharia Court located in Dubai, the heart of Middle East, a major reference for Arab and Islamic societies, to seek justice and equality for parents and children, aiming for a legal globalization of children's best interest criteria that simply requires strong governmental leadership with regards to the compliance of agreements signed by their nations in the UN frame and particularly conceived for children protection.

The children rights act of 1989 has to be reinforced in those jurisdictions that have signed the agreement and are currently ignoring the significance of the content by not having on place legal precepts and procedural laws aligned with the constructive intention behind the convention.

The children are undoubtedly the main assets to safeguard the future of the humanity so it is our obligation to promote and protect their best interest above any other interest and without any kind of excuse or discrimination.

Borja Brañanova, his children and their families have achieved in 2019 the first joint custody ruled by a Court not well prepared to do so, in a region of the world where there are more than 400 million people practicing another options with regards to children custody, therefore the litigation level was remarkable and the professional talent of the experts involved are unique and included in this team CV.

All commenced when Mr. Brañanova did not accepted the fact that the only solution for the upbringing of his descendants, as they were born in Dubai, was to decide with whom of the parents they should continue their upbringing based on UAE understanding of children best interest and their legal system as consequence of his marriage dissolution, so he started a major litigation to substantiate and demonstrate to the authorities that his Spanish-South African children will be raised better by both the parents so they could be always connected to their origins, families and cultures as they are not Emiratis. Borja did not accept to suggest to remove them from their mother on despite that whole situation was absolutely against his good faith and conviction.

Dubai Courts did demonstrate with this unprecedented ruling the firm intention to move forward at least with international disputes in their courts that were always resolved deciding who could be the best parent to raise the children inducing major confrontation between the parties and damages to the children emotional upbringing.

The influence of this historical decision in the future of the occident and orient human relations are yet to be known, and did take place thanks to Dubai and U.A.E.'s openness to dialogue and envision a future based on Concord among the societies. By working together, being tolerant, respectful and open to understand that humanity evolves and the evolution should drive positively the children's environment for the best of the future of the humanity.

For all of the above, we have all achieved a historical Joint Custody of children in a place where it was unknown and unpracticed due to cultural reasons.

“Leadership, Collaboration, Tolerance and Concord connects minds and creates a better future”.

# The International Leading Team |

Spain | South Africa | UAE | Syria

## In Spain:



**Isabel Winkels:** family law attorney, committed to safeguard the children's rights and gender equality. She is currently the Managing Partner at Winkels Abogados, and is founder and former president of the family law section of the Madrid Bar Association. Has extensive professional experience, is lecturer in Family Law in the Master's Degree Programme to Gain Access to the Bar, provided at the prestigious Instituto de Estudios Bursatiles (IEB), and at the Rey Juan Carlos University. She is a member of several legal societies, associations and fora, both national and international, and of the governing board of the Association for the Protection of the Best Interest of the Child (EMIN). She is a regular contributor to various print and broadcast media, providing advice and information on legal topics.

<http://www.winkelsabogados.com/>



**Dr. Flora Calvo:** holds an LL.B. and an LL.D. from the Complutense University of Madrid as well as a Diploma in French Law from the Jean Monnet-Sceaux Law Faculty at the University of Paris XI. Currently the collaborator of the law firm Winkels Abogados, is Professor in Private International Law at the Rey Juan Carlos University in Madrid. Dr. Calvo is a well-known expert and contributor to numerous publications, book chapters and articles in prominent legal journals in Private International Law.

<http://www.winkelsabogados.com/>



**D. Xavier O Callahan:** Retired Supreme Court Judge, Professor of Civil Law, Judge O´Callaghan is an indisputable reference in Spanish civil law, author of monographs, essays and studies in civil law. Always committed and involved in the defense of all matters relating to the best interests of children.



**D. Jose Almagro Nosete:** Retired Supreme Court Judge, Professor of procedural legislation, has dedicated his life to teaching law, practicing as a lawyer, until he was appointed Magistrate of the Supreme Court, a position that exercised the last 20 active years of his active life.



**Dr Alvaro Rivera:**

Doctor Álvaro Rivera Villaverde is a psychiatrist who has been developing his assistance, teaching, research and managerial activity for more than 30 years in mental health area in Madrid (Spain). Specifically he was the Medical Director and Managerial Director in San Juan de Dios Hospitals in Madrid (Princesa de Asturias Award 2015), Managerial Director of Instituto Psiquiátrico José Germain (Public Hospital of Servicio Madrileño de Salud), and actually is the Head of Psychiatry and Mental Health Service in Getafe Area of Madrid. He teaches Psychiatry in the Universidad Europea of Madrid. As well he teaches about psychiatric themes in different postgraduate schools. He has participated in Mental Health Plans of Madrid and Castilla la Mancha.



**Maite Parejo Sousa:** is a practicing lawyer, member of the Madrid Bar Association. She is specialized in Criminal Law, International Criminal Law, Universal Jurisdiction and Human Rights. Her degrees are from Seville, Cambridge, and Masters on International Criminal Law from the Complutens University of Madrid. Her career on criminal cases are both at national and international levels, as well as cases about human rights violations. She has also brought cases before to the European Court of Human Rights, and has participated as either speaker or moderator in many seminars related to these matters. She is co-founder of G37 Despacho Internacional and of The Guernica Group, Ms. Parejo held in 2013 the General Secretariat of the Spanish Association of Human Rights (APDHE) and since 2016, she is Vice-President of said association, for that she has collaborated with numerous national and international institutions and initiatives. Maite is currently a member of the Expert Committee of the Human Rights Section of the Madrid Bar Association and was appointed member of the Consulting Council of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture of the Spanish Ombudsman Office.



**Pilar Bueno:** family law attorney, in particular she works in defense of the interests for people in a situation of enhanced vulnerability, such as minors or the elderly. Her Alma Mater is the Autonomía University of Madrid. When she finished her studies, she prepared oppositions of Legal Technician, she soon then discovered that her true vocation was being a lawyer to deal with human relations, within the scope of law. Currently, she is co-founder of the law firm specialized in family law 'Status Familiae'. Also is an expert consultant for the Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI), is a member of the Ateneo de Madrid and Deputy Secretary General of the Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España (APDHE) for 3 years. In addition, she is also a member of the Spanish Association of Family Lawyers (AEFA), with which she has collaborated in numerous conferences and presentations, recently on issues of internalization of family relationships.

## In South Africa:



**Ferdinand Hartzenberg:** has been practicing for more than 20 years nationally and internationally on family law, he has assisted clients with South African connections worldwide and also represented major personalities in the world of South African Sports making him the South Africa Rugby scene reference.

Ferdi Hartzenberg has the right to appear in the High Court and is currently appointed as a Commissioner of the Small Claims Courts for Bela Bela, Bronkhorstspuit and Pretoria. He currently serves as a member of the Military Veterans Appeal Board and is a trustee of the Bryan Habana Foundation. He has also acted as a Judge in the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria.

<https://www.hartzlaw.co.za/>

## In Dubai, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)



**Mukhtar Al Gharib:** highly family law attorney, national from Dubai, he is committed to assist UAE legal system to evolve reasonably to support the growing demand for resolving foreigner family issues.

“Despite the changing face of the UAE, one legacy remains unchanged and all its progress has never overshadowed the principles of the law. A legal system founded on the cornerstones of fairness, independence, equality and neutrality based on a fair and robust framework, continues to reign supreme, enduring that every citizen and every corporate enjoys equal rights. I believe the country’s success is much owed to this supremacy of the rule of law”.

<http://alghariblawfirm.com/>



**Ahmad Al-Rajoub:** Syrian national that left his country due to the war. Bachelor in Law and member of Syria Bar Association Family law attorney that wrote the only book about custody in the Arab World “PROVISIONS OF CUSTODY IN THE ARABIC AND FOREIGN LAWS” after investigating all the Arab legislations aiming to claim that the legal systems should be revised to pursuit the best interest of the children as performed in Europe.

This book includes 19 models of custody provisions in the Arab countries' laws and two models of custody provisions available in the French Civil Law and in the Spanish Law.

His research indicates that the child custody laws must be changed in the Arab World, because Islamic Sharia does not stand in the way of developing custody provisions.

“All divine religions including Islam, call for the child protection and look after their interest”.

<http://alghariblawfirm.com/>

### **Other anonymous individuals & organizations:**

- Citizens, municipalities, political parties and associations, regional governments and institutions, central governments, foreign affairs ministries, embassies and diplomacy. Journalists, Radio, TV and Press Media, and whoever set their attention and heart for these and whomever children that deserve to be raised by their both parents without any discrimination and any obstruction to their fundamental rights. All these anonymous humans are the main member of this team CV.

