

Supreme Court Grants Labor Courts Jurisdiction to Resolve Contentious Labor Relations Matters

By Holland & Knight

The Political and Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela, in its judgment No. 39 of April 4, 2024, reiterates its criteria regarding the competence to hear lawsuits regarding the payment of additional concepts to those directly derived from labor relations.

In this judgment, the Chamber emphasizes that Article 29 of the Organic Labor Procedure Law grants jurisdiction to the labor courts to resolve contentious matters related to labor relations.

In this sense, the Chamber establishes that when the payment of additional concepts to those directly derived from the labor relationship is requested, such as late payment interest, procedural costs, monetary updating or compensation, among others, the competence falls on the judicial power.

In other words, the Supreme Court of Justice has established that:

- the labor courts are competent to hear claims for the payment of concepts additional to those derived directly from labor relations
- these types of claims, being of a pecuniary nature, require an evidentiary debate that cannot be adequately carried out by the labor inspectorate
- consequently, claims for payment of concepts additional to those derived from labor relations must be filed before the judiciary

This jurisprudence is important for workers and employers since it provides them with clarity on the competence to hear these types of claims.

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