



## Pablo Molina Alegre

Partner

Barcelona

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### Administrative and Constitutional Law

Planning, Zoning and Environment

Tourism and Hotels

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Pablo Molina is a lawyer and urban planner with over 25 years of experience advising major corporations, funds, developers, and public institutions on strategic, regional, and urban planning, land development and management, and public economic law. Specialist in drafting and amending planning instruments, subdivision procedures, planning enforcement, expropriation and valuation matters, and coastal law. Significant governance and regulatory design experience: drafting urban planning laws and regulations, national policy frameworks, and metropolitan/regional plans. University lecturer and former member of the National Planning Commission of the Catalan Government, with leadership roles in professional associations and large-scale international projects (including NEOM, Saudi Arabia). Expert in permits and licensing, planning enforcement and restoration, environment and assessment, housing and public land management, coastal planning and law, tourism and infrastructure, logistics and industrial developments, constitutional and administrative litigation related to planning.

## Experience

Partner in Garrigues' Administrative Law Department since 2011; associate since 2002; joined the firm in 2000; and co-head of the Department in the Barcelona office since 2024. Experience in advising domestic and international clients on planning, land management and development, complex real estate transactions and regulatory design. Leads multidisciplinary teams (architects, environmental specialists, economists, lawyers) in high-complexity, large-scale projects. Committed to innovative, technically rigorous planning that strengthens public decision-making and enables complex projects. Current focus areas: 3D zoning and volumetric regulation; adaptive temporal planning; ecosystem services and rural owner incentives; data centers as urban infrastructure; and data-driven/algorithmic planning decisions. Comparative Urban Planning Law.

Representative planning and land management projects:

- Planning amendment for the Barcelona Logistics Area (Free Zone), enabling intensification of logistics uses and new industrial deployment.
- Development plan for a multi-level logistics platform at “Les Llicorelles” (Molins de Rei), incorporating 3D zoning and operational efficiency.
- Special Plan defining uses for Barcelona’s Principal Theatre, balancing heritage protection with economic activation.
- Development of three golf courses and 2,477 residential units on the Tarragona coast; end-to-end planning, environmental assessment, public systems, and implementation.
- “Rigolisa” area development (Catalonian Pyrenees): planning and execution in environmentally sensitive mountain context.
- Amendment to the General Municipal Zoning Plan of Gelida in order to implement the “Agroparc” industrial-agricultural project.

#### Governance, regulation, and public policy:

- Amendment to the Regional/Metropolitan Plan for the Barcelona Metropolitan Area to enable the “Agroparc” hybrid industrial-agricultural project.
- Drafting of regional and strategic plans for NEOM (Saudi Arabia); intersectoral coordination and contribution to NEOM’s National Planning Policies.

#### Regulatory texts and reforms:

- Regulation on the right to relocate individuals affected by urban development (implementing Catalan law).
- Draft text for a new Catalan Urban Planning Law.
- Amendment to Spain’s Coastal Law regarding residential marinas.
- Proposal for Planning and Municipalities Law and Regulation for NEOM.

#### Strategic litigation and constitutional review:

- Constitutional Court challenges to Catalan housing legislation.
- Constitutional Court challenges to short-term rental legislation.

#### Enforcement, expropriation, and coastal matters:

- Advice on planning enforcement, restoration orders, and sanctioning regimes.
- Expropriation procedures and valuation (just compensation, appraisal, complex expert evidence).
- Coastal regulation and protection, compatibility of uses and concessions.

#### Pro bono:

- Member of Garrigues’ Pro Bono Committee.

Fluent in Catalan (native); Spanish (native); English (fluent); French (fluent)

## Academic background

- Degree in Law, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (1997).
- Post-graduate Degree in Real Estate and Town Planning Law (ESADE) (1998).
- Diplôme d'Études Approfondies en Droit Européen, Université de Liège, "Grande Distinction" (1999). Thesis: "Le Droit de Propriété Immobilière et la CEDH" (presentation 2000; defense 2001).
- Diploma in Technical Town Planning (2004-2006).
- Professional Master's Degree in Territorial and Town Planning Studies (2004-2006). Thesis: contributions to the Barcelona Metropolitan Region Coastline Strategic Plan (urban and social cohesion).
- Postgraduate in Town Planning Management, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (2006).

## Teaching activity

Lecturer on numerous master's degree and post-graduate programs. Among others:

- Lecturer in master's and postgraduate programs (Barcelona Bar Association, Developers' Association, ESADE, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona Provincial Government).
- Scientific committee member and lecturer: Master's in Real Estate Law (Barcelona Bar Association).
- Scientific committee member: Master's in Planning (Barcelona Bar Association and Developers' Association).
- Lecturer: Master of Access to the Legal Profession (Universitat Pompeu Fabra).
- Lecturer in Advanced Town Planning Law courses (Barcelona Provincial Government).

## Memberships

- Member, National Planning Commission of the Catalan Government (2015-2024).
- Member, Regulatory Committee on Tourism (Department of Business and Employment, Catalan Government) (2013-2014).
- Chair, Spanish Planners' Association (2015-2017); Secretary (2010-2015); Permanent Board Member (2017-2025).
- Secretary, Latin American Federation of Planners (2012-2015).
- Secretary, Catalan Group of Town Planners (2009-2015).
- Member, International Platform of Experts in Planning Law (2014-2025).

## Publications

- Country Report: Spain. In *Regulating Coastal Zones: International Perspectives....* (Routledge, 2021).
- Las valoraciones diferentes del suelo. Valoración de actividades y negocios" (Different land valuations. Valuation of activities and businesses), in "Seminarios de expropiación..." (EAPC, 2008).

- Las urbanizaciones privadas en el entorno metropolitano” (Private residential estates in a metropolitan environment), Rizoma, no. 10 (2008).