

## Special Achievement Award 2018 – Car Wash Task Force (Oleracea Lava Jato) from Brazil

This special recognition is deserved by a group of 47 Brazilian prosecutors from the so-called Carwash Task Force.

The Carwash Task Force is a group of 47 federal prosecutors based in 3 Brazilian cities: Brasilia, Curitiba and Rio de Janeiro. Each city had its own team leader. What initially began as a money laundering and fraud investigation in April 2014, turned out into an ongoing criminal case unveiling the largest corruption scandal in the history of Latin America. From a medium scale investigation, it expanded to a huge case of procurement fraud related to the state-owned oil giant, Petrobras.

Contractors were charged with paying kickbacks on a regular basis to politically appointed officials. Domino-like agreements with defendants, implicated politicians from all major parties; the investigations revealed that billions of bribes were laundered in tax havens. Unfortunately, this all happened against a background – *and now I am quoting our IAP member that nominated the Carwash Task Force, the Brazilian Association of Federal Prosecutors – a background of cultural tolerance towards these crimes.* Together with an economic crisis and a misused system of political campaign financing, it became fertile soil for a criminal case without precedent, with a whole political system that went under suspicion, including two presidents.

The Task Force decided to focus on high level financial transactions. More than 400 politicians of 26 parties were somehow involved, including many Senators, Secretaries of State and Governors of Brazil. The case grew far beyond Brazilian borders as 272 requests for mutual legal assistance were sent to 46 countries. More than 280 defendants were charged with corruption, money laundering and being part of a criminal organisation. Half of them has already been convicted and an amount of 3.5 billion on assets was returned.

But fighting corruption by bringing people to justice is one, the Task Force also worked on new Brazilian anti-corruption legislation. They completed the triple goal: prosecution, asset recovery and prevention. It had a significant effect on the Brazilian way of seeing their political system.

To summarise in one line; the Carwash Task Force strengthened the Brazilian Rule of Law. Through their dedication and hard work, they became an international example for anti-corruption fights all over the world. Recovering the hope that justice will be done and that the rule of law must be respected by everyone. The Carwash Task Force has already received a series of awards, both nationally as well as internationally. The IAP Special Achievement Award is just to underline their efforts once more. They have carried a heavy burden, which has been handled with the highest standards of professionalism and in accordance with the IAP's principles.