

# Network News

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## Americas Conference 2026

The Russell Bedford International Americas Conference 2026, held at the InterContinental Hotel in San José, Costa Rica, was a huge success.



Ahead of the conference, delegates gathered for a fantastic welcome dinner, taking the opportunity to connect and strengthen relationships with their regional counterparts.

Day one began with a warm welcome and introductions, followed by an update on latest developments at Russell Bedford International by CEO Stephen Hamlet.



As the first in-person event of the annual calendar, the conference highlighted the vibrancy of our network, with two dedicated programmes running concurrently: one in English and the other in Spanish. Key updates from member firms demonstrated strong performance and continued growth.

The programme continued with a packed agenda, including sessions on innovation and talent upskilling, as well as approaches to client management.



The day concluded with delegates enjoying dinner and entertainment at Alta Fiori Restaurant, with impressive views across Escazú.



Day two continued with insightful sessions on artificial intelligence and the different software solutions utilised by our member firms.



Delegates also participated in productive brainstorming and team-building sessions, providing further opportunities to connect with peers from across the region through a series of engaging activities.

Reflecting on the event, CEO Stephen Hamlet said “The Americas Conference has been a great way to kick off 2026 - bringing together our US, Canada and Latin American firms. Reconnecting at the start of the year to share knowledge and align on strategic plans is particularly important as we look to strengthen and navigate our firms within an ever-changing accounting and auditing landscape.”

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the host firm, Russell Bedford Costa Rica, and our speakers for all their time and effort in making this conference such a success.

Russell Bedford International members can visit the [event page](#) to access speaker presentations and photos from this year’s conference.

## Almoumen and Partners joins Russell Bedford International in Kuwait



Russell Bedford International welcomes Almoumen and Partners in Kuwait City.

Russell Bedford International is pleased to announce the addition of Almoumen and Partners to its global network.

Almoumen and Partners has a team of high-calibre professionals with significant experience in assurance and accounting services, bringing extensive expertise across a wide range of business sectors in Kuwait and the GCC region. The partnership is led by Raed Al Moumen, an authorized Chartered Accountant in Kuwait, a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK), Certified Public Accountant (USA), with an MBA from Strathclyde university (Scotland). Raed is registered as a Financial Expert and Liquidator with the Court of First Instance in Kuwait.

The firm is licensed to provide audit services in Kuwait and is also registered with the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) and the Insurance Regulatory Unit (IRU), enabling the firm to deliver audit and assurance services to listed companies, insurance providers, and other regulated entities. In addition, the firm is registered with the Tax Department of the Ministry of Finance for providing tax services

"We are delighted to welcome Almoumen and partners to our growing network in the Middle East", said Stephen Hamlet, CEO of Russell Bedford International. "Their excellent audit capability completes our service offering as part of Russell Bedford Kuwait, demonstrating excellent collaboration and harmony."

Raed Al Moumen, Managing Partner at the firm, commented: "We are delighted to join the Russell Bedford International network. This partnership strengthens our global reach and enables us to deliver even greater value to our clients through international collaboration and expertise, whilst allowing us to support other member firms and their clients in Kuwait. We look forward to working closely with fellow members and contributing to the network's continued success."

## Our Quality page is now live!

### PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND QUALITY



#### Our Commitment to Audit & Assurance Quality

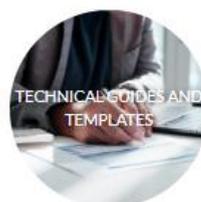
Audit quality is the cornerstone of what we do. At our network, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of professional excellence by embedding robust quality management systems, consistent guidance enabling you to build better methodologies, and ethical practices across all member firms. Our approach aligns with global standards such as ISQM and the IAASB framework, ensuring that every engagement delivers reliability, integrity, and value to stakeholders.

#### What We Share

On this page, you'll find resources designed to help firms strengthen audit quality and stay ahead of regulatory expectations. These include:

- **Guidance and Policies:** Network-wide audit and assurance standards, independence requirements, and ethical frameworks.
- **Tools and Templates:** Updated audit guides, inspection workbooks, and practice aids for consistent application.
- **Training and Webinars:** Technical sessions, micro-learning modules, and CPD resources to build capability.
- **Quality Insights:** AQR findings, remediation best practices, and emerging risk alerts.
- **Regional Support:** Contact details for Quality Ambassadors and forums for collaboration.

Together, these elements empower firms to deliver audits that meet global benchmarks while addressing local regulatory nuances.



Members can access all their Professional Standards & Quality materials via our new [Quality page](#), now live on the Intranet. Here you can find guides and templates, webinar materials, our quality newsletter, Technical Compass, and discover your regional Quality Ambassador, who supports quality-focused initiatives across your region.

View the page [here](#).

## Technical Compass Edition 2



The second edition of the Professional Standards & Quality quarterly newsletter: Technical Compass is now available to read. This newsletter was designed to keep you informed and engaged with the latest developments in audit standards, quality and technical matters.

Click [here](#) to view.

## Russell Bedford Argentina integrates PKF Audisur



Russell Bedford International is pleased to announce the integration of PKF Audisur into Russell Bedford Argentina, strengthening the firm's position as one of Argentina's leading audit, tax and consulting practices.

Following the integration, both organisations will operate under the Russell Bedford Argentina brand. The combined firm now comprises more than 300 professionals, expanding its technical capabilities and enhancing its service offering, particularly across financial institutions, trusts, credit rating agencies and corporate finance.

The integration also supports Russell Bedford Argentina's regional growth ambitions, with plans to strengthen client service beyond Buenos Aires, including potential offices in Rosario, Córdoba and Salta.

"This integration reflects the dynamism and sustained growth of Russell Bedford Argentina, as it allows us to add specialised knowledge, expand our practice areas, and further enhance the quality of the services we provide" said Ariel Goñi, Partner at the firm.

Daniel Ryba, Partner at Russell Bedford Argentina and Global Chairman of Russell Bedford International, added: "Through this transaction, our firm in Argentina reaffirms its strong growth trajectory. Undoubtedly, within our international organisation, the Argentine firm is among those that have experienced the most significant growth in recent years, both in terms of size and the breadth of services and areas of specialisation".

PKF Audisur clients will initially continue working with their existing teams, ensuring a smooth transition, while gaining access over time to Russell Bedford Argentina's wider expertise and the support of Russell Bedford International's global network.

## taking you further day 2025 brochure



On 3 December 2025, Russell Bedford International marked its seventh annual taking you further day, bringing member firms from across the global network together in a shared celebration of our core values: connectivity, collaboration, positive impact and excellence.

In the lead-up to the day, teams worldwide delivered a diverse range of initiatives that brought these values to life. Activities ranged from community outreach and charitable giving to team-building events and sustainability initiatives, with many of these stories showcased during our global virtual celebration.

Each year, these achievements are captured in the taking you further day brochure, [now available to read](#). The 2025 edition highlights the meaningful impact Russell Bedford teams continue to make—strengthening their organisations and supporting communities around the world.

"This brochure captures such positivity from different countries and various locations, in honour of taking you further day. I thank everyone who participated in making this yet another fabulous day of celebration; demonstrating their support, commitment and passion." Stephen Hamlet, CEO, Russell Bedford International.

To learn more about *taking you further day 2025*, [download the highlights brochure](#) or view it digitally below.

## Russell Bedford RBG in Bogotá, Colombia appoints new CEO



Our network's CEO, Stephen Hamlet caught up with Alexandra Arbeláez at the Americas conference in Costa Rica. Last year Alexandra was named the new CEO of Russell Bedford RBG in Bogotá, Colombia, following almost 40 years of Luis Carlos Robayo leading the practice.

Stephen asked Alexandra how her first months as CEO have been. Reflecting on the transition, Alexandra commented: "It's been an exciting first few months, and I'm proud to be building on such strong foundations alongside an incredible team who are deeply committed to our clients and our future."

Stephen added "We congratulate Alex on this significant appointment, as she follows in the remarkable legacy of Luis Carlos. The network wishes her the very best in her new leadership role, building on the magnificent achievements of Russell Bedford in Colombia."

## Mastering Cayman Audit Compliance: What Companies Need to Know in 2026



On Tuesday 10 February, Matthew Green, partner at Lubbock Fine, will be hosting a webinar in collaboration with two lawyers from Spencer West.

As regulatory expectations continue to evolve across the Cayman Islands, this session is designed to help fund managers, directors, and compliance professionals confidently navigate audit requirements and avoid unnecessary risk.

Register [here](#).

## Welcoming Gerald Hernández to Russell Bedford Costa Rica



Russell Bedford Costa Rica welcomes Gerald Hernández as a Partner, reinforcing the firm's strategy to accelerate growth and strengthen its regional capabilities.

Gerald brings more than 27 years of experience in public accounting, corporate finance, tax advisory, and business strategy across several regions with senior leadership roles at global firms including KPMG, EY, and BDO.

## Webinar Recordings

If you were unable to attend our live webinars, recordings are available on our [Events Page](#) by scrolling down to 'Past Events'. Each recording includes a short summary to give you a quick overview before watching.

For easy access to our most recent webinar recordings, see below:

[Employee Engagement](#)

[Communications skills for developing client relationships](#)

[ISQM & Engagement Inspections Common findings](#)

## Forthcoming conferences

For further details about upcoming Russell Bedford conferences and to register, please visit the [Events](#) page on the intranet.



### Middle East & Africa Conference

The 2026 Russell Bedford International Middle East & Africa Conference will be held from 12 - 14 February in Dubai, UAE. Registration has now closed. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) for more details.



### EMEA with International Tax Conference 2026

The 2026 Russell Bedford International EMEA with International Tax Conference will be held from 5 - 7 June in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Stay tuned for more information.

## Russell Bedford - key facts and figures

- **More than 40 years** of global service
- **Top 20** global accounting network
- **Over USD 900 million** global fee income
- Some **1000 partners** and over **10,000 staff**
- Almost **400 offices** in more than **100 countries**

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For previous editions of Network News, visit our [Network News](#) webpage.