



## THE FIXER

*Hector Diaz creates the game plan for legal issues*

BY ALISON BAILIN BATZ

PHOTO BY CARL SCHULTZ

“I guess you could call me a ‘fixer,’” says Hector Diaz.

After getting his start in law at the Maricopa County Public Defender’s office, Diaz moved to Quarles & Brady’s Phoenix office in 2004 to work in the firm’s White Collar/Governmental Investigations Group, which he today chairs.

“As a public defender, I would start work with a client after he or she had been formally accused,” explains Diaz. “Now, I am about to come into the matter in the early part of the investigation.”

Diaz works with a team of investigators, usually former law enforcement, early in a variety of cases ranging from athletes and celebrities to major international corporations accused of misconduct.

“Often, I’m hired even before the government gets formally involved,” says Diaz, who admits to many sleepless nights pouring over cases, potential public relations nightmares, and how to best “fix” them before morning.

Adding to his sleepless nights? Looking and sounding good on television. Since the Jodi Arias trial last year, Diaz has been called upon by both local media and national talk shows to demystify court proceedings and trials for the public.

### *Etc.*

**What makes your practice different?** Often, defense attorneys “hide their cards” until their client is charged. I have found that if you show the government the problems with their case in a pre-charging posture, then they are more likely to forego prosecution. **Any non-law-related hidden talents?** I did recently volunteer to teach an “Art Masterpiece” class to 5th graders. From Monet to Van Gogh, we did it all. My teaching was well received. The art, not so much. Thank goodness for my day job!