

Benesch Partner Marisa Darden Interviews with NewsNation on Maduro Defense Funding Dispute

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Marisa Darden, chair of Benesch's White Collar, Government Investigations & Regulatory Compliance Practice Group, appeared on NewsNation to discuss the legal dispute over Nicolás Maduro's access to Venezuelan government funds to finance his defense, as well as the broader implications for federal criminal proceedings.

During the interview, Marisa examined the case in depth, highlighting the unusual role of the U.S. government in restricting access to those funds. She also addressed the competing arguments from both sides, the possibility of Maduro requiring a public defender, and key procedural considerations.

"This is a really nuanced legal issue that you don't often see in federal prosecutions," Marisa said, explaining that disputes over how a defendant funds their legal defense are typically considered "sacrosanct." She noted that in this case, the government is challenging whether Nicolás Maduro can use Venezuelan state funds, arguing there is no legitimate basis tied to his official role.

The segment also explored the defense's argument that the charges-and the circumstances surrounding Maduro's arrest-raise broader legal questions, while highlighting the possibility that, without access to significant funds, he could ultimately rely on a public defender.



Watch the full interview [here](#).