

BUSINESS

## Municipality of Aguadilla files class action against Mapfre

They include in the legal lawsuit the rest of the municipalities and government agencies

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From the left: Lissette Feliciano, administrator of the municipality; Juan Saavedra-Castro, lawyer and partner of WMC; Carlos Méndez, mayor of Aguadilla; Pablo Rivera, advisor and Evelyn González, legal director. (Supplied)

The municipality of Aguadilla filed a class suit against the **Mapfre Praico Insurance Company** insurer for failing to adequately pay the municipality's claim for property damage caused by **Hurricane Maria** in 2017.

The legal action also includes the other municipalities of the island, government agencies and sub-agencies that were underpaid by Mapfre in their respective insurance claims, the mayor, **Carlos Méndez**, said in written statements.

**To carry out its judicial process, the municipality of Aguadilla hired the law firm specialized in disaster recovery, Weisbrod Matteis & Copley PLLC (WMC), with Juan Saavedra-Castro, partner in charge of the WMC office in San Juan, who leads the defense line.**

Like many other municipalities and government agencies in Puerto Rico, Aguadilla has received only nominal payments from Mapfre, even after paying premiums for many years.

“We have made a great effort to resolve this claim with Mapfre, but the insurer seems to be more interested in playing and delaying the payment than in paying us what we are owed, according to our policies,” said Méndez. **"Our municipality has received less than \$ 3.0 million from Mapfre for damages that will cost tens of millions of dollars to make repairs."**

Méndez accused the insurers of having dozens of government agencies in Puerto Rico "hostage for almost two years," which he said has a "terrible" impact on communities and families.

El primer ejecutivo aguadillano aseguró que no se quedará de brazos cruzados y tomará acción antes de que se cumplan los dos años del paso del nefasto ciclón por Puerto Rico. “Tampoco me siento cómodo viendo a otros en espera, así que he decidido presentar una demanda colectiva para tratar de representar a otros municipios y agencias gubernamentales que también están siendo maltratados por Mapfre”, agregó