



Portugal's leading lawyers of 2023

Here is a pool of the top legal practitioners in the Portuguese market for 2024,
according to *Iberian Lawyer*

by michael heron

In numerology, there are many attributes for the number 20. It is a master number and carries a lot of power and potential. It is also known as the “Law of Attraction” number and is meant to invoke new beginnings. These are the 20 lawyers who have stand out in the Portuguese legal sector, according to *Iberian Lawyer*. Their names are listed in alphabetical order. Selecting a list of just 20 was always going to be a challenge in what has become a truly competitive market.

It is important to highlight that this is not a league table. In the spirit of transparency, *Iberian Lawyer* has chosen to use four main criteria in its selection; track record, leadership, popularity and career.

Track record refers to the main activities of which these professionals have successfully handled the legal direction in the last 12 months, in other words, their ability as rainmakers to generate substantial amounts of business within the law firm. From large operations (mergers and acquisitions, quotations, bond issues, securitisations and restructurings) that have changed the Portuguese footprint abroad to partnerships, projects and disputes.

Leadership, whether as the head of a law firm or a team, this criterion highlights their work and quality. The success of their organisation, the implementation of technology, or beneficial transformations for the firms or profession were all considered. We also valued the commitment to increased innovation or inclusion in the legal market.

Popularity refers to the prestige that the selected lawyers have earned among (in-house

counsel, business lawyers, head hunters, etc.). Visibility has transformed these already remarkable professionals into authoritative and recognised “influencers” and trend setters.

And, last but not least, their **career**. A successful career path is the thread that connects all these lawyers listed below.

The following selection is therefore the result of careful reflection on all these criteria and ranks business lawyers based on their positioning on individual aspects in the last year, according to the observation of *Iberian Lawyer*.

Here below the protagonists of the year:



LEGENDA:

TRACK RECORD



LEADERSHIP



POPULARITY



CAREER





André Júdice Glória

André Júdice Glória, the firm's managing partner, founded Gama Gloria with a vision of an integrated practice where strategy, regulation and public policy converge into smart advice to businesses and governments. André is a corporate finance lawyer with significant experience in debt and equity capital market transactions, such as straight debt, either standalone or under MTN programmes, structured finance, convertibles and exchangeables and rights issues. He advises on M&A transactions involving assets in heavily regulated sectors, notably banks, insurance companies, other financial institutions and energy companies.

When Gonçalo Machado Borges, who is responsible for the European and Competition area at CS'Associados, moves from Morais Leitão, where he has been for 17 year, to CS. That is a big statement to make to the market.



Bernardo Abreu Mota



NEW



Bruno Ferreira

He is managing partner and partner in the Banking and Finance and Capital Markets practices. He has overseen a prosperous and significant period at PLMJ, with the firm noticeably slimming down ever so slightly, becoming a leaner and more profitable player. Bruno was an associate at Garrigues until 2016, showing that firms can find a leader from the outside within. Ferreira specialises in advising on complex transactions in Portugal and internationally, combining transactional and regulatory advice with advice on financial issues, including project finance operations, leveraged finance and asset-based finance.



Catarina Tavares Loureiro

There are a number of high-profile practitioners at Uría in Portugal, but Catarina Tavares Loureiro, who joined the Lisbon office of Uría Menéndez - Proença de Carvalho in 2006, has always stood out as a true team player. In 2010, Catarina worked in the firm's Madrid office. She was seconded to the New York office of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP as a foreign associate from September 2012 until March 2013. Catarina focuses her practice on Corporate Law.

Managing Partner at SRS Legal, César Sá Esteves is ranked as one of Portugal's leading employment lawyers by the most important international directories and is also head of the Employment & Social Security Department. He is particularly highly regarded in the context of corporate restructurings, as well as employment issues related with M&A transactions.



NEW



César Sá Esteves



Diogo Xavier Da Cunha

Diogo Xavier da Cunha has been the managing partner at Miranda for nearly 10 years. It has arguably been the firm's most challenging decade in its history. After the oil crisis in 2014, which for a firm that at the time, was dependant on businesses from this sector as clients, Xavier da Cunha steered the ship through the murky waters of a near 30 lawyer exit including six partners.



NEW



Francisco Espregueira Mendes

Francisco Espregueira Mendes has been a partner at Telles since 2001 and will lead the firm's corporate, transactional and private equity team of over forty lawyers, which has been involved in high-profile national and international transactions. The new Managing Partner of Telles has an established track record of almost 30 years in the legal market.

Pérez-Llorca recently the appointment of Gonçalo Capela Godinho as a partner of the firm. With more than 20 years of experience, Godinho is responsible for clients and institutions outside Spain, specifically in the Portuguese-speaking markets, with a special focus on Portugal and Brazil.

With experience in the Brazilian, Portuguese, UK and US markets, Godinho will join Pérez-Llorca's international project, which the firm has been working on for several years and which became a reality in 2015 with the opening of the London and New York offices, continued in 2022 with Brussels, and was further consolidated in 2023 with Singapore.



NEW



Gonçalo Capela Godinho



Inês Sequeira Mendes

Abreu Advogados, led by Inês Sequeira Mendes, reached a turnover of €41.7m in 2022 and registered a growth of 10%, compared to 2021. With a team of 227 lawyers, the firm continued its commitment to human development, with a team of 348 employees, including lawyers and management teams. The international market represents 39% of total global turnover.

NEW



José Luís Arnaut

The lawyer was one of the founding partners of Rui Pena Arnaut & Associados, a firm that in January 2012 became part of the largest European organisation's of law firms, CMS, giving rise to CMS Rui Pena & Arnaut, where Arnaut is the current Managing Partner, as well as member of the Executive Committee of CMS Legal, the sixth largest European law firm. As Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, José Luís Arnaut headed the organization of the Euro 2004 football tournament that took place in Portugal

Barreto is recognised by the market as a top M&A and banking and finance practitioner. Gómez-Acebo & Pombo has achieved consistent organic growth during this period and has moved office premises twice to accommodate the expanding team. Barreto has had the responsibility of steering the ship since 2018 and deserves a lot of credit for the current stability of the office in Portugal.



Mafalda Barreto

NEW



Mário Lino Dias

Mário is a partner of the Corporate and M&A department at Garrigues since 2008, his main areas of practice being Mergers and Acquisitions and, in particular, Private Equity. Mário has experience in all types of transactions and at all stages of the investment cycle, including fundraising, investment, and divestment. He has represented and led transactions involving the main Iberian-based funds, as well as reference European and international investment houses. He is also a reference in the insurance sector, having spearheaded in Portugal some of the most complex M&A deals in this industry.



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Manuel Magalhães

During an interview with Iberian Lawyer, one year into his tenure, Manuel Magalhães recognised that Sérvulo went through a lot of changes in the last 15 years. Sérvulo recorded a 33% growth in 2022. If Magalhães has led the firm through even one third of this growth in 2023. It will have been a great achievement.

In 2021, she assumed the role of managing partner of CTSU, Deloitte's Legal practice in Portugal, succeeding Miguel Ribeiro Telles as the new leadership of the firm. 2021 was a significant turning point in Portugal, as firms such as Abreu and VdA also appointed women. With 25 years of professional experience, Moreira works mainly in the areas of M&A, Competition, Corporate and Commercial Law.



NEW



Mónica Moreira



Nuno Cerejeira Namora

Cerejeira Namora Marinho Falcão, after more than three decades and with offices in Lisbon, Porto and Madeira, integrated with Auren, incorporating a team of more than 80 professionals and become part of their international network, ANTEA. As a result of the operation, Auren now offer audit, consulting and legal services with a team of around 200 professionals in Portugal. This was a significant and bold step for the firm



Nuno Galvão Teles

Galvão Teles is one of the stalwarts of the Portuguese market. He has been at Moraes Leitão since 1987, becoming a partner in 1995 and managing partner since 2012. Nuno advises corporations and banks, as well as listed companies in major Portuguese M&A deals. He has led the team responsible for some of the major privatisation transactions executed in Portugal, namely in the energy, pulp, motorways, cement industries and insurance. He has been very active on the last 20 years in the energy sector, representing the most relevant Portuguese players.

In June 2022, Sá Carvalho became the new managing partner at Cutrecasas. He joined the firm in 2000 and became a partner in 2007. Throughout his 27-year career, he has provided legal advice on the planning and implementation of major real estate investments, transactions and projects. He was the founder of the firm's Real Estate and Town Planning Practice Area in Portugal, which today has 15 lawyers who advise on large complex legal projects. He has already overseen the integration at the firm of SLCM – Serra Lopes, Cortes Martins.



NEW

Nuno Sá Carvalho



NEW

Octávio Castelo Paulo

SRS recently made the decision to appoint two co-managing partners at SRS Legal. Before, Octávio Castelo Paulo was the Head of the Corporate & Finance Department as well as the Head of the Corporate, Commercial and M&A as well as TMT (Telecommunications, Media and Technology) practice area. Octávio is the Head of the Angola Desk of SRS. With more than 35 years of experience, Octávio has been advising clients on domestic and cross border corporate and M&A transactions as well as TMT matters in Portugal and in Angola being a member of the Angolan Law Society.



Paula Gomes Freire

Paula Gomes Freire joined VdA in 1996 and has been the managing partner since 2021. Her banking & finance and capital markets prowess is unquestionable, leading several transactions focused on the issue and placement of debt instruments, namely Euro Medium Term Notes, commercial paper, preferential shares and hybrids. In recent years she has participated in the recapitalisation of the Portuguese banking sector. The lawyer is extremely popular and time will tell the impact her leadership will have on the future of VdA, but all the initial signs are positive.

He joined Eversheds Sutherland FCB in 1997 and became a Partner in 2006. He coordinates the Banking and Capital Markets Department and co-heads the Corporate, Commercial and M&A Department. Rodrigo also has significant experience in the Real Estate sector, notable expertise in Private Equity and Corporate Finance and substantial knowledge of the TMT sector. He is currently one of the co-managing partners of the newly fully integrated Eversheds Sutherland.



NEW

Rodrigo Almeida Dias

