



Portugal's PLMJ hires academic as of counsel

Tom Jones • Monday, 7 March 2016 (*Yesterday*)

GAR 100 firm PLMJ has hired Portuguese academic **Gonçalo de Almeida Ribeiro** as of counsel in Lisbon.



Gonçalo Almeida Ribeiro

Ribeiro is Professor at the Católica Global School of Law in Lisbon where he teaches jurisprudence, private law theory, and economic analysis of law. He has been a professor at the university for three years. He has also taught as a guest lecturer at the Perugia School of Law in Italy and the Leuven Faculty of Law in Belgium.

He tells GAR that he intends to continue in his academic role alongside his work as of counsel, but wanted a "foot in the door of private practice".

"Having spent a large and critical period of my life as a full-time academic, I decided that it is about time to learn and enjoy the practice of the law," Ribeiro says.

He says he is "fascinated" by international arbitration, particularly international investment protection, which he describes as a "'new frontier' of legal thought and practice".

After graduating from the University of Lisbon in 2006, Ribeiro completed a masters and a PhD at Harvard Law School, including a dissertation titled 'The Decline of Private Law', to be published later this year. He has also spent a year as a teaching fellow at Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2009.

PLMJ's founding partner and head of international arbitration **José-Miguel Júdece** says that Ribeiro's time at Harvard brings "a guarantee of quality".

"Gonçalo has a truly international mentality and is specialised in international law. PLMJ's arbitration team wants to invest in an international profile and I think that he will help us to keep developing our practice for the benefit of our clients," he says.

Before he moved to Harvard to pursue graduate studies in law, Ribeiro worked as a consultant to the OECD's Development Studies Centre in Paris, where he contributed to a study group on political and economic development in Southern Africa. He also acted as a consultant to the Institute of Tropical Scientific Research in Lisbon, an interdisciplinary research group, where he looked at public partnerships as instruments of economic development in Portuguese-speaking African countries.

PLMJ's arbitration department is pursuing enforcement of a €38.5 million award against Guinea in favour of Getma International. The award was set aside last year by the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration, a West African regional court which supervises disputes conducted under the rules of the Organisation for the Harmonisation of Business Law in Africa. The arbitrators involved have recently accused the court of undermining international arbitration.

Ribeiro joined the firm on 1 March.

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