

A portrait of Paula Gomes Freire, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling and wearing a teal-colored short-sleeved dress. She has her arms crossed and is standing in front of a blue, out-of-focus background that appears to be a modern building with glass panels. The entire image is framed by a thin red border.

PAULA GOMES FREIRE

The top 20 lawyers in Portugal for 2024

Iberian Lawyer presents the top legal minds defining
the Portuguese legal landscape in 2024

by glória paiva

It is not easy to choose only 20 most prominent leaders in such a dynamic and expanding market as the Portuguese legal one at the moment. While large international firms are establishing roots in the country, traditional major player continue to grow, and boutique law firms, highly specialized in new areas emerging every day in society and law, are multiplying. Innovation is gaining more space, as well as practice areas like TMC (technology, media, and communications), intellectual property, and even space law, which are emerging strongly. However, corporate law, public law, and other classic areas are not left behind and continue to expand in parallel.

This ranking of 20 names, curated by *Iberian Lawyer* after careful consideration, aims to highlight leaders from the most thriving sectors of the Portuguese legal market who have stood out in 2024. It is important to note that this is not a *league table*, based just on transactions, but rather a comprehensive framework based on news and available data, and on the following four criteria: 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 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 during the year. 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.

Furthermore, the key figures profiled below are grouped into four categories: **undisputed leaders, consolidators, rainmakers, and expansion drivers**.

Undisputed leaders are individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made a profound impact on the legal sector, both in Portugal and internationally. These professionals have not only led major transactions but have also set the standard for the entire industry.

Consolidators have played a key role in strengthening their firms. With strategic foresight and adaptability, they have implemented changes that foster growth and fortify their firms' positions amid new challenges in the legal market.

Rainmakers are outstanding business and/or revenue generators. With a strong track record, distinguished careers, and broad market recognition, these professionals are essential in driving their firms' growth and expansion.

Expansion drivers are those who have experienced significant career growth or have led a notable expansion of their firm over the past year. They are not only solidifying their presence in the market but also driving their firms' growth, positioning them to explore new opportunities.

To follow the protagonists of the year:

LEGENDA:

TRACK RECORD



LEADERSHIP



POPULARITY



CAREER



RAINMAKERS

Lawyers with distinguished careers
and recognition for their outstanding business
and/or revenue generation skills



11

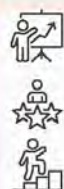


Diogo Perestrelo
PLMJ

With over 30 years of experience, **Diogo Perestrelo**, partner and co-head of the corporate M&A practice at PLMJ, is one of the most distinguished corporate and M&A lawyers in Portugal. According to TTR Data, as of November, he ranked first among individual dealmakers in terms of deal value, with six transactions totaling €999.80 million. Notably, he led operations like the sale of OYAK's 60% stake in Cimpor to Taiwan Cement in March. Perestrelo is admitted to practice law in both Portugal and Brazil.

NEW

Partner at Cuatrecasas Portugal, **Mariana Norton dos Reis**, is a prominent legal expert specializing in cross-border M&A transactions across various sectors. Practicing in both Portuguese and Spanish law, she has built a reputation for excellence. According to TTR Data, she ranked second among individual dealmakers in terms of deal value in 2024, with six transactions totaling €900 million, until November. She was part of the team that advised Partners Group on acquiring stakes in FairJourney Biologics. As the founder of Cuatrecasas' Women in Business program, she also advocates for gender diversity.



12



Mariana Norton dos Reis
CUATRECASAS

NEW

**13****NEW**

Nuno Azevedo Neves
DLA PIPER IN PORTUGAL

Managing partner at DLA Piper in Portugal, **Nuno Azevedo Neves** is also head of the corporate M&A and finance and projects departments. With over 25 years' experience, he is one of the most experienced lawyers in the financial sector and is recognised for his remarkable track record of acting as lead partner on many major M&A transactions and cross-border deals and privatizations. Neves was ranked among the main dealmakers of 2024 according to TTR Data until November, being in charge of two relevant deals valued 326.2 million euros, including the acquisition of Vision-Box by Amadeus.

**14****NEW**

Domingos Cruz
CCA LAW FIRM

The managing partner at CCA Law Firm, **Domingos Cruz** also leads corporate/M&A operations, providing legal support to domestic and foreign companies and startups. In 2024, Cruz was the dealmaker lawyer who handled the highest number of transactions in his area of practice in Portugal: until November, he was involved in 19 transactions, totaling €107.8 million, maintaining the top spot on this list, according to TTR Data. Cruz has steered the firm towards the adoption of emerging technologies and expansion into international markets, notably opening an office in Shanghai.

**15****NEW**

Magda Cocco
VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA

Magda Cocco, partner at Vieira de Almeida, leads the Information, Communication and Technology practice, the Digital Frontiers practice, and the firm's aerospace sector. Recognized as one of Portugal's foremost TMT lawyers, she is a key figure in innovative technological projects and the electronic communications industry, with extensive experience spanning Europe and Africa. In 2024, Magda directed multidisciplinary teams on ICT and space sector projects, transactions, and legislative drafting, offering strategic guidance to governments, corporations, and regulatory entities.

THE PROTAGONISTS OF 2024

Indisputed leaders

1. Paula Gomes Freire - Vieira de Almeida (NEW)
2. Martim Krupenski - Morais Leitão (NEW)
3. Inês Sequeira Mendes - Abreu Advogados
4. Bruno Ferreira - PLMJ
5. Nuno Sá Carvalho - Cuatrecasas

Consolidators

6. José Luís Arnaut - CMS Legal
7. Mafalda Barreto - Gómez-Acebo & Pombo
8. Marcos Sousa Monteiro - Linklaters (NEW)
9. Octávio Castelo Paulo - SRS Legal
10. João Miranda de Sousa - Garrigues (NEW)

Rainmakers

11. Diogo Perestrelo - PLMJ (NEW)
12. Mariana Norton dos Reis - Cuatrecasas (NEW)
13. Nuno Azevedo Neves - DLA Piper (NEW)
14. Domingos Cruz - CCA Law Firm (NEW)
15. Magda Cocco - Vieira de Almeida (NEW)

Expansion drivers

16. Diogo Xavier da Cunha - Miranda & Associados
17. Manuel Magalhães - Sérvulo & Associados
18. Nuno Cerejeira Namora - Cerejeira Namora Marinho Falcão
19. Gonçalo Capela Godinho - Pérez-Llorca
20. Ivone Rocha - Telles (NEW)

