

Miguel Pereira Coutinho

SENIOR COUNSEL CRIMINAL AND MISDEMEANOURS

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Portuguese and English

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Miguel is a member of the firm's Criminal, Misdemeanour and Compliance department, and is responsible for the Compliance and Internal Investigations services area.

He has been practising law for 20 years and has predominantly focused on advising institutional clients, providing services to private and public clients who operate in a wide range of sectors, such as banking, finance, energy, technology, sport, textiles, food, wholesale and retail, transport and telecommunications, health and pharmaceuticals, among others, advising major national and international business groups on implementing and strengthening regulatory compliance programmes aimed at preventing criminal risks and corporate defence, drawing up control policies and procedures, training plans and implementing whistleblowing channels.

It has also specialised in conducting numerous internal investigations of a complex and sensitive nature, involving a multitude of sectors and geographies, specifically in connection with situations of alleged corruption and related offences, tax fraud, swindling or money laundering.

In terms of legal representation, he has been involved in some of the most high-profile cases in

recent years, such as the 'Cardinal Case', 'Operation Labyrinth', the 'BPP Case', the case relating to the invasion of the Alcochete academy, the 'Cash-Ball Case', the 'E-Toupeira Case', the 'Emails Case' or the 'BES Case', among others, as well as intervening in numerous major administrative offence cases brought by the Competition Authority, the Bank of Portugal, the CMVM, ASAE, ANAC or ANACOM.

Before joining MFA Legal, he was Coordinator of the Economic Criminal Law, Administrative Offences, Compliance and Internal Investigations practice areas at Cuatrecasas, and was also a member of the Scientific Council of the Cuatrecasas Academy.

He has a Specialisation Course in Economic and European Criminal Law from the Institute of Economic and European Criminal Law and an Intensive Professional Training Course in Forensic Technique and Strategy from the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (Colorado, USA). Between 2018 and 2022, he also worked as a trainer at the Lisbon Regional Council of the Portuguese Bar Association, in the area of Criminal Procedural Practice and, between 2014 and 2017, he was responsible for the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedural Law module in the Interdisciplinary Legal Practice course at the Faculty of Law of Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

He has played a significant public role in the media, writing several opinion articles and taking part in some television and radio news programmes, and is recognised as 'Up and Coming' in the Chambers Europe national ranking and as a 'Leading Associate' in the Legal 500 national ranking, in the 'White-Collar Crime' category. His name was also included in the list of 'TOP 10 Powerhouse Corporate Crime Lawyers Shaping the Legal Landscape in 2023', according to Business Today.

Professional Experience

- Senior Associate in the Economic Criminal Law, Administrative Offences, Compliance and Internal Investigations Department at Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira & Associados, Sociedade de Advogados (2004 - 2024)
- Trainer in Criminal Procedure Practices at the Portuguese Bar Association - Lisbon District Council (2018 - 2022)

Awards and Recommendations

- Recognised as 'Up and Coming' in the Chambers Europe national ranking, in the White Collar

Crime category

- Recognised as a 'Leading Associate' in the Legal 500 national ranking, in the White-Collar Crime category
- *"Miguel Pereira Coutinho is an outstanding lawyer, with a set of skills that enable him to go far beyond litigation work and become a client partner in addressing and managing risks."*
Miguel Pereira Coutinho, Europe | Chambers Profiles
- *"We have worked mainly with Miguel Pereira Coutinho. He is an expert in his practice, with in-depth knowledge of the general legal framework, ensuring that all matters are handled professionally and efficiently."*
- *"Good knowledge and command of subjects. Scrupulous compliance with defined deadlines."*
- *"Miguel Pereira Coutinho stands out for his professionalism and seriousness."*

Academic Qualifications

- Law degree from the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Lisbon (1999 - 2004).
- Specialisation course in Economic and European Criminal Law at the Institute of Economic and European Criminal Law (Instituto de Direito Penal Económico e Europeu).
- Building Trial Skills - 39th National Session (National Institute for Trial Advocacy).

Professional Associations

- Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association.
- Founding member of Fórum Penal - Association of Criminal Lawyers.