

# Rui Costa Pereira

PROFESSIONAL PARTNER CRIMINAL AND  
MISDEMEANOURS

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Portuguese and English

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Rui is a member of the firm's Criminal, Misdemeanour and Compliance department and is one of the most recognised talents in Portuguese sanctions law, with relevant experience in foreign jurisdictions in Portuguese-speaking countries such as Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and East Timor.

Rui's more than 10 years of legal experience have been predominantly focused on criminal litigation, where he has provided services to clients from various sectors of the economy, such as banking, pharmaceuticals, energy and other infrastructures, sports, public organisations, etc., both companies and individuals.

Whether drafting procedural documents, speaking at hearings or questioning in the enquiry and investigation phase, Rui's experience has been particularly important in monitoring the appeal phase of various cases, where he has already achieved highly successful results, both in the Courts of Appeal and in the Supreme Court of Justice and the Constitutional Court, where he has been able to contribute decisively to winning judgments in these instances.

In his area of specialisation, Rui's professional activity is essentially in the area of dispute resolution, having intervened in some of the most publicised cases in recent years ("BPN Case", "Cardinal Case", trial of members of the Timorese government, "Marquês Case", "CMEC/EDP Case", "BES Case", "Secretes Case", "Operação Fizz", "Processo O Negativo", "Processo E-

toupeira", "Caso Saco Azul", "Caso dos e-mails", "Operação Vórtex", "Operação Babel", "Processo Tutti-Frutti", among others), without neglecting all the pro-bono support it has been able to provide in recent years, whether to victims of domestic violence or other crimes against life, physical integrity and sexual self-determination, or to support nationals imprisoned abroad.

Before joining MFA, Rui was a senior associate at Vieira de Almeida e Associados in the administrative offences and criminal law practice for the last four years, having previously been an associate at PLMJ for six years.

As well as completing a Master's Degree in Criminal Law at the Law School of the University of Lisbon, Rui also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Evidence in Criminal Procedure.

He has played an important public role in the media, writing a number of opinion articles and taking part in a number of television and radio news programmes.

## Professional Experience

Rui has represented several clients in the various stages of criminal proceedings and in several jurisdictions:

- Participated, as co-coordinator and guest lawyer, in the definition of classes for the Interdisciplinary Legal Practice course at the Faculty of Law of Universidade Nova, in Lisbon, between 2020 and 2023
- Drafting the pleadings for the appeal to standardise case law that preceded Supreme Court Ruling no. 10/2023 and no. 2/2017, as well as the pleadings that preceded Constitutional Court Rulings no. 482/2014 and 277/2022
- Accompanying the trial of a former member of the Timorese government, during several sessions that took place at the Dili District Court, between 2014 and 2017
- Member of the mixed team of lawyers representing one of the most prominent national sports clubs and its public limited company in various criminal cases
- Advising and representing senior executives of large national and multinational companies in various criminal and administrative offence proceedings
- Counselling and advising other law firms in Portuguese-speaking jurisdictions in the representation of their clients in national and transnational criminal proceedings.

## Publications

- Rui is the author of several opinion articles in the national press and scientific papers, most

- notably the article "The search for computer data - Practical requirements of the principle of proportionality", published in the Portuguese Journal of Criminal Science, 2021, Year 31, no. 3.
- "Assimetrias jurisprudenciais no âmbito da diligência de abertura de correio eletrónico: condenados à incerteza?", in *A Prática do Contencioso - Reflexões e Tendências de Direito Substantivo e Processual*, Almedina, 2024, co-authored with Madalena Dias Parca.

## Awards and Recommendations

- Leading Associate in White-Collar Crime | **Legal 500**
- Associate to watch in White-Collar Crime | **Chambers and Partners**
- Recognised as a Rising Star by Expert Guides, **Lexology**, in White-Collar Crime
- Recognised as a Rising Star in the Rising Star Wards by **Legal Media Group**, in White-Collar Crime and Jurisdictional Award for Portugal
- Honoured in **Iberian Lawyer 's 40 under Forty Awards** in the White-Collar Crime category
- White Collar Crime Team of the Year Award at Iberian Lawyer's Forty under 40 Awards 2025

## Academic Qualifications

- Law degree from the University of Lisbon Law School (2005-2009).
- Master's degree in Criminal Law from the University of Lisbon Law School (2009-2013).
- Postgraduate course in Digital Evidence in Criminal Procedure at the University of Lisbon Law School (2019-2021).

## Professional Associations

- Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association.
- Member of the Criminal Forum - Association of Criminal Lawyers.
- Member of the Legal Experts Advisory Panel of Fair Trials International.