



Sofia Ribeiro Mendes LL.M.

Partner

sofia.mendes@pt.dlapiper.com

Lisbon

T: +351 213 583 620

F: +351 213 159 434

M: +351 911 517 887

Sofia Ribeiro Mendes focuses on arbitration and cross-border litigation, advising and representing Portuguese and foreign clients in lawsuits related to corporate, commercial, criminal and restructuring. She regularly assists with energy and real estate disputes, as well as disputes arising in regard to EU legislation.

Represents clients from the most varied sectors of activity, including financial services, retail and distribution, life sciences, construction, technology and insurance.

Sofia also acts as Arbitrator in domestic and international arbitrations and she is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Arbitration Association.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- Portuguese
- English
- French
- Spanish

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Restructuring

- Financial Services
- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Industrials
- Technology
- Real Estate

Portuguese English
French Spanish

- Advising and representing the owner against the contractor in arbitral proceedings related to a construction dispute.
- Providing Legal Opinions to Portuguese and foreign companies in arbitration related matters in ongoing arbitration proceedings and annulment proceedings.
- Acting as chairman in arbitration proceedings related to a construction dispute.
- Representing an international client in several private enforcement proceedings initiated by consumers asking for compensation for damages arising from the restrictive competition practices.
- Advising and representing Clients to challenge fines sanctioned by the Competition Authority for restrictive competition practices.
- Advising a company in the life science sector regarding compliance with national anti-kickback regulations.

CREDENTIALS

Prior Experience

- Partner of her own boutique law firm, 2010-2019
- Associate Lawyer of the Litigation and Arbitration Department of a very prestigious and full-service Portuguese firm, 2006-2010
- Trainee and Associate Lawyer of the Litigation and Arbitration Department of a very prestigious and full-service Portuguese firm, 1999-2004

Recognitions

- Distinguished as Up and Coming Partner for Dispute Resolution, *Chambers*, 2020
- Distinguished by *Best Lawyers 2020* in Arbitration and Mediation
- Distinguished by *Leaders League 2021* in Arbitration
- Recommended by *Legal 500* in Dispute Resolution

Education

- Universidade Nova de Lisboa, PHD Candidate in Faculdade de Direito. Conclusion of the first part of the PHD. Investigation and Thesis in Arbitration Law, since 2015
- University of London, King's College. Master of Laws (LL.M. Master of Laws in Arbitration Commercial and Corporate Law), 2004-2005
- Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Centro de Estudos de Direito Comercial e Empresarial. Post-Graduate Course in Commercial and Business Law, 2002-2003
- Universidade de Lisboa, Faculdade de Direito, Law Degree, 1994-1999

Memberships

- Member of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Arbitration Association, since 2019
- Secretary to the General Assembly of the Arbitration Centre of Concórdia-Centro de Conciliação e Mediação de Conflitos, since 2018
- Executive Coordinator of the Post-Graduate Programme in Arbitration of Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, since 2018
- Member of ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, 2015-present
- Chair of the Portuguese Arbitration Association under40, 2013-2016
- Co-Chair of Laboratório de Resolução Alternativa de Litígios da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade Nova de Lisboa, since 2010 to present
- Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association

Additional qualifications / positions

- Lecturer in several Arbitration related courses in prestigious Law universities in Lisbon.

INSIGHTS

Publications

- Chapter regarding "Evidence" in International Arbitration in Portugal, Kluwer, joint work, 2020
- A Prova Ilícita na Arbitragem, in Estudos Comemorativos dos 30 Anos do Centro de Arbitragem Comercial da Câmara de Comércio

e Indústria Portuguesa, Almedina, 2019

- Nomeação de árbitros pelas partes - o “calcanhar de Aquiles” da Arbitragem?, in co-authorship, in Estudos em Homenagem a Rui Pena, inédito ainda 2019
- Recentes Desenvolvimentos na Interpretação e Aplicação Jurisprudencial do Incidente de Recusa de Árbitro, in co-authorship, in Estudos em Homenagem a Agostinho Pereira de Miranda, 2019
- As fontes de Direito e a Arbitragem, in co-authorship, in Estudos em Homenagem a Germano Marques da Silva, inédito ainda 2019
- “Cinco Anos de Vigência da LAV: Favor Arbitrandum na Intepretação e aplicação jurisprudencial?” in XI Congresso do Centro de Arbitragem Comercial – Intervenções, Almedina, 2018
- “Crónica de jurisprudência portuguesa”, em co-autoria, in Revista Internacional de Arbitragem e Conciliação - Ano I ao XI, desde 2008 a 2018

Events

- Speaker in VI Open de Arbitraje de Madrid, 2020
- Speaker in ITA Webinar – Brazil/Europe, 2020
- Speaker in ICC YAF “Preparação para o Willem C Vis Moot: os principais tópicos comentados por experts (“A prova ilícita em arbitragem”), Curitiba, Brazil, 2019
- Speaker in III Congresso Internacional CBMA de Arbitragem, Rio de Janeiro, 2019
- Speaker in VIII Conferência Internacional de Arbitragem de Luanda, Angola, 2019
- German-Portuguese International Arbitration Symposium Cross-Perspectives: Bringing economies together & international arbitration as the best way to solve crossborder disputes, 2018