

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Lisbon, October 15th, 2007

### **Abreu Advogados within the Top 5 Law Firms in the largest move in the Portuguese legal market in recent years**

Effective as of January 1, 2008, Abreu Advogados will incorporate the practices of PACSA, LUSOJURIST and CHASTRE & ASSOCIADOS (the Portuguese subsidiary of the former MULLERAT ABOGADOS), thus ranking amongst the top 5 Portuguese Law Firms in what is considered to be one of the largest move in the Portuguese legal market in recent years.

In 15 years, Abreu Advogados has consolidated its position as a major independent and innovative Law Firm, undertaking from its onset a total commitment to the quality of the services provided to its Clients and to a professional management and organization.

As a result of this move, Abreu Advogados increases its team to 120 lawyers, including 25 partners, in a total of 170 professionals, with offices in Lisbon, Porto and Madeira, whilst boosting its structure, in terms of technical, organizational and human quality.

Abreu Advogados will strengthen its main practice areas, including Corporate Law, M&A; Financial Law and Capital Markets; Tax Law, Public, Environmental and Energy Law; Employment Law; Real Estate Law; Sports Law; Insolvency and Restructuring; Private Equity; Antitrust and Competition; Shipping Law; IP and IT Law; Litigation and Arbitration.

#### **The merged firms**

**PACSA:** Founded in 1996, PACSA has a team of 18 lawyers, its main practice areas are Corporate and Commercial Law, M&A; Financial Law and Capital Markets, Litigation, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Tax Law and Employment Law.

**LUSOJURIST:** Lusojurist has a team of 18 lawyers and has been in the market since 1992. Its main practice areas are M&A; Banking Law, Corporate and Commercial Law, Employment Law, Real Estate Law, Litigation, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution.

**CHASTRE & ASSOCIADOS:** Leonor Chastre's team, Portuguese partner with the former Mullerat Abogados, will strengthen Abreu Advogados' IP and IT Law Practice Area. This merger will make Abreu Advogados the only Portuguese law firm with an integrated view (absolutely innovative approach to) of Intellectual Property.

## **ABREU ADVOGADOS**

Abreu Advogados, incorporated in 1993, is currently among the largest law firms in Portugal, with offices in Lisbon, Porto and Madeira, specializing in several areas of the Law. Well renowned, both domestically and internationally, the excellence of its services and the firm's continuous novelty, contribute to make Abreu Advogados a reference in the legal market.

Abreu Advogados was distinguished in the Portuguese legal market with the Client Choice award for 2006. This award is granted on a yearly basis by the International Law Office (ILO) exclusively to one Law Firm in each Country and, so far, is the only award distinguishing law firms based on the quality of the services provided to its clients and customer care.

Likewise, in 2007, Abreu Advogados was considered to be the best Law Firm to work with in Portugal, as a result of a detailed survey of the Portuguese Working Environment, conducted by Heidrick & Struggles, and was ranked 4th out of the Portuguese Companies surveyed.

In September 2001, Abreu Advogados was the first Portuguese Law Firm to be certified under the ISO 9001 Norm Quality Standard, in line with the firm's belief that the ISO 9001 Norm reflects the firm's mission: to continuously improve the quality of the services provided, whilst ensuring maximum added value for Clients.

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**Abreu Advogados**