

PLMJ 

SOCIEDADE DE ADVOGADOS, RL

AM. PEREIRA, SÁRAGGA LEAL, OLIVEIRA MARTINS, JÚDICE  
E ASSOCIADOS

# «*BARRISTER-STYLE*» *SERVICE*

One partnership,  
countless advantages.



# Can companies save money on court proceedings without compromising quality?

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Going to court is becoming more and more complex and requires ever greater specialisation. The planned reform of the Civil Procedure Code will place greater demands on lawyers and the risks for companies will increase.

Faced with the difficult economic and financial situation of Portugal, companies want to control and reduce the costs of going to court. But they don't want to reduce the quality of legal support and to risk losing their cases. They're afraid that they get what they paid for.

As a rule, court cases involve a preparation phase in which investigation into the relevant facts demand hours of work which generally produce little added value. On the contrary, the trial phase normally requires fewer hours of work but ask for greater experience and specialisation. And, in both phases, the definition of the most appropriate strategy and the coordination of the work are crucial to success.

The *“barrister-style” service* has been launched by PLMJ to resolve this problem.

*“Both companies benefit from this partnership in terms of increasing their odds to win”*

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*Bill Tolpegin*

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# Advantages for the client

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The “*barrister-style*” service makes it possible for PLMJ’s qualified and experienced lawyers to deal with all aspects of the case requiring a specialist, while working hand in hand with in-house legal teams, sole practitioners and smaller law firms that act regularly for SMEs. The objective is to greatly improve the cost/benefit ratio for the client by limiting PLMJ’s involvement to more complex and higher added value tasks when accumulated experience is more important.

This service has similarities with the Anglo-Saxon model in which the profession is divided between solicitors, who provide more general legal services, and barristers, who focus on case strategy and the trial itself. PLMJ provides its services as if it were in the role of a barrister instructed by a solicitor.

## “*Barrister-style*” service

One partnership,  
countless advantages.



# How does the “barrister-style” service work?

PLMJ’s primary role is to oversee case strategy, define the actions to be taken and ensure that submissions to court are accurate and coherent.

Drafting the court or arbitration submissions, gathering evidence, documentary due diligence, and selecting witnesses and getting information from them, will all be done by the client’s usual lawyer or in house counsel, who will also draft the court submissions but, in this case, with the benefit of PLMJ’s supervision/revision.

Acting like a “barrister”, PLMJ will take on the responsibility for the trial phase and any appeals as part of a team with the client’s in-house or usual lawyer.

*The “barrister-style” service includes:*

1

## CASE ANALYSIS

Meeting of PLMJ with the client and their in-house/usual lawyer to learn about the case, analyse its strengths and weakness and define strategy.

2

## PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

After the first analysis phase, PLMJ will present a written fee proposal in compliance with the rules of the Portuguese Bar Association.

3

## PREPARATION OF COURT PAPERS AND STRATEGIC SUPERVISION OF THE CASE

Once the fee proposal is approved, PLMJ will begin to work with the client’s in-house/usual lawyer to help in the work of gathering information and preparing the court submission by contributing to their revision and strategically co-directing the work.

4

## PLMJ’S INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRIAL AND APPEALS

After this first phase, PLMJ will coordinate the trial phase and any appeals, working as a team with the client’s in-house/usual lawyer who was more involved in the preparation of the case and the drafting of submissions.

# Why instruct PLMJ?

Coordinated by founding partner José Miguel Júdice, the *“barrister-style” service* will make it possible to mobilise a team of experienced and qualified PLMJ lawyers.

PLMJ has around 100 lawyers working exclusively or predominantly on commercial, civil, criminal, labour, tax and administrative litigation and in areas such as arbitration (including public and tax law), competition, environment and intellectual property. This is why it has been possible to build up more than 40 years experience in litigation cases in the widest range of legal areas.

For this reason PLMJ is perfectly placed to work on cases in partnership with the client’s in-house legal teams or their regular lawyers and this approach reduces costs and optimises the conditions for companies to achieve success.

## PLMJ AWARDS AND HONORS LITIGATION



# A team with experience and multidisciplinary specialisation



## COORDINATION

**José Miguel Júdice** (PLMJ Founding Partner)

The “*barrister-style*” *service* is provided by a multidisciplinary team that includes partners in a wide range of areas and, depending on the requirements of the case, bringing in colleagues who are corporate, civil law, employment, crime, tax, public law, competition or intellectual property specialists.

PLMJ has offices in Lisbon, Oporto and Faro, and has partners in other areas of Portugal such as Guimarães, Viseu, Coimbra and the Azores and in countries such as Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, China, Brazil and South Africa. These lawyers are able to provide this service in all these locations.

For more information on PLMJ and its lawyers, visit [www.plmj.com](http://www.plmj.com).

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# PLMJ

## Trusted Partner

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A leader in the legal profession in Portugal and internationally, PMLJ is recommended by the principal international directories as a top-tier firm. PMLJ stands out for its dedication to its clients, dynamism, capacity for innovation and the quality of its services. It is a full service firm with a high level of specialisation that is focused on adding value to its clients' activities.

**High ethical standard**

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**Premium legal services**

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**Know-how and specialisation**

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**Pioneering and innovative**

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**24/7 Access**

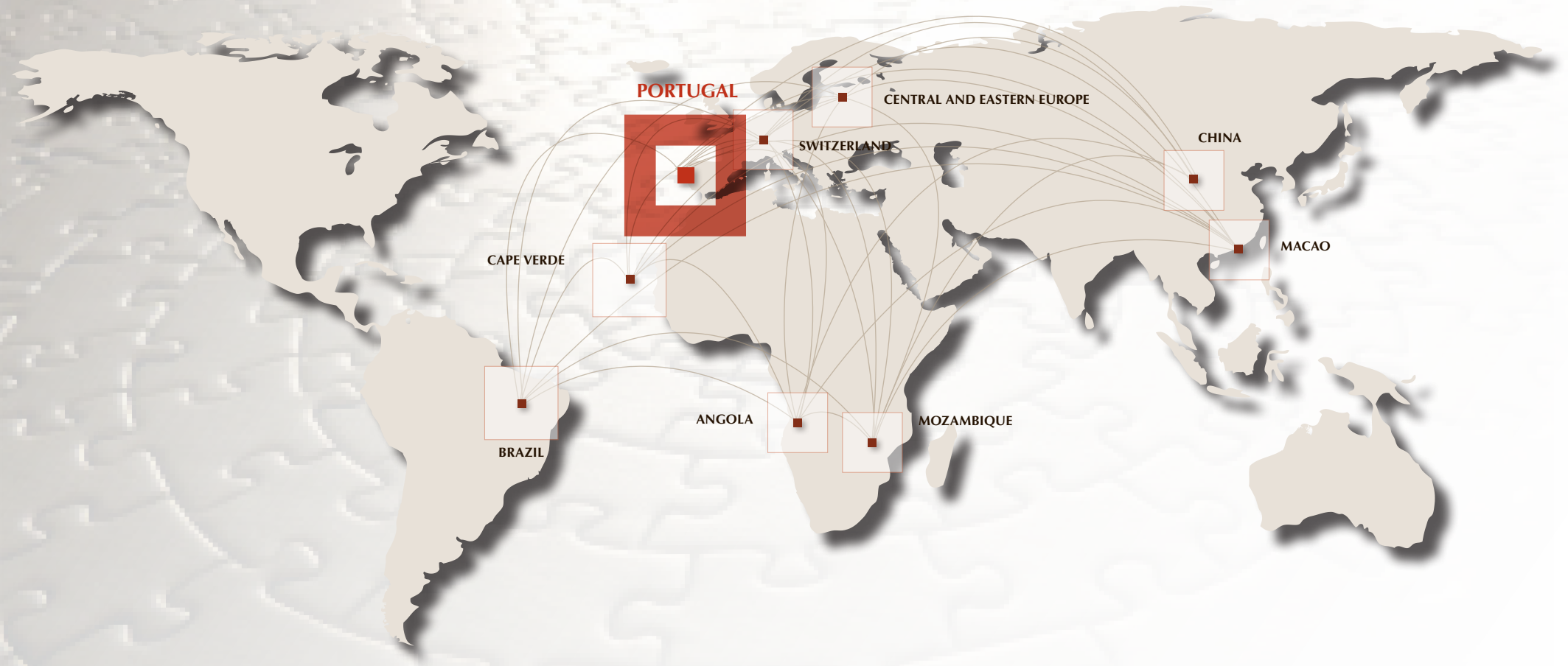
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**Nationwide coverage**

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**International Legal Network**

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## THE WORLD OF PLMJ IN A SINGLE PORTAL

PLMJ has a comprehensive and up-to-date site where you can find in-depth information about the firm. Visit [www.plmj.com](http://www.plmj.com) and register to get access to details of seminars, conferences, business breakfast, exhibitions and a wealth of other interesting news and events.

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