

# Chambers

Global 

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2022

The leading lawyers  
and law firms globally

Equatorial Guinea



**How lawyers are ranked**

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

**Contents:**

- General Business Law p.1097
- General Business Law Foreign Experts (Based Abroad) p.1098
- Leading Individuals p.1098

**General Business Law**

<b>General Business Law</b>
<b>Leading Firms</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Centurion Law Group – Equatorial Guinea
Solege, Sociedad Limitada
<b>Band 2</b>
Deloitte
Gabinete & Agencia T&E
Gabinete Jurídico Antonio Pascual Oko & Asociados
PricewaterhouseCoopers
<b>Leading Individuals</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Tomo Sergio Abeso <i>Gabinete &amp; Agencia T&amp;E</i>
<b>Band 2</b>
Mbomio Nvó Ponciano <i>Gabinete Ponciano Mbomio (ORL) ◇</i>
Oko Eboho Antonio-Pascual <i>Gabinete Jurídico Antonio</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

**Band 1**

**Centurion Law Group – Equatorial Guinea**

**What the team is known for** Centurion is one of the leading law firms in Equatorial Guinea, with particularly strong expertise in the oil and gas sector. It offers experience across a range of commercial matters including contracts, project development and taxation. It is highly active in the mines and hydrocarbons sectors, frequently working on international transactions. The team benefits from a network of offices across Africa, including South Africa, Ghana and Cameroon.

**Notable practitioners**

Santiago Olo Lima is a key contact in Equatorial Guinea.

**Solege, Sociedad Limitada**

**What the team is known for** Solege, Sociedad Limitada possesses wide-ranging commercial experience. The local team works in association with Portuguese firm Miranda & Asociados, making it part of a wide network throughout Africa. It represents clients in corporate, labour and civil litigation issues, and has particularly solid experience in the oil and gas sector.

**Notable practitioners**

A key contact is João Amaral.

**Band 2**

**Deloitte**

**What the team is known for** Deloitte is distinguished for its experienced tax advisory department in Equatorial Guinea. In addition to tax law, the firm also advises clients on other areas such as audits, accounting and banking.

**Notable practitioners**

A key contact is Yves Parfait Nguema.

**Gabinete & Agencia T&E**

**What the team is known for** Gabinete & Agencia T&E is a renowned law firm advising on a range of matters in Equatorial Guinea. It is active in international arbitration, with notable knowledge of OHADA law. Its experience includes high-profile transactions and projects within the country; its wide-ranging activity covers various sectors such as banking, insurance, construction, aviation and telecoms. The group also offers expertise in microfinance and white-collar crime.

**Notable practitioners**

**Sergio Abeso Tomo** is the firm’s managing partner. He enjoys a strong reputation in the market, with considerable expertise in arbitrations involving OHADA law. He regularly represents clients in the banking and finance and energy sectors. He is highlighted for his experience as the former president of the Supreme Court of Equatorial Guinea.

**Gabinete Jurídico Antonio Pascual Oko & Asociados**

**What the team is known for** Gabinete Jurídico Antonio Pascual Oko & Asociados is a longstanding law firm in Malabo that is well known for its strong experience in litigation and the regulatory sector, with some notable experience in labour law. It advises on different areas such as corporate, construction, oil and gas, and healthcare.

**Notable practitioners**

**Antonio-Pascual Oko Eboho** is the founder and managing partner of the firm, with broad experience across sectors. He actively advises on regulatory and labour law.

**PricewaterhouseCoopers**

**What the team is known for** PwC is a global tax advisory firm recognised in the local market for its experienced team. It is trusted for its strong support in tax regulatory and local registration issues, in addition to its acclaimed knowledge of the oil and gas sector.

**Notable practitioners**

A key contact is Sinforiano Ngomi Elomba.

**Other Ranked Lawyers**

**Ponciano Mbomio Nvó** is a specialised lawyer in litigation, with strong experience in civil and labour law. He is distinguished for his high-profile activity in the sector and for his further expertise in human rights.

## General Business Law Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

<b>Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)</b>
<b>General Business Law</b>
<b>Equatorial Guinean expertise based in countries listed below</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Portugal <a href="#">Miranda &amp; Associados</a>
Portugal <a href="#">VdA</a>
<b>Band 2</b>
Spain <a href="#">Dentons</a>
Spain <a href="#">Lechêne, Iñiguez &amp; Partners</a>

<b>Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)</b>
<b>General Business Law</b>
<b>Equatorial Guinean expertise based in countries listed below</b>
<b>Band 1</b>
Portugal <a href="#">Távora Catarina</a> <a href="#">Miranda &amp; Associados</a>
Spain <a href="#">Lasa Javier</a> <a href="#">Dentons</a>
Spain <a href="#">Lechêne Sébastien</a> <a href="#">Lechêne, Iñiguez &amp; Partners</a>
<b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>
Spain <a href="#">Iñiguez Javier</a> <a href="#">Lechêne, Iñiguez &amp; Partners</a>
<b>Associates to watch</b>
Portugal <a href="#">Araújo Maria</a> <a href="#">VdA</a> *
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>

### Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)

#### Band 1

##### Miranda & Associados

**What the team is known for** Miranda & Associados is a Lisbon-based law firm with a strong focus on Africa generally and leading expertise in M&A and the oil and gas sector in Equatorial Guinea. It also advises clients on customs, tax and corporate law, with growing activity in labour litigation. It has a longstanding collaboration with local firm Solege, Sociedad Limitada.

#### Band 2

##### Dentons

**What the team is known for** Dentons is an international law firm that fields an experienced team based in Madrid active on Equatorial Guinean matters. It advises clients on both private and public law, in many areas such as corporate, litigation and arbitration, employment, real estate, finance and regulatory matters. It demonstrates strong expertise in the energy and oil and gas sectors, as well as in

### Notable practitioners

**Catarina Távora** is the Lisbon-based partner in charge of the group. She uses her expertise in the oil and gas sector to advise international companies active in Equatorial Guinea. In addition to oil and gas work, she has notable activity in asset management, tax advisory and employment law.

### VdA

**What the team is known for** VdA is a Lisbon-headquartered law firm that is recognised as a leading expert in the energy and oil and gas sectors. Its team also has capabilities in labour law, litigation and arbitration, including in regional matters, and frequently advises global clients on transactional due diligence. It also actively advises on local regulatory frameworks, including matters concerning foreign exchange rules and banking.

### Notable practitioners

**Maria Araújo** (see p.1098) is a managing associate of the firm based in Lisbon. She is recognised for her specialised practice within the oil and gas sector, and her wider M&A practice. Her Equatorial Guinea experience includes assisting oil services companies with several cross-border operations. She also advises on private investment, corporate and real estate law.

infrastructure, mining and metals, and healthcare. The team actively represents multinational natural resources companies in high-profile cases and offers a strong understanding of the local market.

### Notable practitioners

Madrid-based **Javier Lasa** is a well-known lawyer in energy litigation and a recognised expert in the oil and gas sector. He is also distinguished for his knowledge of construction and project contracts. His solid experience includes a strong litigation practice in the energy and renewables sector. He also assists multinational clients with regulatory proceedings.

### Lechêne, Iñiguez & Partners

**What the team is known for** Lechêne, Iñiguez & Partners is a young law firm with significant experience in tax and labour litigation. Its Madrid-based team of lawyers offers expertise in tax audits and is significantly active in the oil and gas sector in Equatorial Guinea.

**Strengths** Commentators note that “the team have a very high level of commercial awareness” and are “very timely in responding to requests and very practical in the advice that they give.”

**Sébastien Lechêne** is recognised for being a very knowledgeable Madrid-based expert, advising on the tax regime and legal and audit issues in relation to Equatorial Guinea. He acts on labour litigation and provides legal analysis in the oil and gas sector. “Sébastien Lechêne is very knowledgeable about Equatorial Guinean laws and provides practical and timely advice.” **Javier Iñiguez** joins the rankings this year. He is particularly noted for his work on tax mandates. Iñiguez is also active in oil and gas and corporate matters. “Javier Iñiguez is very knowledgeable about Equatorial Guinea laws and the interpretation and application of those rules by different government officials.”

## Leaders’ Profiles in Equatorial Guinea

### ARAÚJO, Maria

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*Featured in General Business Law (Equatorial Guinea)*

**Practice Areas:** Oil & Gas and M&A

**Career:** Maria Araújo joined VdA in 2015. She is a Managing Associate at the Oil & Gas area of practice, with strong ties to the M&A team, with which she often collaborates. Amid her many capabilities and experience—including a background in litigation—, Maria’s more than 12-year experience dealing with Equatorial Guinea-related matters and OHADA, CEMAC and UEMOA jurisdictions stands out. Maria has been advising clients on various projects and transactions throughout the oil & gas value chain, including inter alia drafting and negotiating contracts requiring a wide-ranging multidisciplinary experience.

Maria has likewise been involved in several cross-border operations, mainly relating to Portugal and Africa (and particularly to Equatorial Guinea, Angola and Guinea-Bissau), involving clients carrying out activities in such diverse sectors as the oil & gas, energy, telecommunication, insurance, agriculture, construction, maritime and tourism sectors, among others.

**Professional Memberships:** Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association.

**Publications:** Maria is a frequent contributor of the World Bank country guides and has also been collaborating with the Getting the Deal Through and other similar publications.