

Winners

María Pilar García Guijarro, Watson, Farley & Williams

Head of the Madrid office of at Watson, Farley & Williams at the age of 38, García Guijarro covers all aspects of corporate transactions, with particular expertise in the energy sector. Educated at Lluiss University and Cambridge University, before joining Watson, Farley & Williams, García Guijarro had a varied career working at B. Cremades y Asociados, Squire Sanders & Dempsey and Lovells, and also as General Counsel of General Electric Capital Bank. As well as being a member of the Madrid Bar Association since 1996, she is a member of the Firm's Energy Executive Committee. She is also a lecturer at the University Antonio de Nebrija, Zaragoza University and the Instituto de Empresa. García Guijarro is currently working on an initiative to give *pro bono* legal advice to a foundation for the development of microcredits to marginal entrepreneurs. Her office is also a member of FIDE and promotes their activities.

Mariana Norton, Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira

As the first female M&A Partner of Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira in Madrid, and one of the first Portuguese Partners of a leading Spanish law firm, Norton is an expert in cross-border transactions in their Madrid office. Educated at Lisbon University and Columbia University, Norton worked at Cuatrecasas, Gonçalves Pereira in Lisbon for six years before moving to Madrid. A dual-qualified Portuguese and Spanish lawyer, she provides a crucial linking role between the Firm's offices in those countries, co-ordinating joint teams to provide efficient integrated advice, and supervising various legal aspects in international transactions. In addition to being a lecturer at the Madrid Autónoma University and the Law Faculty of the CEU San Pablo University, she has been an active member of her firm's Social Action Committee *pro bono* programme. She has also advised Fundación Prodis on its negotiation for an ongoing training course for youngsters with intellectual disabilities.

Miguel Lamo de Espinosa, Gómez-Acebo & Pombo

Lamo de Espinosa, one of Gómez-Acebo & Pombo's youngest Partners, took over the London office in 2010. With a specific focus on distressed investment, he advises on matters structured under Spanish law for worldwide corporates, in particular representing hedge funds on Spanish investments. Educated at Pontificia de Comillas University, Lamo de Espinosa joined Gómez-Acebo & Pombo after graduating and has spent his entire career there, building a practice advising many of the largest UK, US and Spanish distressed and special situation funds. He also took an LLM in Securities and Financial Regulation at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, and passed the New York Bar Exam. In addition to being a member of Fundación Vicente Ferrer and Red Cross International, Lamo de Espinosa Abarca is one of the founding organisers of 'Rock & Law', which showcases the talents of the legal community. To date, it has raised over €150,000 for charity in Colombia. He also teaches a summer course in Paraguay, aimed at teachers, lawyers and judges.



Paulo Bandeira, SRS Advogados

Bandeira is a corporate lawyer at SRS Advogados, specialising in securities, corporate transactions and corporate governance. Educated at Lisbon University, he joined SRS Advogados in 1997 as a trainee, before being

seconded to the Corporate Department of the London office of Simmons & Simmons in 2000. There he worked on complex cross-border transactions – an experience he viewed as a necessary rite of passage. "It gave me the opportunity to gain an intensive experience of how an international law firm works,"

Since then, at SRS Advogados, Bandeira has been responsible for managing large, multidisciplinary teams from several departments (corporate, finance, employment, litigation, etc). He has also been involved in some of the biggest corporate and M&A transactions involving Portuguese companies, in notably different sectors such as telecoms and soft drinks.

In addition, Bandeira is actively involved in aspects of the management of the firm. "I have participated in marketing plans, branding and client development, but am also the Department Coordinator for the Corporate Governance Practice, looking after client work and the marketing efforts involved," he explains. "I also lead the 'Start Up' expertise practice, in response to this particular market becoming increasingly active and the visibility Lisbon is achieving as a start-up friendly city."

For Bandeira, one of his main career achievements has been his involvement in establishing 'best practice'. "With lawyers from different offices and other experts, I was invited by the Portuguese Corporate Governance Institute to write part of the IPCG Corporate Governance Code, published this year."

Bandeira is also a member of the Governance Lab forum, a corporate governance expert panel made up of lawyers and law professors.

In addition to being a frequent speaker at corporate governance seminars, he has contributed to several domestic and international articles.

Aside from his *pro bono* work for the Cadin institution, Bandeira and other colleagues actively support the Bolsa de Valores Sociais (BVS) project. "It's a social project, where BVS analyses, validates and then follow up with social programmes and institutions they feel should be worthy of community investment," he says. "It effectively enables investors in the stock exchange to do some charity work in highly scrutinised entities."

Bandeira is also actively involved with schools and storytelling as he is a published author of children's books.