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NEW VISITORS

## Sérvulo responds to public law demand

Nov/Dec 2008

Lisbon-based Sérvulo & Associados has announced the addition of three new lawyers to the firm's Public Law Department, as it seeks to further reinforce the practice in line with the increasing high profile of administrative law issues in Portugal.

Vasco Moura Ramos, previously a senior associate with Gonçalves Pereira Castelo Branco (GPCB) and prior to that Osório de Castro Lobo Xavier & Associados, Ana Luisa Guimarães, also previously a senior associate at GPCB, and Sofia Viana Fernandes from Simmons & Simmons Rebelo de Sousa all join the firm as associates.

The additions bring the number of lawyers in the Department to 26, and total lawyers at the firm to over 60.

The news reflects the increasing emphasis of Portuguese law firms on reinforcing their public and administrative law expertise as Portugal embarks on a series of high profile public projects.

Among those on the horizon include the construction of a new airport at Albalade, south of Lisbon, high speed rail links between Lisbon and Porto, and which is planned to ultimately connect to the border with Spain, and its AVE network. The past few months have already seen the financial close of the €423m Marão toll tunnel linking Amarante and Vila Real in the north of the country, and the approval of a series of new hydroelectric dams as part of Iberdrola's proposed €1 billion investment in the country's energy infrastructure.