

João Saúde

Equity Partner

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PROFILE

At **SÉRVULO** since 2008, João Saúde is a Partner in the Litigation and Arbitration department, and he is the contact person for China and for Cathay Associates. He holds a graduate qualification in Conflict Mediation from the Lusófona University (2002), and studied European and International Law at the Université Catholique de Louvain, between 1995 and 1996. He was appointed to the panel of Arbitrators of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA) and was also recommended Arbitrator by the South China International Arbitration Center (SCIAHK) in 2025. He has been an Arbitrator at the Mediation and Arbitration Centre of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce in Brazil since 2013. He was an associate at «Ferreira Pinto & Associados» from 2003 to 2007, at «J.A. Pinto Ribeiro & Associados», from 1999 to 2003, and also at «Carlos Cruz & Associados», from 1998 to 1999, having also completed his traineeship there. He joined the Bar Association in 1998.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

He has experience in acting before national and international courts as a litigation and arbitration lawyer, especially in commercial conflicts and in insolvency cases.

He has relevant experience in carrying out projects in the African market, namely in Cape Verde.



EXPERTISE

- Arbitration
- Automotive
- Banking
- Commerce, Manufacturing and Distribution
- Energy
- Foreign Investment
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals
- Industry
- Information Technology and Outsourcing
- Insurance
- Legal Finance
- Liability in Healthcare
- Litigation
- Media and Telecommunications
- Real Estate and Tourism
- Restructuring and Insolvency
- Sports
- Sports Law
- Transport
- Water and Natural Resources

MOST RECENT RECOGNITIONS

Best Lawyers 2026

Arbitration and Mediation - TIER Recommended

Best Lawyers 2025

Arbitration and Mediation - TIER Recommended

Insolvency and Reorganization Law - TIER Recommended

Litigation - TIER Recommended



Sports Law - TIER Recommended

Best Lawyers 2024

Litigation - TIER Recommended

Arbitration and Mediation - TIER Recommended

Insolvency and Reorganization Law - TIER Recommended

Sports Law - TIER Recommended

Best Lawyers 2023

Insolvency and Reorganization Law - TIER Recommended

Litigation - TIER Recommended

Arbitration and Mediation - TIER Recommended

Chambers Global 2025

Dispute Resolution - TIER 2

João Saúde has experience representing clients from the banking sector in insolvency-related disputes. He also handles commercial litigation, with further prowess in handling commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

Chambers Global 2024

Dispute Resolution: The Elite - TIER 3

João Saúde is excellent and has great technical knowledge.

Chambers Global 2023

Dispute Resolution - TIER 3

João Saúde has experience representing clients from the banking sector in insolvency-related disputes. He also handles commercial litigations, with further prowess in handling commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

Leaders League 2026

Restructuring & Insolvency - TIER Excellent

Leaders League 2025

Restructuring & Insolvency - TIER Excellent

Dispute Resolution - Civil & Commercial Litigation - TIER Excellent

Dispute Resolution - International Arbitration - TIER Excellent



Leaders League 2024

Restructuring & Insolvency - TIER Excellent

Dispute Resolution - Civil & Commercial Litigation - TIER Excellent

Dispute Resolution - International Arbitration - TIER Excellent

Leaders League 2023

Dispute Resolution - International Arbitration - TIER Excellent

Dispute Resolution - Civil & Commercial Litigation - TIER Excellent

Restructuring & Insolvency - TIER Excellent

Chambers Europe 2025

Dispute Resolution - TIER 2

João Saúde has experience representing clients from the banking sector in insolvency-related disputes. He also handles commercial litigation, with further prowess in handling commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

Chambers Europe 2024

Dispute Resolution - TIER 3

He is an exceedingly thoughtful and deliberate person.

Chambers Europe 2023

Dispute Resolution - TIER 3

João Saúde is very experienced and successful in the cases. He has very good attention to details.

Legal 500 2025

Dispute Resolution - TIER Leading Partner

João Saúde stands out for his cross-border expertise.

Insolvency & Restructuring - TIER Recommended

João Saúde brings notable experience in litigation and arbitration matters.

Legal 500 2024

Dispute Resolution - TIER Leading Individual

João Saúde: availability, ease of communication, ability to question and recognise the need for improvements in the work presented.

Insolvency & Restructuring - TIER Recommended

João Saúde specialises in litigation and arbitration.



Legal 500 2023

Dispute Resolution - TIER Leading Individual

António Teles manages the department alongside sports litigation and restructuring and insolvency specialist João Saúde.

Insolvency & Restructuring - TIER Recommended

António Teles and João Saúde are specialised in litigation and arbitration and are especially active in liquidation proceedings involving financial institutions.

BOOKS AND ACADEMIC ARTICLES

2025

Sports Law 2025: Portugal

2025 | in Chambers Global Practice Guide

2024

Chambers Sports Law 2024 Guide: Portugal

2024 | in Chambers Sports Law 2024 Guide

2023

The Sports Law Review: Portugal

2023 | in The Law Reviews

2022

The Sports Law Review: Portugal

12 Oct 2022 | in The Law Reviews