

Sara Santos Dias

Senior Associate Banking & Finance

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Sara Santos Dias joined VdA in 2021. She is a Senior Associate in the Banking & Finance practice and has been actively involved in various types of transactions, including the issuance and placement of debt instruments and other securities, classic and structured financing, project finance, and securitisation operations.

In addition to advising clients on banking and capital markets regulatory issues, Sara is a member of the Banking & Finance practice's derivatives team and has extensive experience in drafting and negotiating derivatives contracts, particularly ISDA agreements. During the last two years, she was seconded to two financial institutions in Portugal, where she was responsible for the provision of legal advice on derivatives.



Academic background

Law degree, Católica University Faculty of Law (Lisbon Campus).

LLM in International Financial Law, King's College London (Dissertation: "Banco Espírito Santo: a case study on the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive or How to get away with bank abduction").

Advanced Postgraduate Course in Banking Law, University of Lisbon Faculty of Law ("Sci-Fi(nance): a brief study on the challenges of robo-advice in Portugal").

PowerMBA, The Power Business School in Madrid.

Teaching chairs

Guest speaker at the Banking Regulation and Supervision Course organised by the Public Law Research Centre of the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon.

Guest speaker at the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon.

Other professional background

Before joining VdA, Sara worked as an associate in the Banking & Finance department of the law firm Cardigos & Associados, with a particular focus on derivatives negotiations, and previously worked as a Foreign Attorney in New York (on secondment) in the Capital Markets department of the law firm Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler.

Published works

- Co-author of “Portugal: Securitisation” for Legal500 Comparative Guides.
- Co-author of “Derivatives Laws and Regulations Portugal” for International Comparative Legal Guide.

Member of

Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association.

Languages

English.