

BRAZIL

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LEGAL PROFESSION IN BRAZIL

Academic Formation of the Brazilian lawyer:

- Legal education starts immediately after high school.
- Law Schools of public and private universities offer admission exams and students are selected according to their performance.
- 5 years are required to graduate from Law School (LL.B)
 - ✓ In addition to law classes, law students take sociology, economics, philosophy as mandatory classes
 - ✓ Students are required to fulfill minimum hours of legal practice experience (in private or public sector)
 - ✓ Approximately 65% of Law School graduates seek specialization and/or a masters degree programs



LEGAL PROFESSION IN BRAZIL



Qualifying to act as a lawyer:

- Graduates must be admitted to the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB)
- Every state of Brazil has a subsection of the OAB, that offers the Bar Exam (usually 3 times per year)
 - ✓ In 2004, 64,413 students graduated from Brazilian Law Schools
 - ✓ There are 760 Law Schools in Brazil **but only 58 are recommended by OAB**
 - ✓ **Only 15-20% of Bachelors in Law graduates pass the OAB exams**
 - ✓ There are currently 455,768 lawyers admitted to OAB





LEGAL PROFESSION IN BRAZIL

Brazilian legal market:

- Predominantly local law firms:

- ✓ Leading firms are “full service”, located mostly in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro

- ✓ Areas of Expertise:

- Corporate (M&A) and Capital Markets
- Banking and financial transactions
- Antitrust
- Bidding Procedures
- Privatization
- Intellectual Property
- Internet / E-Commerce
- Commercial & Civil – Counseling

- Foreign Trade
- Commercial & Civil Litigation
- Employment & Social Security Law
- Labor Litigation
- Not-for-profit organizations
- Real Estate
- Supplemental Pension Funds & Insurance
- Tax Law
- Biotechnology

- ✓ Leading firms have branches abroad (mostly in New York / London) and in most important Brazilian state capitals

- ✓ Members of international associations of independent law firms – *Lex Mundi*, *Multilaw*, etc.





LEGAL PROFESSION IN BRAZIL

Brazilian legal market:

- Global Firms

- ✓ Anglo-Saxon law firms started to open branches in Brazil in the 1990's
- ✓ Global firms established in Brazil:
 - ✓ Baker & McKenzie
 - ✓ White & Case
 - ✓ Linklaters
 - ✓ Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells
 - ✓ Shearman & Sterling
- ✓ **International firms / lawyers are only allowed to practice as consultants on non-Brazilian law issues**

