

PORTUGAL

Minister of Culture

Ministry for Culture

José António DE MELO PINTO RIBEIRO

Born on 9 September 1946 in Quissico, Zavala, Inhambane, Mozambique

- Ground and High school Studies in German at the „Deutsche Schule zu Porto“ in Porto, Portugal.
Graduated in Law from Lisbon University's Law Faculty (1964 – 1969) with a final mark of 17 in 20 (equivalent to a 1st Class Honours Degree).
- Began his academic career in 1971 lecturing at the Instituto Superior de Economia where he remained, until 1980, as Director of the „Contract and Commercial Law“ course. Invited to take up posts as senior lecturer/guest or associate professor of Commercial or Business Law in various Portuguese universities including Lisbon University's Faculty of Law. Subsequently appointed Senior Lecturer in business Law at the Faculty of Law of Universidade Nova de Lisboa.
With a Max-Planck Gesellschaft Scholarship, he took a sabbatical for ten months in 1984/1985 and for three months in 1986, to engage in research on competition law at the “Max-Planck Institut für ausländisches und internationales Privatrecht”, in Hamburg, Germany.
In addition to participating in various seminars and congresses, he has been invited to give talks on various aspects of law at venues as diverse as the University of Hamburg, the Max-Planck Institute, the Portuguese Law Society, the Gulbenkian Foundation, FLAD-American Portuguese Development Foundation, the Law Faculty in Guinea-Bissau and the University of East Asia, Macau.
- Completed Articles in 1972, and was authorized to appear in the Supreme Court of Justice (the equivalent of becoming a barrister) in 1977.
Since 1973 he is Senior Partner of a Law Firm (J. A. Pinto Ribeiro & Associados, Sociedade de Advogados), established in Lisbon. His main field of activity has been Commercial Law and Investment Banking and Financial Law.

From 1976 to 1990 he was Head of the International Legal Department of Banco

Portugues do Atlantico, merged later into BCP/Millennium.

From 1994 to 2000 he was chief Counsel for Chemical Bank (Portugal) S.A. and is now legal advisor to Caixa Banco de Investimento, S.A., SIBS S.A. and Victoria de Seguros, S.A., among other financial institutions.

Represented many foreign banks in syndicated loan agreements and other financial negotiations in Portugal. Has led the legal teams of various mergers and acquisitions.

His legal work has also involved him in several cases, such as in South Africa and Cayman Islands.

Has drafted legislation for the Portuguese Government, the Regional Government of the Azores and Madeira and the Government of Macau.

Since 1985, he has been Portuguese Bankers Association's representative on the Legal Committee and the Competition Committee Banking Federation of the European Union (BFEU), and was elected Chairman of the Legal Committee of the BFEU for the 1995/1998 four-year mandate.

He is presently the expert representing Portugal at UNCITRAL, The United Nations Conference on International Trade Law.

- From 1997 to 2005 he was elected non-executive member of the board of Portucel SGPS S.A., the Holding company of the Portuguese pulp and paper company.
He is presently member of the Board of PT Multimedia, S.A.
He was a founding shareholder of BIG – Banco de Investimento Global, S.A., and he is presently a member of its Consultative Board and President of the General Assembly of Shareholders.
- From 2006 to 2008 he was a board member of Fundacao Arte Moderna e Contemporanea-Coleccao Berardo, a Foundation set up by Mr. Berardo and the Portuguese State for the creation and management of a modern and contemporary art museum that hosts the Berardo Collection. Since 2004 he is a Member of the Advisory Committee of Fundacao Julio Pomar and of Fundacao Passos-Canavarro.

Since January 30, 2008 is the Minister of Culture of the Portuguese Republic.

- He is founding member (1988) and Chairman of the Board of the Forum Justica e Liberdades, an association aimed at studying, promoting and protecting civil rights in Portugal. In this capacity he was invited in 1994 on a 4 week tour of the USA, organized by the USIA, to contact, meet and know the legal and judiciary institutions of the USA, both state and federal. In the field of civil rights, he has given lectures, appeared on radio and television and published articles in Portugal's main newspapers. From 1996 to 2005 he was appointed member of the Portuguese National Committee for the celebration of 50th Anniversary and the Promotion of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights by the Portuguese Counsel of Ministers Resolution n.º 47/96.

He is a member of:

Forum Justica e Liberdades

American Club

Associacao 25 de Abril

Cruzeiro do Sul – Associacao de Letras, Livros e Jornais de Lingua Portuguesa

APNU – Associacao Portuguesa das Nacoes Unidas

Selected Publications:

- “Empresas Públicas e Concorrencia na CEE” [Public Companies and Competition in the EEC], Coimbra, 1979
- “Dos Agrupamentos de Empresas” [Business Groupings], Lisbon, 1980 (co-written with Rui Pinto Durate)
- “Licoes de Direito Comercial” [Lessons in Commercial Law], Lisbon, 1983, (Xerox copy)
- “Grupos de Sociedades” [Groups of Companies], Lisbon 1986, (Xerox copy)
- “O Acto Único Europeu” [The Single Europe Act], Lisbon, 1987
- “Conceito de Sociedade no Novo Código das Sociedades Comerciais” [The Concept of Company in the New Commercial Companies Code], 1988 (xerox copy)
- “Notas sobre o crime de corrupcao e poderes discricionários” [Notes on the Crime of Corruption and Discretionary Powers], Lisbon, 1990
- “Die verbundenen Gesellschaften im neuen portugiesischen Handelsgesellschaftsgesetzbuch”, in *Das Konzernrecht im internationalen Vergleich*, Baden-Baden, 1991.
- “O Maior dos Males: Abandonar os Principios”, in *Relacoes internacionais*, 04 Dez 2004, Pág. 165 a 171, review of Michael Ignatieff’s book, *The Lesser Evil: Political Ethics in an Age of Terror*.