

BKBG partner leaves for Azevedo Sette

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Brazilian firm [Azevedo Sette Advogados](#) has recruited a partner from [Barretto Ferreira e Brancher \(BKBG\)](#) to help lead its antitrust, international trade and compliance practices.



Luiz Eduardo Salles, 33, joined Azevedo Sette on Monday. He is based in the firm's São Paulo office.

At BKBG Salles he focused his work on international trade, and he says the chance to expand his remit to antitrust was the reason behind his move. He will now co-head his new firm's antitrust, international trade and compliance practices alongside Rafael Adler and Roberto Wilson. "I had many compelling reasons to join Azevedo Sette, [one of which was] the potential to take my practice to the next level by combining antitrust and trade," he says. "That's what made me leave BKBG, not anything related to that firm itself, which I continue to sincerely admire." At Azevedo Sette Salles will also use his compliance experience to advise on M&A transactions. He says Azevedo Sette's seven offices across Brazil were another factor behind his decision; in comparison, BKBG only has one office, in São Paulo.

During his time at BKBG Salles was frequently seen advising on anti-dumping investigations handled by the Brazilian authorities. At the beginning of this year he [advised](#) Colombian importer Biofilm in an anti-dumping investigation by Brazil's Department of Trade Defence (DECOM) into imports of plastic packaging, which was eventually terminated due to a lack of conclusive evidence. In 2014, he [helped](#) plastic producers association Abiplast obtain a Supreme Court victory when the court suspended an increase in anti-dumping duties on polypropylene imports from the US.

He joined BKBG in 2008 after a period working at Geneva's Centre for Trade and Economic Integration. He was [made](#) partner at the firm in 2013.

At his new firm, Salles fills the gap left by Marcel Medon, who used to head the three practices alongside Adler and Wilson and who [left](#) the firm to join [TozziniFreire Advogados](#) in 2014.

"Clients have been requesting our help in this area a lot and a new partner in São Paulo was really needed to attend to the demand," says Azevedo Sette senior partner Ordélio Azevedo Sette. "We trust Luiz was the right choice." Considering the possibility of future hires, Azevedo Sette cited his firm's five-year strategic plan, which includes outlines to build tax consulting and litigation practices in the Rio de Janeiro office, build on the M&A practice in Recife, and develop infrastructure services in Vitória.

Azevedo Sette made a real-estate and agribusiness addition from Vella, Pugliese, Buosi e Guidoni in October last year when it [hired](#) Wagner Botelha to head those practices at the firm's São Paulo office. The Belo Horizonte-founded full-service firm is particularly well-known for its corporate and M&A, project finance and mining practices. While most Brazilian law firms start their national expansion from bases in either São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro, Azevedo Sette is unusual for being one of the few Minas Gerais-founded firms to open offices around the country.

Ricardo Barretto Ferreira of BKBG says his firm will not hire a replacement and that the current international trade and antitrust groups, headed by Carla Junqueira and Paulo Brancher respectively, will be able to cope with the workload. "We wish him all the best in his new venture," he adds.

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