

FORMER XAVIER BRAGANÇA PARTNER CHOOSES INDEPENDENT ROUTE

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As Xavier Bragança Advogados splits into a tax boutique led by Alberto Xavier and a full service practice helmed by Alberto Bragança, former M&A partner at the firm João Afonso da Silveira de Assis has started up his own independent practice.

The opening of Assis Advogados was officially announced on 2 July, two months after Assis left XBA – now Bragança Advogados – to take up a two month residency at Harvard Law School’s Negotiation Institute.

Assis says he opted to practice independently because he thought that the structure would suit his client base better. “I realised in the last two or three years that I have been advising middle market companies that I’m very close to the directors of those companies, and I didn’t need a big structure to assist my clients,” he says.

Assis has hired one trainee and two associates from other firms to act as his support staff, although he affirms that his intention is to be a private practitioner rather than start up his own firm.

After an 18 year career at the firm he helped set up, Assis took the decision to start up his own practice in February. He adds that the decision was “a completely independent move” from the split which took place beginning of June and saw the creation of Xavier’s tax boutique, Xavier, Duque-Estrada, Emery, Denardi, and Bragança’s full-service operation.

Alberto Bragança says his firm will not be actively hiring a replacement. “He left the firm in a very amicable way and there are no hard feelings or pending questions except for normal settlement in procedures like this,” he says.

Indeed, Assis says he may call upon his former colleagues for assistance if the opportunity arises. “I maintain a very good relationship with Alberto Xavier and Alberto Braganca, and if I do need the bigger structure it will be natural to work with them in tax or in M&A,” he says.