

# Press Release

For immediate release:

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## **Top in-house counsel recognised at the seventh annual Lexology and International Law Office Latin American Counsel Awards in association with the Association of Corporate Counsel**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Lexology and the International Law Office (ILO), together with the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), hosted the seventh annual Latin American Counsel Awards at Rio’s majestic Copacabana Palace hotel last night. The gala event celebrated the achievements of in-house counsel recognised by their peers as excelling in their chosen fields.

**“The aim of the awards is simple – to find and recognise the best in-house lawyers based in Latin America. The delivery of that aim is more challenging, and requires looking behind the scenes in search of those attributes that really matter in the ever-changing corporate world. Candidates are nominated based on several criteria – their communication skills, their commercial awareness, their flair for both leadership and innovation – in essence, their ability to add value to their companies.”**

explained Clovis Torres, ACC member and Executive director for human resources, sustainability, compliance and general counsel, Vale.

To identify the winners, the research team conducted in-depth analysis of in-house lawyers and legal departments worldwide, receiving over 4,500 nominations globally. Respondents were asked to focus on criteria such as effective communication, legal understanding, commercial awareness, depth and strength of team and management skills. The following awards were presented: Competition, Corporate Tax, Employment, General Commercial, Intellectual Property, Litigation, M&A, Regulatory (Financial and Non-financial), Rising Star and Compliance Individual of the Year.

Newman Debs of Unilever plc was named General Counsel of the Year after receiving multiple individual nominations from colleagues and partners at leading law firms. One respondent enthused:

**“Mr Debs is an admirable and inspirational leader, who allies deep knowledge of the business with outstanding technical skills, without losing sight of the sustainable way of doing business that characterizes Unilever.”**

The event sponsors were Abreu Faria, Goulart & Santos Advogados; Akerman LLP; Baker McKenzie; Bichara Advogados; Carvalho, Machado e Timm Advogados; Chaves, Gelman, Machado, Gilberto e Barboza Advogados; J R Amaral Advogados; Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr e Quiroga Advogados; Souza, Cescon, Barriou & Flesch Advogados; Trench, Rossi e Watanabe Advogados and Lex Mundi.

**For more information and a complete list of winners, visit [www.LatinAmericanCounselAwards.com](http://www.LatinAmericanCounselAwards.com).**



#### **About the ACC**

The ACC is a global legal association that promotes the common professional and business interests of in-house counsel who work for corporations, associations and other private-sector organisations through information, education, networking opportunities and advocacy initiatives. With more than 40,000 members in 85 countries, employed by over 10,000 organisations, the ACC connects its members to the people and resources necessary for both personal and professional growth – By in-house counsel, for in-house counsel.® For more information, visit [www.acc.com](http://www.acc.com) and follow the ACC on Twitter: @ACCinhouse.

#### **About ILO**

Launched in 1998, ILO is the nexus where global corporate counsel engage with the world's pre-eminent law firms, and each other.

#### **The ILO brand encompasses:**

- A multifaceted online resource for senior international corporate counsel, which provides tailored, quality-assured updates on global legal developments and a comprehensive directory of firms and partners.
- A global awards programme that identifies in-house corporate counsel, both teams and individuals, who excel in their specific roles. The awards culminate each year in four of the largest annual gatherings of senior corporate counsel, with prestigious ceremonies in Hong Kong, Latin America, London and New York.

Recognising its unique relationship with global corporate counsel, many of the world's premier associations have chosen to partner with ILO. [www.InternationalLawOffice.com/Partners](http://www.InternationalLawOffice.com/Partners).

#### **About Lexology**

Launched in 2007, Lexology is a daily newsfeed of law firm client alerts, articles and blogs delivered to senior business lawyers worldwide. Lexology has built a unique audience of over 300,000 subscribers, over 65% of whom are in-house corporate counsel representing the vast majority of Fortune 500, FT Global 500 and FT Euro 500 companies - including all members of the Association of Corporate Counsel. [www.Lexology.com](http://www.Lexology.com)