

# Womble Strengthens Global Reach Through Strategic Alliance in Brazil

Womble Bond Dickinson is excited to announce a new strategic alliance with Schmidt, Valois, Miranda, Ferreira & Agel, a prominent law firm based in Brazil. This collaboration aims to strengthen client support across various jurisdictions, particularly in the energy and natural resources sector, where both firms have substantial expertise and resources.

Key alliance goals include expanding global reach through shared branding, launching joint marketing and business development efforts, creating preferred referral relationships in respective regions, and fostering professional development opportunities for staff.

Merrick Benn, Chair and CEO of Womble US, commented, “We are delighted about this alliance, which offers clients seamless access to outstanding legal counsel in Brazil and Latin America. It also opens doors to global markets with growing opportunities that align with our expertise. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to innovation, collaboration, and mutual success, ultimately benefiting our clients.”

Paul Stewart, Managing Partner of Womble UK, added, “This partnership with Schmidt Valois represents a significant milestone for us both domestically and internationally. Enhancing our energy sector offerings and expanding our international presence are central to our growth strategy. With our established network, including partnerships in France and Germany and the Lex Mundi network, Schmidt Valois’ leadership in energy and renewables will further enhance our ability to serve our clients.”

Jeff Whittle, Head of Womble’s Global Energy and Natural

Resources Sector, stated, “The energy sector is undergoing significant global transformation, and this alliance boosts our ability to offer top-tier legal services to clients driving this change. Our presence across key jurisdictions will help clients seize opportunities in oil, gas, infrastructure, and renewable energy across the Americas and Europe.”

Paulo Valois Pires, Co-Managing Partner of Schmidt Valois, expressed, “We are excited about this partnership, especially as it offers new opportunities for clients in Brazil looking to invest or already investing abroad. This collaboration enables us to integrate high-quality legal services for multijurisdictional operations across Latin America.”

The alliance will begin on April 1, 2025, and will be managed by a leadership team composed of partners from both firms. Womble US will be represented by Merrick Benn and Jeff Whittle; Womble UK by Alexander Dickinson and Paul Stewart; and Schmidt Valois by Paulo Valois Pires, Rogério Miranda, and Guilherme Schmidt.

### **About Womble Bond Dickinson**

Womble Bond Dickinson is a transatlantic law firm with over 1,300 lawyers across 37 offices in the UK and US. The firm offers services in various business sectors. It provides core legal services in areas such as Corporate, Employment, Dispute Resolution, Finance, Technology, Private Wealth, Construction, Real Estate, and Regulatory Law.

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### **About Schmidt, Valois, Miranda, Ferreira & Agel**

Schmidt Valois is Brazil's leading law firm specializing in Natural Resources and Infrastructure. It has significant expertise in Energy, Renewables, Oil and Gas, and Mining. The firm also offers services in sectors such as M&A, Project Finance, Private Equity, Tax, Labor, Dispute Resolution, Regulatory, ESG, Sports, Life Sciences, and Technology. Schmidt Valois is recognized for its innovative approach, ethical standards, and high-quality services.