



MAIA DO VALE, SOFIA

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, ARBITRATOR, MEMBER OF CORPORATE BODIES

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

**Corporate Governance, Corporate Finance , Corporate Law
Arbitration and Public Contracts**

Date of birth : August 11, 1977

Nationality: Portuguese and Angolan

Languages: Portuguese (native), French (fluent),
English (fluent), Italian
(intermediate), and Spanish
(passive).

Website : www.sofiavale-arbitration.com

Other interests: literature, dance, cooking, wine tasting.

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Publications:    

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MEMBER OF SOCIAL BODIES

- Chairman of the Supervisory Board at **Fidelidade- Companhia de Seguros, SA** (Luanda – 2023-present).
- Chairman of the Board of the General Assembly at **Standard Bank Angola, SA** (Luanda, 2021 – present)
- Member of the Board of Directors at the **Commercial Arbitration Center of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (Lisbon, 2022 – present).

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Professor (having already passed public examinations to advance to the category of Associated Professor) at the **Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University** (Luanda, 2004-present).

Sofia Vale teaches at other universities as a guest Professor in postgraduate programs: Faculty of Law of the Katyavala University Katyavala Bwila (Benguela), Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon, Faculty of Law of the University of São Paulo, Faculty of Law of the New University of Lisbon, Faculty of Law of the Catholic University of Portugal (Lisbon School).

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

- **Coordinator of the Master Degree in Business Law** at the Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2024-present)
- Coordinator Professor of the Commercial Law module, Law Degree, Faculty of Law of the Agostinho Neto University (Luanda 2004-2006; 2007 – 2023).
- Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Corporate Law (Luanda, 2010-2013 – 1st and 2nd editions)

- Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Compliance and Money Laundering Fighting (Luanda, 2011-2013 – 1st and 2nd editions)
- Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Financial Markets (Luanda, 2011-2013 – 1st and 2nd editions)
- Executive Coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Oil and Gas Law (Luanda, 2007-2012 – 1st to 3rd editions)
- Coordinator Professor of the Commercial Law module, 4th year of the Law Degree, at the *Faculty of Law of the José Eduardo dos Santos University* (Huambo, 2010-2013).
- Coordinator Professor of Contract Law, 3rd year of the Law Degree, at the Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2004-2006).

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- Professor in the Commercial Law: Sustainable Companies, in the Master Degree in Civil Law, at the faculty of Law of the University Mandume ya Ndemufayo (Lubango, 2026 -presente)
- Professor in the Capital Markets Module, PhD in Law, Faculty of Law, Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2026-present).
- Professor in the Companies' Administration and Sustainability Module, in the Master's Program in Corporate Law at the Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2024-present).
- Professor in the Corporate Governance Module, in the Master's Program in Corporate Law at the Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2017-2023)
- Professor in the Research Methodology Module in the Master's Program in Tax Law (Luanda, 2013-2021) and in Corporate Law, Civil Law and Criminal Law (Luanda, 2017-2021)
- Professor in the Commercial and Financial Law Module in the Master's Program in Public Policy and Local Governance, at the Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2015-2022)
- Professor in the Corporate Governance and Corporate Finance Modules in the Master's Degree in Civil Law at the **Faculty of Law of Katyavala Bwila University** (Benguela, 2018-present)
- Professor in the Business Law Module of the Training Course for Accountants and Accounting Experts, promoted by the **Accountants and Auditors Bar Association of Angola** (Luanda, 2010 – 2020)
- Professor of Corporate Module Governance in the Advanced Leadership Course for members of the Boards of Directors of Public Companies and Publicly Owned Companies, promoted by IGAPE – Institute for the Management of State Assets of Angola (Luanda, 2018 – 2019)

LEGISLATIVE REFORM ACTIVITIES

- Member of the Subcommittee for the Commercial Law Reform, created within the scope of the Commission for Justice and Law Reform, coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Luanda, 2013-2015; 2020)
- Member of the Civil Code Reform Commission, created by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Luanda, 2011 – 2012)

PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC JURIES

- Sofia Vale has participated in more than 40 academic juries.

Annex I – List of Participations in Academic Juries

ARBITRATOR AND LEGAL EXPERT

- Acts as arbitrator in ad hoc and institutional arbitral tribunals (she has participated in more than 40 arbitrations).

Annex II – List of Arbitrations

- Legal expert in domestic and international arbitrations (she has issued over 60 legal opinions).

Annex III – List of Legal Opinions

MEMBER OF ARBITRATION CENTERS

- Arbitrator appointed by the Republic of Angola to the **ICSID Panel of Arbitrators** (Washington, 2023-2029).
- Member of the Board of Directors of the **Commercial Arbitration Center of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry** (Lisbon, 2022 – present).
- Member of the ADR Committee of the **ICC - International Chamber of Commerce, ICC-Ghana** (Paris, 2024-2027);
- Arbitrator included on the list of the Commercial Arbitration Center of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Lisbon), Concordia Center (Lisbon), the National Construction Arbitration Center (Porto), CAAIA (Luanda), Harmonia Center (Luanda), CREL – Center for Extrajudicial Dispute Resolution of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Luanda), CAMARB – Chamber of Business Mediation and Arbitration of Brazil (São Paulo) and CACM – Center for Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation (Maputo).

COORDINATION ACTIVITIES IN ARBITRATION

- Vice-President of the Arbitration Committee of **FALP – Federation of Portuguese-Speaking Lawyers** (2024 – present).
- Member of the Ethics and Transparency Committee of **ALAM – Lusophone Association of Arbitration and Mediation** (2023-present).
- Member of the Organizing Committee of the 4th Annual Conference of the **AfAA – African Arbitration Association** – “International arbitration in Africa: transitions” and new perspectives” (Cape Town, 2023).
- Representative for Angola in the African Arbitration Network of the **IBA – International Bar Association** (2020).

ARBITRATION PROFESSOR

- **Co-Coordinator of the Professional Postgraduate Course in Arbitration** at the Faculty of Law of Agostinho Neto University (Luanda, 2025-present .
- Professor in the Arbitration Training Course, taught at the Benguela International Arbitration Center (Benguela, 2025).
- Professor of the Arbitration Clauses and Arbitration Agreements Module, at the Nova Summer School on International Arbitration (Lisbon , 2025)
- Professor in the 1st Arbitrators Course, organized by the Arbitration Center of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Services of São Tomé and Príncipe (São Tomé, 2025).
- Professor in the 2nd Arbitrators Course organized by the CAC – Commercial Arbitration Center of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Maputo, 2024).
- Coordinator, representing Angola, of the Lusophone International Arbitration Course (2021).

- Professor of the Arbitration Module of the Trainee Lawyers Training Course taught by the **Angolan Bar Association** (Luanda, Angola, 2017-2020).
- Professor in the Arbitration Course for Trainee Lawyers, taught by the **Sofala Bar Association** (Mozambique; Level 1 2021; Level 2 2023).

ARBITRATION CONSULTANT

- Arbitration consultant for **CREL – Center for Extrajudicial Dispute Resolution of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights** (Luanda, 2014 – 2020).
- Member of the Commission for the Reform of the Voluntary Arbitration Law, created by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (Luanda, 2015 – 2016).
- Member of the Commissions that created the Juris Arbitration Center (Luanda, 2006-2007) and the CAAIA - Arbitration Center of the Industrial Association of Angola (Luanda, 2016-2017).

LEGAL CONSULTANT AND LAWYER

- **Independent Consultant** (Luanda, 2022-present): Consultant in business law (especially corporate law, corporate governance and sustainability), advising on decision-making in boards of directors of public and private companies and preparing legal opinions.
- **MG Advogados** (Luanda, 2016-2022): Consultancy related to corporate law (especially mergers, acquisitions and restructuring of companies), financial law (complex financing operations, both national and international) and tax law (tax planning and litigation before the AGT – General Tax Administration and the tax court).
- **FBL Advogados** (Luanda, 2007-2015): Drafting legal opinions in the field of commercial law, dealing in particular with foreign investment, structuring and financing of commercial companies, the tax regime applicable to commercial companies, arbitration in the context of corporate matters and PPP/PFI.
- **HAAG – Sociedade de Advogados, RL** (Lisbon, 2007): Conducting and monitoring contractual negotiation processes aimed at the internationalization of Portuguese companies, especially in the African market (Angola, Congo and Mozambique). Drafting legal instruments relating to the incorporation and internal organization of companies, legal structuring of business activity, shareholders' agreements, providing ongoing advice to companies in the telecommunications and IT sectors.
- **FDR – Sociedade de Advogados, RL** (Lisbon, 2006-2007): Design and development of *Project Finance solutions* within the scope of public service concessions for the operation of roads and the management of airport infrastructure. Design and development of PPPs for local authorities and autonomous regions. Consulting and monitoring of public contract management, particularly in the road and light rail transport sectors and in the port sector. Representation in arbitration proceedings (national and international).
- **Roza & Associados Law Firm** (Lisbon, 2002-2004): Trainee lawyer. Development of *Project Finance solutions*, within the scope of PPPs in the light rail sector; monitoring of the procedure prior to the signing of public contracts, drafting public contracts, and monitoring their execution. Assistance in representation in arbitration proceedings (national and international).

- **Directorate-General for Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (Lisbon, 2003): Development of *Concept Papers* and preparing supporting documents for the participation of the Director-General for Foreign Policy and other government members in meetings with representatives of other Member States (CFSP, ESDP, and other international bodies) . Advisory services in meetings with various Portuguese business organizations and the Ministry of Economy regarding the application of Portuguese companies to participate in the post-conflict reconstruction of Iraq. Evaluation of the results of meetings between EU Member States and subsequent framing of the Portuguese position.
- **Law Office of Fernando Vale** (Porto, 2001): Trainee lawyer. Monitoring and intervention in various judicial proceedings in the areas of criminal, civil and labor law; advising Portuguese clients residing abroad.

AUTHOR

- Sofia Vale writes about ***business law, corporate law, corporate governance and arbitration***. She has published 3 books and over 30 scientific articles. All of her publications are available online for free download.

Annex IV - List of Publications

PROFESSOR

- Sofia Vale has participated as a speaker in over 80 conferences in various countries, speaking in Portuguese, English, and French. She organizes several scientific events. She is frequently invited to present scientific books.

Annex V - List of Participations at Conferences

TRAINING

EXECUTIVE TRAINING

- **IDP - International Directors Program – INSEAD** (Fontainebleau, 2025-2026).
- **Sustainability Leadership and Corporate Responsibility – LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL** (London, 2024).
- ESG and Circular Economy in Organizations – **ADENE – Energy Agency** (Porto, 2024).
- **Advanced Corporate Governance Certificate** (Performance on Boards and Board Leadership – Prof. Duarte Pitta Ferraz) **NOVA SBE, NOVA UNIVERSITY OF LISBON** (Lisbon, 2023).
- Pedagogical Aggregation Course – AGOSTINHO NETO UNIVERSITY (Luanda, 2010).

TRAINING AS ARBITRATOR

- CIARB Arbitrators« Training Course, obtaining the **FCIARB title** (London, 2024).
- 1st Intensive Training Course for Arbitrators, organized by the Arbitration Center of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Lisbon, 2013).

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- **PHD IN PRIVATE LAW:** Co-supervision between Agostinho Neto University and Nova University of Lisbon. Thesis note: summa cum laude (Luanda and Lisbon, 2020). Sofia Vale is the first women to obtain a PhD in Law in an Angolan University.
- **MASTER'S DEGREE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIZATION:** University of Padua (Coordination). Studied for 6 months at Robert Schuman University (Strasbourg). Fieldwork in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thesis grade: 9 (0/10). (Padua, 2002).
- **POSTGRADUATE DEGREE IN HUMAN RIGHTS:** University of Coimbra. Final grade: 17 (0/20). (Coimbra, 2001).
- **LAW DEGREE:** University of Coimbra. Studied at the Catholic University of Leuven, under the Erasmus Programme, for 6 months (Sept. 1999 - Jan. 2000). Final grade: 15 (0/20). (Coimbra, 2000)

ASSOCIATIVISM

- Member of **CEIA – Spanish and Ibero-American Club del Arbitration** - <https://www.clubarbitraje.com/en/>
- Member of **Arbitral Women** - <https://arbitralwomen.org/>
- Member of **Women on Board** - <https://www.womenonboards.net/>
- Founding member of **ACGA – Association of Corporate Governance of Angola.** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/acga-angola-corporate-governance-association-a25132196/?originalSubdomain=ao>
- Member of **NEDA – Non- Executive Directors Association,** United Kingdom. <https://www.nedaglobal.com/>
- Member of **FALP – Federation of Portuguese-Speaking Lawyers.** <https://www.fa-lp.org/>
- Member of **ALAM – Lusophone Association of Arbitration and Mediation.** <https://www.alam.org.mo/>
- Founding member of **JUTRA Angola – Association of Labor Law Jurists.**
- Member of **Governance Lab.** - <https://governancelab.org/>
- Member of the **Angolan Bar Association .**
- Member of the **Portuguese Bar Association .**
- Former member of **ELSA - European Law Students Association.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Award for the 100 Most Influential Women in Angola,** given by O Telegrama, <https://www.otelegrama.ao/especial> (Luanda, 2024).
- **The Dr. Marnoco e Sousa Prize,** awarded by the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra for outstanding performance in the field of public law during the 5th year of the Law Degree (Coimbra, 1999).