**Ambassador João Mendes Pereira**

Consul-General of Brazil in Miami

A career diplomat for 28 years, Ambassador João Mendes Pereira took over the position as Consul-General of Brazil in Miami on October 11, 2018.  Prior to that, Ambassador João Mendes Pereira was the Head of Protocol at the Ministry of External Relations.

Ambassador João Mendes Pereira also served Brazil at the Brazilian Mission to the European Union.Before that, he was the Director of the Department of Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and Regional Economic Integration, and the Coordinator of Economic Affairs for South America.

Born in Brasilia, he graduated in International Relations at the University of Brasilia.

**Felipe Berer**

Partner, Corporate

Akerman LLP, Miami

Ranked by *Chambers Global* as a go-to lawyer on Brazil and international trade regulation, Felipe Berer advises multinational companies doing business in the United States, Brazil, and throughout Latin America. His work focuses on inbound Brazilian investment in the United States, outbound U.S. investment into Brazil, international trade law and policy in the United States and Brazil, international contracts, trade and anti-corruption compliance, and government affairs in Brazil. Felipe’s clients include Fortune 500 companies and some of the largest and most successful Brazilian corporations.

Dual-licensed in Brazil and the U.S. and a Brazilian native, Felipe has considerable experience assisting Brazilian companies navigate the U.S. legal system. He also advises clients on a wide variety of Brazilian law matters, especially in connection with investments and transactions in Brazil, and regularly counsels U.S. companies and investors seeking to enter the Brazilian market.

In his international trade practice, Felipe has extensive experience representing clients in antidumping and other trade remedy investigations in Brazil and the United States. His practice also involves advisory work on international trade matters, including cross-border trade policies and regulations, trade and anti-corruption compliance, World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and dispute settlement proceedings, customs issues, preferential trade agreements, and trade policy developments in Brazil and the United States.

Felipe holds a Bachelor of Laws  from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro and a LL.M, International Legal Studies from Georgetown University.

**Alberto Bernal**

Chief Emerging Market and Global Strategist

XP Securities

Alberto Bernal  is chief emerging markets and global strategist at XP Securities. Prior to this, he was head of research and partner at Bulltick, LLC and managing director of emerging fixed income research at Bear Stearns Inc. responsible for covering Latin America. Previously, he was head of Latin America economic research at IDEAglobal Inc., where he conducted in-depth economic analysis on the region. Bernal is a frequent contributor to financial television networks, Latin American press, and major newswires. He is a research scholar for Columbia University’s Chazen Institute and an adjunct professor at the University of Miami’s business school. Bernal received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of New Orleans, and a master’s degree in macroeconomics from Germany’s Kiel Institute of World Economics.

Bernal was named one of the future top 40 executives under 40 years by the Latin American magazine *Revista Poder*, and one of 100 Latin American leaders under 40 by the *Revista Gerente.*

**Deena LaMarque Piquion**

Vice President/General Manager, Latin America and Caribbean

Tech Data Corporation

Deena LaMarque Piquion serves as the Vice President  and General Manager of Tech Data’s Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. She is responsible for the strategic direction and execution of all sales, marketing, and operational functions for Tech Data’s LAC organization including the in-country subsidiaries and the Miami Export operations. Deena and her team are dedicated to capturing the end-to-end opportunities that exist for our vendor partners and customers in the region, combining the historic strengths of Tech Data and Technology Solutions into a nimble, cohesive new team that is focused on continued profitable growth.

Deena began her career in the IT distribution industry with Tech Data, joining as an MBA Rotational Associate in 2000. She worked under the guidance of the president of Latin America at the time on strategic projects throughout the region. In 2001, she was promoted to manager of operations where she assisted the director of operations on pricing, purchasing, capacity planning and productivity projects throughout the Latin America region. Deena brought Tech Data policies, procedures, tools and culture to the in-country Latin America subsidiaries. In 2006, Deena moved to the commercial side of the distribution business,managing the Latin America (LA) product management team and vendor relationships. In 2011, Deena was appointed director, marketing for Tech Data’s LA Export Division, where in addition to managing the LA Export Marketing team she also served as acting director of sales. In 2016, Deena was appointed vice president, Sales and Marketing, Latin America Export, and in 2017 Deena’s role expanded to include the entire LAC region.

Before joining Tech Data, Deena focused on her academics. She earned her Bachelor of Science from Vassar College in 1997 with a concentration in Political Science and Women’s Studies, and her Masters of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 2000 with a concentration in International Business and Finance.Deena is a founding member of Tech Data Miami’s Diversity & Inclusion Council, the 2016 recipient of the Florida Diversity Council’s Glass Ceiling Award and a 2017 honoree of *CRN*’s 100 Women of The Channel List.

**Lisa Schineller, Ph.D.**

Managing Director

Sovereign & International Public Finance Ratings

S&P Global Ratings

Lisa M. Schineller is Managing Director for S&P Global Ratings. Lisa is a Lead Analyst in Sovereign and International Public Finance Ratings for the Americas, and responsible for sovereign analysis covering key credits such as Brazil, Colombia, and the United States. She also covers a number of multilateral institutions, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association. She coordinates with analysts regionally and globally on Government Related Entities across the region. Lisa also served as S&P Global Ratings’ Chief Economist for Latin America, part-time for five years through 2013.

Lisa was an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs from 2006 to 2009. She co- developed & co-taught a course entitled “Problems of Economic Growth in Latin America” for master’s degree students. She continues to give guest lectures in a number of courses at the School of International and Public Affairs and the Business School.

Before joining S&P Global Ratings in August 1999, Lisa worked in the

International Finance Division at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, DC for over three years as the French desk economist and world oil economist. She was also an economist at Exxon Company International, Corporate Affairs, where she analyzed and projected economic and energy developments in Latin America (mainly Brazil) and Europe. Upon completion of her Ph.D., she was an Assistant Professor at McGill University, Faculty of Management, from 1992 to 1994.

Lisa holds a bachelor of arts degree in Economics and Spanish from Wellesley College and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Economics from Yale University.