

Siqueira Castro expands to Brazil's Amazon region

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Continuing its strategy of opening offices across Brazil, [Siqueira Castro - Advogados](#) has opened two new branches in the northern states of Pará and Amazonas. The offices, in the state capitals of Belém and Manaus, opened for business last month - each with three associates recruited locally.

Partner Carlos Siqueira Castro says the offices will benefit a number of their clients in the mining and agricultural industries - including iron ore miner Vale, half of whose production is located in Pará, as well as companies making use of the Manaus free trade zone.

"These are two of the richest states in the region and we are the first full-service firm in Brazil to be physically present there," says Siqueira Castro. "Brazil is a country the size of a continent, and considering the distances involved, there's no substitute for having a local presence."

He also points to the Jirau hydroelectric project under construction in Amazonas, which he says is likely to yield infrastructure, environmental, litigation and real estate work for the firm.

Siqueira Castro says that the firm also intends to open an office in Goiânia, capital of Goiás state, before the end of the year, and a larger office in Curitiba, capital of Paraná, with 20 associates and two to three partners, in 2010.

The firm now has 17 offices in Brazil.

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