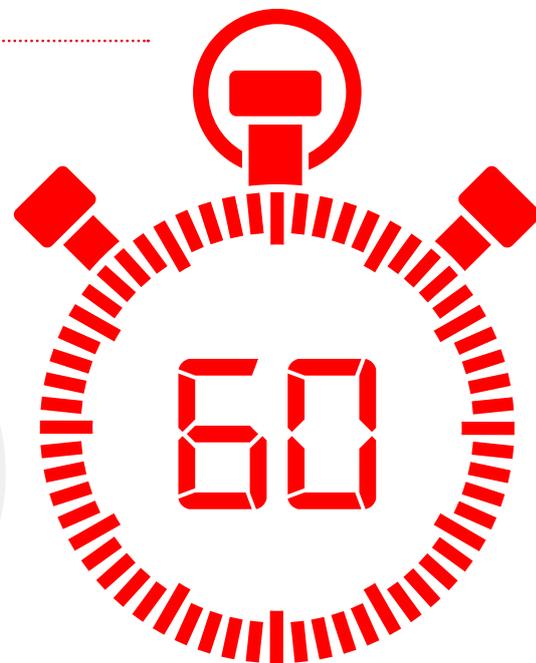


## 60-SECONDS WITH:

JOANA REGO  
PARTNER  
RAEDAS

**Q** What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?

**A** I started my career in international development and would have probably continued on that path had I not come across investigations. At the time, I was also considering applying to the Portuguese Foreign Ministry to pursue a career as a diplomat. But I think I would make a decent child's party planner. I am creative and visual by nature and have a blast conceptualizing my kids' ideas for their special day. I also do make a mean margarita so maybe an adjacent tequila bar to my party planning studio could be on the cards.

**Q** What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?

**A** Founding Raedas. It was a challenging time as I was only three months into my second maternity leave when I resigned from my previous firm. Not only were we setting up a company from scratch, but I was also starting my practice without the backing of an established brand. We were the new kids on the block. This meant we had to work twice as hard to earn a reputation for trustworthiness and skill - with both clients and talent. Looking at our growth in the past five years, from just the three of us in a sitting room to a top ranked firm of 25 fantastic staff, I have to pinch myself.

**Q** What is the easiest/hardest aspect of working on FIRE cases?

**A** I wouldn't say any case is easy, but the variety of work - both regional and topical - and doing it alongside top practitioners makes it very enjoyable. The hardest aspect of it is that I take it personally. My clients' wins are my own, which makes it difficult to switch off.

**Q** If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring practitioners, what would it be?

**A** Network. Asset recovery is mostly about the interplay between experts. The more people you get to know and the more you understand their practice and value, the more helpful you can be to your clients. And don't be afraid to do favors.

**Q** What has been the most interesting case you have seen in 2021?

**A** My most interesting case this year was a sanctions-busting matter partially focused on disproving evidence submitted by the other side. We worked tirelessly gathering and analyzing insane volumes of technical data, including trading records and months' worth of satellite imagery of VLCCs. I had never imagined I could dream so much about VLCCs, but it was a fascinating case nonetheless.

**Q** What do you think will be the most significant trend in your practice over the next 12 months?

**A** The increased prominence of cryptoassets and how to address the complexities associated with tracing and recovering them.

**Q** If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

**A** Play the piano.

**Q** What is the one thing you could not live without?

**A** Music. And 50/52 weeks in the year, my husband and kids.

**Q** If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

**A** Having recently seen her lifetime exhibition at the Tate, I would say

Paula Rego (no, we are not related). Such a complex mind; she has a childlike, yet morally disturbing creativity. She has also been a bold messenger for societal problems and women's rights in Portugal for over five decades. And like me, she also calls the UK home. She has an incredible strength of character that comes through in her works. Having the opportunity to explore our country's history and shared experiences as women through her mind, would be a privilege.

**Q** What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?

**A** A lot of funk and rock; some blues, soul, classic, grunge, electronic and pop; a little folk (including fado), no drill.

**Q** What does the perfect weekend look like?

**A** Somewhere hot, preferably on a beach and with nowhere to be.

**Q** Reflecting on 2021, what have you been most grateful for?

**A** Our collective resilience. And great Portuguese wine.

**L**