

Day in the Life: Rafael Garcia

Interviews and Profiles



Rafael Garcia

Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel,

CEITEC Semiconductors,

Porto Alegre, Brazil

7:00 AM

My new tech toy wakes me up smoothly at the best time of my sleep cycle. It has a **light that simulates a sunrise**. It's remarkable how technology helps you start the day in a very good mood!

8:00 AM

My spouse and **I love waffles** and maple syrup, an untraditional breakfast for Brazilians. Seasonal fruits and cappuccino are on our table too.

9:00 AM

I check routine emails and legal news when I arrive at the office. My virtual agenda defines the day's priorities.

10:00 AM

I update the board on the legal risks on a class action suit and other relevant cases by presenting an executive summary of the facts, solutions and their risks. I write down the board's concerns and start sketching the legal strategy on each case.

11:00 AM

Our small legal department discusses legal strategies, guidelines and internal regulation proposals. As a **state-owned company** we are subject to many regulations that normally aren't applicable to private sector companies.

12:00 PM

Lunch time for everyone but me. **I prefer having lunch without much noise**, so I patiently wait for the crowds in the company cafeteria to disperse. I use this uninterrupted time to review non-complex contracts.

1:00 PM

My stomach starts rumbling. **Brazilian "feijoada"** (black beans) is superb after simmering for a long time. I find a table, sometimes with colleagues, and occasionally with the CEO. He is also fond of a peaceful lunchtime.

2:00 PM

I grab my espresso and **enjoy a walk in the tropical garden** outside my building. It's summertime in South America and the sky is blue. Inspiration fills me, and I generate new legal and strategic ideas.

3:00 PM

Back at my desk I find a **draft proposal for buying chemical products**. Semiconductors are a pure chemical process. The raw material, combined with import duties and transportation logistics, cost a lot. Brazilian authorities are skeptical about importing goods. Even a public company like ours faces a big risk of being fined because of an inexact description on an import form.

4:00 PM

Our engineers help me draft my legal arguments on a petition to avoid one of those importation proceedings fines. I ask them to explain like they would to a **"six-year-old boy in a science fair."** I realize the challenge of my defense plan.

5:00 PM

Time to get in touch with the **Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation**. Our company runs under its supervision, which means our legal strategy must meet the state attorney's legal guidelines. The ministry's attorney general is impressed with our very low litigation risks. I tell him that our employees understand the importance of legal risk prevention. He invites me to a meeting next month in Brasília, the capital.

6:00 PM

The internal audit manager, the CFO and I finish the annual company report to the federal comptroller general. Because our company receives public funds, we face annual recommendations to reduce the budget. **My job is to see which recommendations are possible.**

7:00 PM

A new email from my CEO requests an urgent review of a NDA proposal from a potential business partner. I recommend non-disclosure deadlines and a special provision to determine whether the sensitive information would be **exempt from the Brazilian Freedom of Information Law**.

8:00 PM

Back home, I change clothes for my current passion: playing tennis. I take a cab to meet a law school friend at a nearby indoor court we call our **"court of appeals."** He plays as badly as me. When we tire, we head to a pub a few blocks away – a classic situation for a **"match pint."**

9:30 PM

After some beers, I take a cab back home. My wife, a home designer, is working on an architectural project. I take a shower and do some home duties while she finishes her job.

10:30 PM

We have a small dinner and **watch TV with our two cats**. After years suffering from bad sleep issues, I have learned to avoid computers and smartphones at night. After all, there is nothing better than a good night's sleep.

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