

Statement of qualifications

Personal

Date of birth: 28 March 1944

Place of birth: Pobé, Benin

Nationality: Beninese

Education

1963 - 1967 Faculty of Law, University of Poitiers, France – Degree (*Licence*) in Public Law.

Professional training

1967 - 1969 Judiciary - Centre National d'Etudes Judiciaires [National Training Institute for the Judiciary], Paris (France); internship at the Poitiers Court of Appeal.

Professional experience

- 1970 - 1971 Investigating Judge at the Cotonou Tribunal de première instance.
- Investigations, at the request of the Public Prosecutor or on application by a civil complainant, into all felonies or misdemeanours committed within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.
- 1971 - 1972 Judge for Juveniles at the Cotonou Tribunal de première instance, with jurisdiction extended to the Porto Novo and Ouidah Tribunals.
- Investigations into felonies or misdemeanours committed by minors;
 - Placing of delinquent minors;
 - Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.
- 1972 - 1973 Judge of the Cotonou Tribunal de première instance, with responsibility for matters concerning civil status.
- Presiding Judge at conciliation and trial hearings in matters of divorce, spousal maintenance, infant custody, paternity disputes and searches, adoption, civil status, etc.
- 1973 - 1975 Counsellor at the Cotonou Court of Appeal.
- Assessor in the Customary Law Chamber, hearing appeals in land and civil status disputes under customary law;
 - President of the Correctional Chamber, hearing appeals in criminal cases.

1975 - 1978

Investigating Judge at the Cotonou Tribunal de première instance.

- Investigations, on the instruction of the Public Prosecutor or of the Prosecutor-General of the Cotonou Court of Appeal, into all felonies or misdemeanours committed within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, or, in exceptional cases, outside the jurisdiction ;
- Presiding Judge for flagrant offences, trying flagrant offences committed within the Tribunal's jurisdiction.

1978 - 1981

Counsellor at the Cotonou Court of Appeal.

- President of the Chambre d'accusation [Indictments Chamber].

In a personal capacity:

- Supervision of the activities of all offices of investigating judges of the Cotonou Tribunals;
- Visits to Benin prisons to check the situation of accused persons held in pre-trial detention or on the orders of the Indictments Chamber, in order to decide whether pre-trial detention should be maintained.

Jointly with the two other members of the Indictments Chamber:

- Supervising the actions of the police;
- Checking that correct procedure was being followed in cases under investigation by investigating judges;
- Assessing charges and deciding whether accused persons should be sent for trial before the Assize Court, including issue of arrest warrants;
- For police and correctional offences, hearing appeals from decisions of investigating judges.

1981 - 1986

Public Prosecutor for the Cotonou Tribunal de première instance.

- Control of police officers within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal;
- Receipt of complaints and denunciations;
- Opening preliminary investigations and receipt of reports of investigations;
- Ordering enquiries into causes of deaths (discoveries of bodies);
- Initiating criminal prosecutions, by:
 - (i) Instructions to the Investigating Judge or to the Judge for Juveniles;
Reference to the Tribunal in the case of flagrant crimes, in accordance with the relevant procedure;
Direct reference to the correctional or police courts; and
 - (ii) Transmission to the Prosecutor-General for the Court of Appeal of files on investigations under the procedure for flagrant crimes;
Participation as Prosecutor in hearings of the correctional and police courts;
Participation in a number of sessions of the Assize Court, as:

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Prosecutor (submissions in cases of fraudulent conversion of public funds; murder; poisoning; rape; armed robbery; manslaughter; conspiracy, etc.); • President of the Assize Court for cases as aforesaid. |
| 1986 - 1988 | Counsellor at the Court of Appeal: President of the Indictments Chamber, carrying out the same duties as in 1975 - 1981. |
| February - September 1988 | <p>Counsellor in the Judicial Chamber of the Supreme Court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examination of files in criminal appeals as Counsellor/Rapporteur; - Preparation of reports; - Participation in hearings of the Judicial Chamber as Counsellor. |
| October 1988 | Took early retirement on 1 October 1988, after a judicial career spanning 20 years. |
| 1989 | Admitted to the Benin Order of Advocates; sworn in on 22 June 1989 at the Cotonou Court of Appeal. |
| Since 1989 | <p>Advocate at the Cotonou Court of Appeal: specializing in criminal law, civil law, commercial law, customary law, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member of the Council of the Order of Advocates since 1989: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of the Committee responsible for relations with judges; • Participation in various activities on the instructions of the Order; • Authority to coordinate and settle conflicts, quasi-conflicts and working and professional relations between advocates and judges. |
| Other activities | |
| 1973 | Attendance at the IDEF Congress (Institute for French-speaking Lawyers), Tunis: Presentation of a paper on “Women in Dahomeyan Customary Law”, published in R. Jur. Pol. Ind; Coop. L 28 No 4, pp. 505 to 1336, Paris, December 1973. |
| 1985 | <p>Participation in the work of the Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, organized by the United Nations in Milan (Italy).</p> <p>Study trip (comparative law) to the United States, organized by the United Nations (Cross-Roads).</p> |
| 1983 - 1988 | Judges’ training course – National Administrative Institute (ENA) and National University of Benin: special criminal law; criminal procedure; practical case-studies. |
| 2002 | Participation in the Third Training Session for Advocates, organized by the International Centre for Training in Africa of French-speaking Advocates (CIFAF): taught course on ‘Assize Procedure’, course on criminal procedure to students preparing the Advocates’ Qualifying Examination (CAPA). |