

## **Sock, Raymond Claudius (The Gambia)**

[Original: English]

### **Statement of qualifications**

Honorable Justice Raymond C. Sock, ORG, JSC received his primary and secondary education in The Gambia and further education in the United States of America, B. A. Cum Laude from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon and M.A. from Penn State; in London, where he attended the Inns of Court School of Law (now the City University, London) and the Middle Temple and was called to the Bar with Honors; and in Australia, where he received a certificate with citation in legislative drafting from the Australia Legislative Drafting Institute.

Honorable Justice Sock is presently a Judge of the Supreme Court of The Gambia, the apex court, with final appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal matters; the Director General of The Gambia Law School, established in October 2011; and the Deputy Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission.

Honorable Justice Sock has spent most of his professional career at the Attorney-General's Chambers and Ministry of Justice, where he rose over the years through the ranks from State Counsel in 1980 to Attorney General and Minister of Justice in 2005. During this period he was actively involved not only in legislative drafting but also in supervising and prosecuting both civil and criminal cases on behalf of the State.

In 1989 Honorable Justice Sock, then Solicitor General and Legal Secretary, was seconded to establish the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), where he served as its first Executive Director, responsible for the establishment and operation of the Centre's core programmes, including in collaboration with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) the now world renowned bi-annual NGO Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the Work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Between 1989 and 1995, Honorable Justice Sock authored several articles on human rights issues in Africa and organized and participated in numerous meetings and workshops on human rights.

From 1995 to 2000, Honorable Justice Sock engaged in private legal practice as a Senior Partner, during which he handled both civil and criminal cases, including murder and treason. However, his practice as a private legal practitioner was short-lived as he was recalled in 2000 to assist at the Attorney General's Chambers as Solicitor General and Legal Secretary. For a brief period in 2005, he served as Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

From 2005 to 2011 Honorable Justice Sock served as a consultant for the Ministry of Justice, the UNDP, the Judiciary and ECOWAS, and continues to work with the Ministry of Justice as a consultant in the preparation of national periodic reports to the UN Treaty Bodies; with his assistance, The Gambia has recently submitted its Common Core Document and Initial Report on ECOSOC rights. In May this year he prepared a discussion paper (for the Attorney General's Chambers) and actively participated in a two-day colloquium on the establishment of a national human rights institution in The Gambia, sponsored by the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and attended by all stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

Honorable Justice Raymond C. Sock's curriculum vitae is attached for further details and ease of reference.

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