

SOCK, Raymond Claudius (Gambia)

[Original: English]

Curriculum vitae

Personal data

Family Name: Sock
First name: Raymond
Gender: Male
Date of Birth: 5 June 1946
Nationality: Gambian
Regional Criteria: Africa
Marital Status: Married
List A / List B: List A
Languages: Mother tongue:
English: (written) Excellent; (oral) Excellent

Educational qualifications

03/1980–12/1980: The Australian Legislative Drafting Institute, Canberra, Australia. Certificate (with Citation) in Legislative Drafting.
1975–1978: The Inns of Court School of Law and the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London. Of the Inns of Court School of Law and of the Middle Temple Barrister at Law (2:2)
1968–1970: The Pennsylvania State University, PA.USA. M.A. English Literature.
1965–1968: Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, USA.B.A. (cum Laude) English

Professional experience

2012-Present: The Judiciary of The Gambia. Justice of the Supreme Court. As the apex court, the Supreme Court hears appeals in both civil and criminal matters (including treason, murder and rape) and references on the constitution of The Gambia.
06/2013-01/2014: The Judiciary of The Gambia. Acting Chief Justice of The Gambia. During this brief period, I was a Justice of the Supreme Court, Acting Chief Justice, Director General of The Gambia Law School, and a member of The CAN (ICC)
2012-2017: General Legal Council/The Gambia Law School. Director General. As first Director General, responsible for developing the Barrister-at-Law (BL) professional programme and lectured, inter alia, on the law of evidence.
2012-2017: General Legal Council/The Gambia Law School. Director General. As first Director General, responsible for developing the Barrister-at-Law (BL) professional programme and lectured, inter alia, on the law of evidence.
2012-2015: International Criminal Court (ICC) The Hague. Member, Advisory Committee on Nomination of Judges. Honoured to have served as a member of the inaugural committee (ACN).
02/2009-09/2009: Ministry of Justice. Commissioner for Law Revision. Prepared the Revised Laws of The Gambia, 2009, consisting of 18 vols. The laws were last revised in 1990.

- 03/2005-09/2005: Government of The Gambia. Attorney General and Minister of justice. Principal legal adviser to government ministries, responsible for administration of chambers and oversight of allied institutions.
- 2000-2005: Ministry of justice. Solicitor General and Legal Secretary. Responsible for supervision of all the divisions of the Attorney General's Chambers, including the office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).
- 1995-2000: Sock and Bittaye Legal Practitioners. Senior Partner. Private practice in civil and criminal cases, including the defence of persons accused of treason.
- 1989-1995: Government of The Gambia. Executive Director, African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS). First Executive Director responsible for the establishment and operation of the core programmes of the Centre, a regional institute, and animator in various human rights workshops.
- 1985-1989: Ministry of Justice. Solicitor General and Legal Secretary. Supervision of all the Divisions of the Attorney General's Chambers, including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, and prosecution of civil and criminal cases.
- 1984-1985: Ministry of Justice. Registrar General and Curator of Intestate Estates. Registration of deeds, businesses and companies, and administration of intestate estates.
- 1983-1984: Ministry of Justice. Legal Draftsman, Drafting Division. Legislative drafting for all ministries, attending sessions of Parliament, court attendance.
- 1980-1981: Ministry of justice. State Counsel, Drafting Division. Legislative drafting, court attendance for civil and criminal cases.

Other professional activities

- 1986: Observer at the First Commonwealth Judicial Conference held in Banjul, the Gambia.
- 1988: Leader of The Gambian delegation to negotiate and initial the Headquarters Agreement for the African Commission on human and Peoples' Rights with the then O.A.U. Secretariat in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 24/04/1989
- 02/05/1989: Participant in training course on "Developing National Strategies and Mechanisms for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Africa" held in Banjul and sponsored by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.
- 06/1989: Participant in pilot training workshop on "Human Rights Training for commonwealth Public Administrators" sponsored by the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat.
- 03/07/1989
- 04/08/1989: United Nations Human Rights Fellowship Programme tenable at the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva and The International Institute for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.
- 08/07/1991-
- 12/07/1991: Observer at the United Nations Seminar on International Human Rights Standards and the Administration of Justice, co-sponsored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Cairo Egypt.
- 1990-1994: Observer at the open sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and participant/organizer of workshops on NGO Participation in the work of the African Commission.
- 29/11/1991-
- 02/12/1991: Resource Person at the Arab-African Seminar on Penal Justice and Penitentiary Reform, Tunisia, during which I deliver a paper on "the Conditions of Prisons in Africa".
- 06/1993: Participant at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, Austria, as Executive Director of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies.

- 11/1993: Participant at the fifth ICJ/African Centre (ACDHRS) workshop on NGO Participation in the African Commission during which I delivered a paper entitled “a case for the Creation of an African Court of human and People’s Right”.
- 01/1994: Participant at meeting of group of African Regional Conference on Women, Dakar, Senegal.
- 06/1995: Resource person at a training course on the Protection of human Rights for Senior Military Officers from African Countries organized by the African Centre for Democracy and human Rights Studies, Banjul, the Gambia.
- 05/1998: Member of a four – man international delegation to Liberia under the International Commission of jurist (ICJ) fact-finding mission on the Judiciary in Liberia following the civil war.
- 1998-2005: First Executive Chairman of the Board of the Institute for human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), a Pan African human rights organization based in Banjul, the Gambia, the seat of the African Commission on human and People’s Rights. The Institute works to strengthen human rights protection in Africa Through, inter alia, providing pro bono legal counsel and conducting training.
- 01/2000: Participant in ECOWAS-IRCR Seminar on the International Criminal Court in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.
- 01/04/2001-
- 07/04/2001: Leader of a Gambian delegation to Accra, Ghana, to observe the activities of the Ghana National Children’s Commission, under the auspices of UNICEF.
- 02/11/2007-
- 03/11/2007: Representative of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights studies at “A Strategic Meeting on NGO’s Participation in the Human Rights Council; 2006-2007 evaluation; and planning for 2008,” Sao Paulo, Brazil, organized by Connectas Human Rights in partnership with the International Service for human Rights (ISFR)
- 23/04/2021-
- 24/04/2012: Participant at a Colloquium on the Establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in Compliance with the Paris Principles, sponsored by the Commonwealth Secretariat Banjul, The Gambia. A National Human Rights Commission was established in 2018.

Most relevant publications

- 2018: Resource person in a workshop on Women’s Rights in Africa organized by the Institute for human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) for Judges and Magistrates.
- 20/03/2018-
- 22/03/2018: Participant in the Commonwealth Magistrates’ and Judges’ Association Training Course on “Case Management, Judicial Ethics and Independence” sponsored by the British Government, Banjul, the Gambia.
- 16/02/2019-
- 18/02/2019: Participant in the Third Cairo High Level Meeting of the Chief Justices and Presidents of The African Constitutional and Supreme Courts and constitutional Councils, Cairo, Egypt.

Most relevant seminars

Membership of professional associations and societies

- The Gambia Bar Association
- The Gambia Judges Association

Awards and Honours

- Honour: Officer of The National Order of the Republic of The Gambia (ORG)

