

## **SOCK, Raymond Claudius (Gambia)**

[Original: English]

### **Statement of qualifications**

Judges of the Superior Courts of the Gambia are recommended by the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for appointment by the President, as required under the Constitution. The Criteria on which such recommendations are made by the JSC, apart from the academic and professional qualifications, are that persons so recommended are of high moral character, impartiality and integrity and have the requisite years of post – call experience.

Hon. Justice Raymond C. Sock was appointed a Justice of the apex court, the Supreme Court of The Gambia, in 2012, where he currently sits on civil, criminal and constitutional matters. His appointment as a Justice of the Supreme court was in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia, and in fact for a period of seven (7) months he acted as Chief Justice of The Gambia. As a judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Sock has handled many criminal matters on appeal from convictions of treason, murder, conspiracy and sexual offences. The many judgements he has written on such criminal matters clearly confirm his competence on criminal law and procedure.

Prior to joining the Bench in 2012, Hon. Justice Sock spent most of his early professional life in the service of the Government at the Attorney General’s Chambers, Ministry of Justice, where he rose through the ranks from a State Counsel to the Attorney General Minister of Justice (for a brief period). During his service at the Attorney General’s Chambers, Justice Sock not only actively prosecuted criminal cases but was also at a later stage, as Solicitor General and Legal Secretary, responsible for the supervision of all counsel at the Chambers, including those in the office of the Director of Public Prosecution.

Although Hon. Justice Sock has been nominated under list A, he has established competence in the law of human rights, as is evident from his curriculum vitae. During the six years he served as the Executive Director of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Justice Sock built up a wealth of experience in the promotion and protection of human and people’s rights in Africa. He is still regarded as a valuable resource person in the area of human rights on the continent.

As a testimony to his moral character, Hon. Justice Sock was appointed, for the year 2018/2019, as the Chairperson of the Judicial Ethics Committee under the Judges (Supplementary Code of Conduct) act (Act No.4 of 2009). And as a establishment and operation of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies ion 1989, and the Gambia Law School in 2012. In 2018, Hon. Justice Sock was appointed Chairperson of the Lands Commission established in 2018, which he is assisting to get fully operational in accordance with its statutory mandate.

Hon. Justice Raymond C. Sock is very fluent in both written and spoken English.

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