

Professional experience

- 1998 - 2007 Judge in the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Panama.
- As a member of the highest criminal court, handles cases involving exceptional appeal and review procedures;
 - As a single-judge court, tries cases involving extradition challenges, release on bail, and precautionary measures as alternatives to imprisonment;
 - In addition, as a court of appeal, reviews sentences for homicide, cases involving release on bail, and precautionary measures as alternatives to imprisonment in rulings handed down by higher courts throughout the country.
- 1998 - 2007 Judge in the Full Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Panama.
- Hears appeals on the grounds of unconstitutionality and writs of habeas corpus and habeas data, whose purpose is to safeguard fundamental guarantees and human rights;
 - In addition, hears appeals and claims of unconstitutionality, which are the most representative constitutional protection mechanisms.
- 2006 - 2007 Judge in the Commercial Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Panama.
- Handles rogatory letters in criminal cases and writs of exequatur in civil and family cases, within the framework of international cooperation, in fulfilment of agreements or treaties concluded with other countries, or on the basis of reciprocity.
- 2006 - 2007 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. During her tenure, she promoted the following activities:
- Institutional modernization and development: promoted the development of the Automated Judicial Management System, which provides for the automated processing of files, digital recording of hearings, video of hearings, online statistics and case law, Internet access by parties and by the general public, interconnectivity with concerned institutions.
 - Strengthening of the system of institutional communication to guarantee access by the national and international press and by the public at large to judicial information.
 - Expanded coverage by the alternate conflict resolution service.
 - Adoption of measures aimed at strengthening the human capital of institutions through training, merit recognition, promotion of a sense of belonging, and promotion of the Judicial Career Law based on performance evaluation and incentives.
 - Promotion of programmes to provide training and to raise awareness about legislation, access, participation and the human rights of women, children, young people, minority ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, and the environment, inter alia.
- 1995 - 1997 Vice-president and member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-Oceanic Regional Authority (ARI) of Panama.
- 1994 - 1997 Legal Adviser in the Office of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Panama; Legal Adviser of the Association of Friends of the Afro-West Indian Museum of Panama and of the Centre for Social Training (Social Security

Fund – a Panamanian NGO); Technical and Legal Adviser of the Commission of Women of the Legislative Assembly of Panama.

1995 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) national consultant for the Technical Committee for the Implementation of the Family Code.

1994 -1995 International human rights consultant for CODEHUCA (Central American Human Rights Commission).

Worked as an independent attorney for more than 22 years before her appointment to the Supreme Court of Justice.

International experience

- International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ): President 2006-2008; Member of the Board of Directors representing the Caribbean, Central and South American region, 2002-2006.
- Latin American Federation of Judges (FLAM): President 2006-2008; First Vice-president 2004-2006; Second Vice-president 2002-2004.
- International Association of Judges (IAJ).
- Forum of Latin American Women Judges (FMAL).

Political participation and human rights

- Observer of the process of installation of the Ecuadorian Supreme Court, appointed by the United Nations, 2005.
- International observer of the elections in Nicaragua as the Panamanian delegate for women's organizations, October 1996.
- Legal representative of the victims of the military invasion of Panama by the United States of America, December 1989-1992.
- President and founding member of the Workers Revolutionary Party from 1983 to 1984.
- President of the Students Centre of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, University of Panama, 1976.

Teaching experience

- University of Panama, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Professor of Human Rights, Principles of Political Science, Social Security Law, Social Law – Multidisciplinary Workshop.
- Latin American University of Science and Technology, Professor of Human Rights.

University studies

- Faculty of Law of the University of Panama, degree in Law and Political Science;
- University Santa Maria La Antigua de Panama, Major in Human Rights.

Languages: Spanish, English and French

Membership in social, cultural and professional organizations

- Association of Friends of the Afro-West Indian Museum of Panama;

- Unión Nacional de Abogados de Panamá (National Union of Attorneys of Panama) (UNA);
- Panamanian Bar Association, Human Rights Commission of the Bar Association, 1992. Bar Association Committee for the Defence of the Profession, 1992;
- Association of Women Magistrates and Judges of Panama (AMAJUP);
- Panamanian Association of Magistrates and Judges (ASPAMAJ).

Participation in national seminars, conferences and congresses

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| 2007 | Seminar on juridical and procedural elements in civil and criminal proceedings, Latin American University of Science and Technology (ULACIT), on the subject: “Strengthening the administration of justice system in Panama”. |
| 2007 | Fourth Panamanian Congress on Judicial Rights, Colombo-Panamanian Institute of Judicial Rights: “The new challenges for the administration of justice in Panama”. (Presenter) |
| 2006 | Third Panamanian Congress on Judicial Rights, Colombo-Panamanian Institute of Judicial Rights: “The new challenges for the administration of justice in Panama”. (Presenter) |
| 2006 | VIII National Congress of Attorneys, National Bar Association: “The role of the attorney as a contributor to the administration of justice”. (Presenter) |
| 2005 | Second Panamanian Congress on Judicial Rights, Colombo Panamanian Institute of Judicial Rights. (Participant) |
| 2004 | XIII Seminar on Public Defence in Panama on the theme “Criminal Dogma as an instrument of defence”. (Presenter) |
| 2004 | V Mexican and Central American Regional Symposium of the Psychiatric Association of Latin America, on the theme “Impact of expert psychiatric testimony in legal proceedings”. (Presenter) |
| 2003 | National Forum on Freedom of Expression in Panama, Panama City. (Participant) |
| 2002 | Colloquium of the Association of Women Magistrates and Judges of Panama, held in the cities of Las Tablas, Santiago and David (Participant). |
| 2001 | First University Congress on Judicial Science on the theme “Preventive Detention and Protective Measures in Panamanian Law”, Latina University. (Presenter) |
| 1999 | Seminar on “Measures Restrictive of Rights”, organized by the Law School as part of the Project for Continuing Judicial Training. (Participant) |
| 1998 | Seminar on “Reform of criminal procedure”, Law School. (Participant) |
| 1998 | Seminar on “The application, interpretation and efficiency of criminal law”, organized by the Law School of Panama and sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Expansion Exterior of Spain. (Participant) |

- 1998 Seminar on “Manifestations of the principle of due process as opposed to other legal processes”, organized by the Law School of Panama and sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Expansion Exterior of Spain. (Participant)
- 1997 Roundtable on “The Ombudsman: a reality in the face of national uncertainty”, post-graduate paper in university teaching, University of Panama, Faculty of Public Administration. (Presenter)
- 1996 IV Annual Conference on the Family, Sustainability, Quality of life in the Family in Panama, organized by the Centre for Studies and Training in the Family. (Presenter)
- 1996 Refresher Seminar in Law, organized by the Association of Women Magistrates and Judges of Panama, Colón Chapter. (Presenter)
- 1995 Seminar on women with access to opinion programmes. Theme: “The importance of women in the future development of Panama”, organized by the Centre of Panamanian Women. (Presenter)
- 1995 Seminar/workshop on the Family Code: its implications for the socio-political and cultural situation in Panama. Theme: “Professional women and the challenge of the Family Code”, organized by the School of Nursing. (Presenter)
- 1995 Seminar on “Our Cultural Heritage”, organized by the Society of Friends of the Afro-West Indian Museum of Panama. (Participant)
- 1995 Conference on the current status, content and application of the Family Code, organized by the Movement of the Unemployed of Colón. (Presenter)
- 1994 Seminar on current social and legal developments in the field of the family and prevention of domestic violence, organized by the National Union of Women Attorneys. (Moderator and participant)
- 1994 Seminar on high-level evaluation, University of Panama, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences. (Participant)
- 1993 Seminar on “Human rights in Panama: analysis of national legal codes”, organized by the Panamanian Centre for Social Training. (Presenter)
- 1992 IX National Sociology Congress on the theme “Human rights of political prisoners”, Panama, organized by the School of Sociology of the University of Panama. (Presenter)
- 1989 VII National Sociology Congress on the theme “Alternatives to the crisis: democracy, imperialism and national reconstruction”, organized by the School of Sociology of the University of Panama. (Presenter)
- 1986 Joint workshop for the training of women on the theme “Social and legal aspects of women workers in Panama”. (Presenter)
- 1986 Seminar on political theories, organized by the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama on the theme “The development of Panamanian democracy: where is it headed?” (Presenter)

- 1985 Roundtable on the social doctrines of our time, organized by the Young Men's Christian Association of Panama. (Presenter)
- 1984 Roundtable on the equality of women. (Presenter)

Participation in international seminars, conferences and congresses

- 2007 Ordinary General Assembly of the Latin American Federation of Judges and of the International Union of Judges. Theme: "Independence and Juridical Security", Buenos Aires, Argentina. (Speaker)
- 2006 7th Conference of Chief Justices of the World, organized by the World Unity and Peace Education Department and the City Montessori School, Lucknow and New Deli, India. Theme: "Enforceable international law to guarantee the conservation of the environment for future generations". (Presenter)
- 2006 Transnational judicial dialogue on the topic "Strengthening networks and mechanisms for judicial consultation and cooperation", organized by the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States of America. (Guest of honour and presenter)
- 2006 Annual Conference of the International Association of Women Judges, South Korean Chapter, on the theme "Leadership of women judges around the world". (Presenter)
- 2006 Inter-American Dialogue on "Afro-descendants and judicial systems in Latin America", Washington, D.C., United States of America. (Presenter)
- 2005 VI Meeting of Women Judges of Latin America and the Caribbean, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Theme: "Non-revictimization in criminal cases involving domestic violence". (Presenter)
- 2004 International seminar on judges and the rule of law, Chile. (Participant and rapporteur)
- 2003 Conference on the Statute of the International Criminal Court and its implications for the rule of law in Latin American countries, Mexico. (Participant)
- 2003 VI Course on Constitutional Justice, Madrid, Spain. (Presenter)
- 2003 Second Council of Women of America, Puerto Rico. (Presenter)
- 2002 Tenth Judicial Conference, Strasbourg, France. (Participant)
- 2000 Symposium on the contribution of West Indians to the construction of the Panama Canal, Kingston, Jamaica. (Presenter)
- 2000 VI International Criminology Course, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on the theme "Preventive detention and preventive measures and criminal policy towards children and young people". (Presenter)

- 1999 Seminar on justice and the communications media. Theme “Freedom of expression and the right to information - the right of the community to truthful information”, Province of Salta, Republic of Argentina. (Presenter)
- 1999 Specialized judicial training course on administrative oversight by courts of justice, a training programme for Ibero-American judges and magistrates, Ibero-American Class, General Council of the Judiciary of Spain, Barcelona, Spain. (Participant)
- 1998 Second International Seminar on the Administration of Justice and Indigenous People, Guatemala City. (Participant)
- 1998 Seminar/workshop on international cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime, City of Antigua, Guatemala. (Participant)
- 1998 Constituent Congress of the Confederation of Public Defenders of Central America, a project of Spain and UNDP, Republic of Guatemala, City of Antigua. (Participant)
- 1992 Conference on “The political reality in Panama”, Federal District, Mexico City, National Autonomous University of Mexico. (Presenter)
- 1990 Conference on “The invasion of Panama, denunciation of the violation of human rights and norms of international law”, New York, United States of America. (Presenter)
- 1983 Conference on “The political reality in Panama”, Sao Paolo, Brazil. (Presenter)
- 1982 Conference on “The political reality in Panama, Central America and the Caribbean”, Havana, Cuba. (Participant)
- 1981 Conference on the “Report on the First Black Panamanian Congress, Area of Social and Political Sciences”, New York, United States of America. (Presenter)

Publications and research

- 2000 Study: “Contribution of West Indians to the construction of the Panama Canal”.
- 1999 Monograph: “The presumption of innocence and the application of preventive detention”.
- 1999 Monograph: “The Treaty of Rome: For an International Criminal Court”.
- 1995 Comparative study: “The applicability of international human rights law in the internal law of Panama”.
- 1994 Study: “Legal basis for the implementation of the Family Code”.
- 1993 Monograph: “Human rights in Panama” (joint publication), published by the Centre for Social Training.

- 1993 Monograph: "The neo-liberal model and the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights in Panama", published by the Centre for Social Training.
- 1993 Article: "Perspective of political prisoners and war refugees".
- 1993 Article: "The meaning of amnesty for political prisoners", "Panama Today" seminar.
- 1990 Article: "Let us discover the real world that afflicts them", *Mujer Siempre de Pie* magazine, Panama.
- 1988 Article: "A plea for justice and freedom", El Mundo magazine.
- 1986 Article: "The image of women and its degrading use by certain communications media", La Prensa newspaper, Panama.
- 1986 Article: "The road to economic development and the need for a technological university", La Prensa newspaper, Panama.

Distinctions received

- 2006 Conferral by the Mayor of the District of Panama of the keys to Panama City in commemoration of Black Ethnic Group Day.
- 2002 Justice Lodge No. 832, "Elks Order of the World" in recognition of her support for and contribution to educational, cultural, judicial and social development in our community of Central America.
- 2001 Conferral by the Governor of the Province of Colón of the title of "Distinguished Citizen of this Province".
- 2001 Proclamation by the Community Board of Ancón declaring her a "Meritorious Daughter" in recognition of her outstanding and exemplary work in the service of our society.
- 1999 Conferral by the Committee to Honour and Celebrate Our Heritage of the title of Champion of Jurisprudence and Defender of the Constitutional Rights of Panamanian Citizens and Ethnic Groups, New York, United States of America.
- 1999 Philadelphia Scholarship Club, award for outstanding contribution to the community, Panama, United States.
- 1999 Professional Graduates of the Abel Bravo College Award for an outstanding career and for her commendable contribution to the further development of our country.
- 1997 Thelma King National Dignity Award of the Association of Independent Attorneys (FRAI) in recognition of her outstanding social, professional and humanitarian work.
- 1997 Legislative Assembly, Human Rights Committee, for her dynamic participation as a candidate for the post of Ombudsman.
- 1996 Ministry of Education of Panama Award for merit and exemplary citizenship.

- 1996 National Association of Business Executives in lasting recognition of and gratitude for her valuable contribution to the success of the programmes of the CADE Association of Colón.
- 1996 University of Panama for the generous support provided to our institution.
- 1996 Inter-Oceanic Regional Authority in recognition of the excellent work done and for being the first woman to hold the post of President of the Board of Directors of the ARI.
- 1996 National Union of Panamanian Women on her designation as Vice-President of the Inter-Oceanic Regional Authority (ARI).
- 1992 Association of Muslim Women for her contribution to Panamanian Women.
- 1988 Association of Employees of the National Institute of Culture for her contribution to progress and culture in Panama.
- 1974 National Institute of Culture, First Festival of Congos and Coastal Folklore, Colón.
