

SIFUENTES, Mônica Jacqueline (Brazil)

[original: English, Spanish]

Curriculum vitae

Personal information

Date of birth: 28 December 1964

Nationality: Brazilian

Current position: 1. Federal Judge at the Brazilian Federal Court of Appeals – 6th Circuit
2. Representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) on the Trust Fund for Victims, elected by acclamation at the Assembly of States Parties in December 2024; serving since January 2025.

Language skills: English (advanced), French (basic), and Spanish (intermediate)

Regional criteria: GRULAC

Educational qualifications

08/2016 - 06/2017

Institution: American University, Washington College of Law/ Washington DC - USA

Qualification obtained: Specialization (post-graduate degree course) in Combat and Prevention of International Trafficking in Persons - Trafficking in Persons, Policy and Prevention

08/1998 - 07/2003

Institution: Law School of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, and University of Lisbon, Portugal. Dissertation presented on July 3, 2003, with the title "Normative Judicial Act", diploma issued on March 4, 2004.

Qualification obtained: Doctor of Constitutional Law (Ph. D in Law)

08/1990 - 11/2000

Institution: Law School of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, thesis presented on November 24, 2000, titled "Access to Elementary School in Brazil", diploma issued on November 08, 2001.

Qualification obtained: Master of Laws and Economics (LL.M), with honors

03/1983 - 12/1987

Institution: Law School of the Federal University of Minas Gerais Qualification obtained: Bachelor of Laws (LL.B), with honors

Most relevant specializations

September 1998 to March 1999 - Attended the XVII Regular Formation Program Portuguese Judges, at the Center of Judicial Studies in Lisbon.

20-24 April 2015 - Attended, upon invitation from the Embassy of the United States of America, the Environmental Enforcement and Prosecution Course, held by the International Law Enforcement Academy in San Salvador, El Salvador.

June 2016 to July 2017 - Took part in the national and international admission process, and was one of four Brazilians awarded in 2016 the scholarship for the Program of Graduate Study and Professional Development, offered by the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, and the Fulbright Commission - Fulbright Exchange Activity, and completed the program of studies at the American University - Washington College of Law, with a certificate issued by the Government of the United States of America,

Washington DC, USA.

June 2016 to July 2017 - Specialization in Combat and Prevention of International Trafficking in Persons - Trafficking in Persons, Policy and Prevention, American University, Washington College of Law, Washington DC/USA.

December 2016 - International course on mediation and arbitration for judges and prosecutors - International Course on Mediation Skills for Judges and Prosecutors, offered by the American University, Washington College of Law, DC, Paulista School of the Judiciary and Brazilian Prosecution Service Superior School, Washington-DC/USA.

26-31 May 2019 - Course on Antitrust and Economic Crimes Law promoted by the Global Antitrust Institute's (GAI's) Economics Institute for Competition Law Judges, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, Lisbon.

7-11 October 2019 - Course on Criminal Evidence and New Technologies, promoted by AECID - Spanish Center Cooperation, Training Center of Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia.

Professional experience

Since August 2022

Employer: Federal Regional Court of Appeals – 6th Circuit – Minas Gerais/BRAZIL

Post Title: President of the Court

Other information: She is the Court's first president, which was installed in August 2022. She was responsible for the installation and implementation of the new Court of Justice, created by Law n.14.226, on 20 October 2021.

08/2012 - 2022

Employer: Federal Regional Court of Appeals - 1st Circuit - Brasilia/BRAZIL

Post Title: Judge at The Federal Regional Court of Appeals

Other information: Member of the 3rd Chamber, with jurisdiction over federal political crimes and criminal offenses committed against the assets, services, or interest of the Union or its autonomous agencies or public companies, international trafficking in drugs, weapons, and persons, crimes covered by an international treaty or convention; cases regarding human rights; crimes against the organization of labor and, in the cases determined by law, those against the financial system and the economic and financial order; cases of misconduct in public office, and expropriations;

Chair of the 2nd Section of Appeals, with jurisdiction over crimes committed by authorities with jurisdictional prerogatives, like City Mayors and State Representatives in regular crimes and impeachable offenses, except those falling under the jurisdiction of Electoral Courts

03/2010 - 08/2012

Employer: Federal Regional Court of Appeals - 1st Circuit - Brasilia/BRAZIL

Post Title: Judge at The Federal Regional Court of Appeals

Other information: Member of the 2nd Chamber, with jurisdiction over cases related to public servants and social security law

05/2001 - 03/2010

Employer: Brazilian Federal Justice

Post Title: Federal Judge

Other information: Presiding Judge of the 3rd Court in the Federal District, Brasilia/Brazil, with jurisdiction over cases in which the Union, an autonomous government agency, or a federal public company have an interest and cases between a foreign state or international organization and a municipality or a person

domiciled or residing in the country.

06/1998 - 09/2000

Employer: Brazilian Federal Justice

Post Title: Federal Judge

Other information: Presiding Judge of the 4th Court in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais/Brazil, specialized in federal criminal cases, from June 1998 to September 2000

11/1995 - 06/1998

Employer: Brazilian Federal Justice

Post title: Federal Judge

Other information: Presiding Judge of the Single Court of the Judiciary Subsection of Juiz de Fora, State of Minas Gerais/ Brazil, with civil and criminal federal jurisdiction over more than 40 municipalities of the Minas Gerais State.

06/1993 - 11/1995

Employer: Brazilian Federal Justice

Post title: Federal Judge

Other information: Deputy and Presiding Judge of the Single Court of the Judiciary Subsection of Ilhéus, State of Bahia/ Brazil, with civil and criminal federal jurisdiction over more than 30 municipalities in the South of the Bahia State

04/1992 - 05/1993

Employer: State Court of Justice - State of Minas Gerais/Brazil

Post title: Deputy State Judge

Other information: Substitute Judge of the State Court of Minas Gerais, the top scorer in the civil service entrance examination of 1991, presiding over the districts of Sabará and Contagem. During this period, served as Electoral Judge in the District of Sabará-MG

04/1988 - 03/1992

Employer: State Court of Justice - State of Minas Gerais/Brazil

Post title: Legal Assistant

Other selected professional activities

10/2006 - 2021

Liaison Judge in Brazil for the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and Hague Conventions, by appointment of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court's Presidency.

In such role, she has assisted in the resolution of international disputes concerning the international abduction of children (1980 Convention), as a focal point for judges to contact the Brazilian and foreign judicial authorities and the Permanent Office of the Hague Conference. She has also answered consultations from foreign judges on the functioning of the Brazilian legal system and international abduction cases underway in Brazilian courts, to speed up processing times under the 1980 Convention.

08/2010 - 2021

Contact Point in Brazil for IBERRED - The Ibero-American International Legal Cooperation Network, composed of the Central Authorities and contact points from the Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecution Service, and the Judiciary of 22-member states of the Ibero-American International Legal Cooperation Network.

Its goal is to optimize judicial cooperation's instrument in civil and criminal matters and to strengthen the cooperation between countries.

08/2008 - 2020

Coordinator of the Commission of Federal Judges concerning the implementation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, established by the Presidency of the Superior Court of Justice (STJ) under the Federal Council of Justice, to conduct studies and drawing up resolutions, manuals and seminars and procedural accompaniment of the Child Abductions cases in Brazil.

06/2014 -2020

Representative of the Federal Regional Court of Appeals - 1st Circuit - at the National Forum of the Judiciary for Monitoring and Implementation of Demands Related to Trafficking in Persons - FONATRAPE, established by the National Council of Justice - CNJ Resolution N. 197, 16 June 2014.

30 October to 9 November 2006

Member of the Brazilian Delegation for the 5th Meeting of the Special Committee to review the procedural aspects of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which took place in the Hague, Netherlands.

8-16 May 2007

Member of the Brazilian Delegation for the 5th meeting of the Special Committee on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, held in the Hague, Netherlands.

5-23 November 2007

Member of the Brazilian Delegation for the 21st Diplomatic Session of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, in preparation for the adoption of the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support, held in the Hague, Netherlands.

2-7 February 2009

Member of the Brazilian Delegation for the Special Committee Meeting of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, to discuss the Apostille, Service Abroad, and International Access to Justice Conventions, held in the Hague, Netherlands.

1-10 June 2011 and 25-31 January 2012

Member of the Brazilian Delegation for the 6th Meeting of the Special Committee to review the procedural aspects of the 1980 Hague Conventions on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and 1996 on International Protection of Children, held in the Hague, Netherlands.

3-7 December 2013

TRF 1st Circuit's representative at the Latin American Meeting on the International Protection of Children and Recovery of Child Support, invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Santiago de Chile.

15-17 December 2014

Contact Point for Brazil at the Meeting: Points of Contact and Liaison of IberRed on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and their Return, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

22-25 February 2015

Contact Point for Brazil at the 7th Plenary Meeting of IberRed Contact Points and Liaisons, held in Panama City, Panama.

13-15 November 2018

Representative of the TRF 1st Circuit at the Mission for Exchange of Best Practices and Initiatives on Forced Labor in Brazil and Argentina, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, promoted by the International Labor Organization in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Brazil.

Additional information

In 2020 Mônica Sifuentes was nominated as the Brazilian candidate for election as a Judge of the International Criminal Court, under the terms of article 36, paragraph 4(a)(i), of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, i.e. by the procedure for the nomination of candidates for appointment to the highest judicial offices in Brazil.

On 23 March 2022, Ms. Sifuentes was awarded with the Bertha Lutz Diploma, bestowed by the Federal Senate in recognition of her significant contribution to the defense of women's rights and gender matters.

Mônica Sifuentes

Belo Horizonte, MG, May 20, 2026