

DE WET, Johanna Gertruida Susanna (Sandea) (South Africa)

[original: english]

Curriculum vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname	De Wet
First names	Johanna Gertruida Susanna
Date of birth	10 January 1962
Sex	Female
Nationality	South African
Employment status	Retired Chief State Law Adviser (International Law)

SKILLS

- Leadership and proficiency in providing strategic direction in the realisation of the policy objectives of the organisation, through leading by example with vision, enthusiasm, taking responsibility, and instilling commitment and loyalty.
- An accomplished legal expert in the field of international law and a seasoned international negotiator, with broad exposure to the practical application of all aspects of international law.
- An accomplished lawyer with extensive practical experience and knowledge of South African law, particularly constitutional law, administrative law, law of contract and labour law.
- Extensive knowledge, experience and understanding of the complex nature of international diplomacy, particularly as an added dimension to the practical application of international law.
- Twenty-one years of senior management experience, with a proven track record of results-based management initiatives and enhancement of service delivery.
- Thorough understanding of public service processes and delivery requirements.
- Effective communicator with excellent interpersonal relations, committed to human resource development and management, through mentoring in a manner that contributes to the enhancement of human potential and skills.
- Proven ability of innovative and creative problem solving, be it of an administrative or substantive nature.
- Easily adaptable to new challenges, changing work environments and time frames, and the proven ability to handle stress through the establishment of efficient management processes.

EMPLOYMENT

2002–2023	Chief State Law Adviser (International Law) Department of International Relations and Cooperation (formerly, Department of Foreign Affairs) of South Africa
1996–2002	Principal State Law Adviser (International Law) Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa
1992–1996	Senior State Law Adviser (International Law) Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa
1988–1992	State Law Adviser (International Law) Department of Foreign Affairs of South Africa

1986–1987 Legal Officer
Department of Development Planning of South Africa

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1989 LLM in Public International Law *cum laude*
University of Pretoria, South Africa
Dissertation: *Historical focus on the development of Human Rights in Africa*

1986 LLM in Private Law *cum laude*
University of the Orange Free State, South Africa
Dissertation: *Recognition of the Customary Law of Black South Africans*

1985 Admitted as advocate of the High Court of the Republic of South Africa

1984 LLB *cum laude*
University of the Orange Free State, South Africa

1982 B Iuris *cum laude*
University of the Orange Free State, South Africa

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- L'ordre national du Mérite from the French Republic in recognition of outstanding work as lead negotiator for South Africa during the international climate change negotiations leading to the conclusion of the Paris Agreement (2018)
- Honorary colours from the University of Pretoria (1989)
- Human Sciences Research Council Bursary for full time post graduate study (1985–1986)
- Bar Council Award for best LLB student (1984)
- Moritz Bobbert Coin for Excellence (1984)
- Honorary Award from Student Council for excellence (1984)
- Honorary colours from the University of the Orange Free State (1984)
- Nedbank Gold Coin Academy Award (1982)
- Honorary colours from the University of the Orange Free State (1982)
- Dux pupil, High School Hertzogville (1979)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International negotiations

- Comprehensive understanding of the procedures of the United Nations and other international organisations and their role in international relations and diplomacy.
- Extensive experience in a leadership role in bilateral and multilateral negotiations on a wide range of issues.
- Representative of South Africa and accomplished negotiator at international meetings and conferences, often as chief negotiator, or coordinator and spokesperson for the Africa Group and the Group of 77 and China.
- Chair or facilitator of negotiating and drafting committees at international meetings.
- Coordinating and developing position papers and negotiating strategies for South Africa in close consultation with subject matter experts on various issues in bilateral and multilateral contexts.
- Supporting political principals participating in international meetings and negotiations through strategic advice.
- Participating in various structured bilateral engagements between South Africa and foreign counterparts, providing advice on agreements, declarations, and project documents on a wide range of matters.

Advising on international law

- Advising the South African government on matters of policy on the basis of international law, through a thorough analysis of international conventions, custom, international legal principles, jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals, as well as academic research.
- Advising on the constitutional procedures in respect of the signing of treaties and facilitating the prescribed procedures for their ratification, accession, acceptance or approval.
- Certification of treaties and supervision over the registration, publication and safekeeping of treaties entered into by South Africa.
- Legislative drafting, as well as managing the process of the enactment of legislation in parliament and its promulgation into law.
- Providing inputs to the International Law Commission (ILC) in respect of its work on the codification and progressive development of international law.
- Preparation of directives for South Africa's participation in the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.
- Attendance of the annual meetings of the international legal advisers of ministries of foreign affairs during sessions of the Sixth Committee.

Appearances before international courts

- Member of the legal team of the South African delegation to the hearing of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the advisory opinion proceedings in the case concerning the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*.
- Member of the legal team of the South African delegation to the hearing of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the advisory opinion proceedings in the case concerning the *Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965*.
- Appeared before Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court on behalf of South Africa in proceedings under Article 87(7) of the Rome Statute against South Africa on the non-compliance by South Africa with the request by the Court for the arrest and surrender of Omar Al-Bashir.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Membership of the International Panel of Arbitrators under the Optional Rules for Arbitration of Disputes relating to Natural Resources and/or the Environment.
- Adjudicator in the annual International Jessop Moot Court competition.
- Lecturer in international law at the University of Pretoria in the Masters (LLM) programme.
- Lecturer on negotiation skills at the Good Governance Course of the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria.
- Lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs, on a variety of topics, including diplomatic immunities and privileges and conference diplomacy.
- Member of the South African branch of the International Law Association (ILA).