

## CURRICULUM VITAE

# Sègnonna Horace ADJOLOHOUN

*Extraordinary Lecturer of Human Rights Law  
(University of Pretoria)*

*Visiting Professor of Human Rights and Comparative Constitutional Law  
(Central European University)*

*Principal Legal Officer  
(African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights)*

Languages: English and French - Country: Benin (based in Tanzania)  
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## PROFILE AND COMPETENCE SUMMARY

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Post graduate in public international law (human rights) – Advanced training in good governance and democratisation in Africa – Over fifteen (15) years in programmes pertaining to the legal and judicial protection of human rights, the rule of law, international human rights law, constitutional governance and democratisation in Africa – Sound legal research, analytical, and drafting skills with an excellent command of English and French – Experience with the justice sector, public agencies, academic institutions, donors and civil society in law auditing, training, advisory work, and programme management with a focus on institutional governance and the legal and judicial protection of human rights – senior level experience with regional African judicial organisations and human rights organs of the African Union.

Theoretical and practical experience in international human rights adjudication and litigation, follow-up on implementation and state compliance with decisions of (international) courts with a focus on Africa – Interest and experience in research and publication relating to public international law, human rights, justice, constitutionalism, and democracy.

## PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVE

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Contribute directly at strategic and operational levels to human development in Africa through research, publication, training, advocacy and litigation on:

- Protection and promotion of human rights;
- Strengthening of the rule of law and consolidation of democracy;
- Political, social and economic governance based on purposive

- constitutionalism;
- Realising African Union's Agenda 2063.

## **SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE**

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**March 2016 – to date**

**Principal Legal Officer**

**Special Assistant to the President**

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Arusha, Tanzania

**Jan 2013 – Feb 2016**

**Senior Legal Expert**

**Team Leader**

**GFA Consulting Group, funded by GIZ**

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Banjul, The Gambia

**Jan 2011 – Dec 2012**

**Research and Litigation Project Coordinator**

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

**Jan – Dec 2010**

**Executive Officer** | ForAID NGO Benin

**External Human Rights Consultant** | Centre for Human Rights

**Apr – Dec 2009**

**International Law and Human Rights Researcher**

International Law in Domestic Courts Project (ILDC)

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria | Centre for International Law, University of Amsterdam

**Jul 2008 – Dec 2008**

**Human Rights Fellow**

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human

Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for East Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Jan – June 2008**

**Institutional Governance and Human Rights Consultant**

Benin Human Rights Commission

**Oct 2002 – Dec 2006**

**Programme Officer, Legal and Judicial Human Rights Protection**

Francophone Africa Supreme Courts Association (AA-HJF)

Supreme Court of Benin

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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**March 2016 – to date**

**Principal Legal Officer**

**Special Assistant to the President of the Court**

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Arusha, Tanzania

- Handling contentious and advisory matters
- Conducting research in various areas of public international (human rights) law
- Drafting judgments, decisions, opinions, briefs and other technical or policy documents on the interpretation and implementation of provisions of international law instruments, in particular, the African Charter, African Court Protocol, African Women's Protocol; the African Court and Commission's Rules of Procedure
- Coordinating the publication of the African Court's Law Report, and of the African Human Rights Yearbook
- Supervising legal officers
- Special Assistant to the President of the Court
- Member of the Management Committee of the Registry, the Internal Procurement Committee, the Board of Survey of the Court, and the Appointment, Promotion and Recruitment Board

**Jan 2013 – Feb 2016**

**Senior Legal Expert**

**Team Leader**

**GFA Consulting Group, funded by GIZ**

**Project: "Strengthening the Capacity of the African Commission"**

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Banjul, The Gambia

- Supervised the conduct of research in the areas of public international (human rights) law
- Handled individual Communications/Complaints
- Conducted research and drafting decisions for consideration by the Commission; presenting and defending draft decisions before the Commission
- Conducted research and drafted opinions, briefs, pleadings, and other technical or policy documents on the interpretation and implementation of provisions of the African Charter, African Court Protocol, Women's Protocol, Court and Commission's Rules of Procedure
- Identified cases and drafted recommendations for referral to the African Court
- Supported litigation of cases referred to the Court by the Commission

- Drafted guidelines for referral of cases to the African Court
- Member of the Communications Management Team, and Working Group on Communications
- Led a team of three legal experts with technical, administrative, and senior management functions

**Jan 2011 – Dec 2012**

**Research and Litigation Project Coordinator**

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria

- Conducted research on state compliance with the judgments of the ECOWAS Court of Justice and influence on domestic systems; in a comparative approach with UN, European, American, and African regional and sub-regional systems and regimes
- Supervised Master's students in Human Rights Clinics, 'Litigation in regional courts in Africa'
- Represented the Centre for Human Rights in a case filed with RADDHO before the ECOWAS Court of Justice
- Contributed to the preparation of amicus curiae submission to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Drafted commentaries, reports, articles and chapters for various academic research projects
- Coordinated the Association of Alumni of the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa: Administration and management, coordination of academic research, publication and other alumni projects, setting up and launching of country chapters, organisation of alumni country chapter meetings
- Chief Editor of 'Righting Wrongs', HRDA Alumni Association Newsletter
- Member of the Vera Chirwa Human Rights Award Selecting Committee
- Coordinator of the Alumni Association of the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, management of the Association, academic research and publication and other projects involving alumni, launching of national chapters, organising and supporting national chapters' meetings

**Jan – Dec 2010**

**Executive Officer** | ForAID NGO Benin

**External Consultant** | Centre for Human Rights

- Chaired and represented the ForAID Executive Committee on National NGOs Forum
- Initiated the Benin elections fair (2010) and advocated for a presidential debate during Benin 2011 election; organised youth human rights campaigns in high

schools in Cotonou (Benin)

- Served as the Centre for Human Rights focal person and a coordinating member of the Benin UNESCO Chair Organising Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> African Human Rights Moot Court Competition (Cotonou-Benin, 4-9 October 2010)
- Undertook empirical research on international case law, the rights to political participation and freedom of association

#### **Apr – Dec 2009**

##### **International Law and Human Rights Researcher**

International Law in Domestic Courts Project (ILDC)

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria | Centre for International Law,  
University of Amsterdam

- Conducted research and traced international law relevant cases from domestic courts in Francophone West Africa
- Contributed to the organisation of an international conference on ‘International law and human rights litigation in Africa’ held in Lagos in conjunction with the 18<sup>th</sup> African Human Rights Moot Court Competition
- Contributed to the selection and editing of proceedings of the conference for publication
- ILDC Reporter and commentator

#### **Jan – Mar 2009**

##### **Human Rights Expert**

Constitutional Court of Benin

- Conducted research and drafted a prospective paper on the projected amendment of the Constitution of Benin, 1990
- Law review

#### **Jul 2008 – Dec 2008**

##### **Human Rights Fellow**

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Regional Office for East Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- Contributed to the organisation and coordination of a training workshop on “Human Rights Based Approach to Programming for Ethiopia UN Country Team staff”
- Supported human rights capacity building and technical co-operation projects for Djibouti, Tanzania and Ethiopia
- Drafted a research and strategy paper on “Building on human rights mandates

in regional integration to foster human rights development in Africa: How can the UN and OHCHR help?”

- Conducted research on the “Impact of counter-terrorism measures on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”
- Drafted Terms of Reference for the development of a Human Rights Resource Centre within the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
- Drafted Terms of Reference, a questionnaire and researched for a baseline study on “the state of parallel reporting by East African countries’ civil society organisations to United Nations Treaty Bodies and cooperation with Special Procedures”
- Contributed to the final draft of the project document on “Strengthening the capacity of the African Union organs with a human rights mandate” in the framework of the UN 10-year capacity building program for the AU

**Jan – June 2008**

**Institutional Governance and Human Rights Consultant**

Benin Human Rights Commission

- Advocated for the reinstatement of the Commission
- Conducted research, drafted and published an advocacy paper on institutional governance in Benin calling for the rehabilitation of the Commission
- Communicated to the President of the Republic, Parliament Speaker, Presidents of Supreme and Constitutional Courts, Ombudsman, Justice and Human Rights Minister on Benin’s international commitments with regard to the Commission
- Raised public awareness on the situation of the Commission and the urgent need for its rehabilitation, including TV and radio interviews and articles in newspapers
- Contributed through relevant recommendations to the renewal of the Commission’s membership, the launching of its activities, and its involvement in on going national and international initiatives
- Drafted and published an advocacy report

**Oct 2002 – Dec 2006**

**Programme Officer, Legal and Judicial Human Rights Protection**

Francophone Africa Supreme Courts Association (AA-HJF) with the support of Interights and Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA)

- Organised three annual sessions of an international judicial human rights course at judicial training schools in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Senegal
- Organised international judicial conferences for Supreme Courts’ judges and other stakeholders of the judiciary from West and Central Africa

- Organised judicial exchange visits for West and Central Africa judges
- Edited and distributed an international human rights course syllabus
- Drafted results focused mid-term and final reports, program budgets and motivated grant applications; drafted Association's plan of action and annual activity reports, coordinating the development of a legislative and jurisprudential database, an experts and consultants' database and contributed to the selection of trainers and trainers of trainers
- Supported the organisation of and attended annual statutory meetings (General Assembly, Board and other meetings)
- Conducted legal research
- Assistant Editor of the Association's Law Review

**Jan – Apr 2001**

**Electoral Programme Assistant**

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

- Supporting the National Electoral Commission for the 2001 presidential election in Benin
- Providing technical and operational support to electoral officers, members of parliament and members of the Electoral Commission
- Contributing to the framing of a national election management strategy, its discussion with stakeholders and dissemination at country level

**EDUCATION**

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**LL.D. Doctor of Laws, Public International Law, Human Rights**

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, 2013

**LL.M. Master of Laws in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa**

Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, 2007

**LL.B. Licence en Droit Public**

Université Pierre Mendès (France) – USAM (Benin), 2005

**Bachelor in Public Administration and Law**

National School of Administration and Judicial Training, Université d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin), 1998

**Certificate, Summer Courses, Central European University**

- 'Strategic Human Rights Litigation', July 2015
- 'Constitution Building in Africa', July 2014

### **Certificates, United Nations**

- Treaty bodies, common core document and target reports, Nov 2009
- Indigenous peoples and minority rights, Sept 2008
- Human Rights Based Approach to programming and development, Nov 2008

### **Certificates, Advanced Courses, University of Pretoria**

- International Law, Jan 2007
- Socio-Economic Rights, Mar 2007
- Good Governance, Jul 2007
- Gender, Development and Human Rights, Dec 2007

### **Certificate, Strasbourg Institute for Human Rights**

- Human Rights Summer Course, Aug 2004

### **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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- *Extraordinary Lecturer of Human Rights Law, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria – since 2016*
- *Visiting Professor, Master’s Programme on “Comparative Constitutional Law and Human Rights”, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary - 2017*
- *Faculty Member, Summer Course on Constitution Building in Africa, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary – since 2015*

### **RESEARCH / PUBLICATION**

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#### **Books**

- Authority and influence of international human rights courts in Africa (under review)
- Between Constitutionalism and Presidentialism: Successes and Dilemmas of Benin’s New Constitutional Dispensation, 1990-2012 (CeDAT, January 2013)
- Human Rights and Constitutional Adjudication in Africa: Benin’s Experience in the Light of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (L’Harmattan, October 2011)

#### **Chapters in books**

- *A Model of Centralised Constitutional Adjudication: the Constitutional Court of Benin*, in Stellenbosch Series on African Constitutional Law (Oxford, 2017)
- *“Made in Courts” Democracies? Constitutional Adjudication and Politics in African Constitutionalism* in Stellenbosch Series on African Constitutional Law (Oxford, 2017)



- *Separation of powers and the role of the Public Prosecutor in Francophone Africa*, with C Fombad in Stellenbosch Series on African Constitutional Law (Oxford, 2016)
- Between presidentialism and a human rights approach to constitutionalism: Twenty years of practice and the dilemmas of revising the 1990 Constitution of Benin in *Constitutionalism and Democracy in Africa: Contemporary Perspectives from Sub-Saharan Africa* (Pretoria University Law Press, 2013)
- 'Benin' in Centre for Human Rights (ed), *Impact of the African Charter and Women's Protocol in selected African states* (PULP, 2012)
- 'Senegal' in Centre for Human Rights (ed), *Impact of the African Charter and Women's Protocol in selected African states* (PULP, 2012)
- International law and domestic human rights litigation in Africa: An introduction, with Magnus Killander in M Killander (ed) *International law and domestic human rights Litigation in Africa* (PULP, 2010)
- International law and human rights litigation in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, with Armand Tanoh in M Killander (ed) *International law and domestic human rights Litigation in Africa* (PULP, 2010)

### Articles

- The ECOWAS Court Njemanze judgment, universal jurisdiction and implications for the grand African human rights system, *iConnect* 2018
- The African Court and need for a system based approach to judicial law making, *AfricLaw* 2017
- The ECOWAS Court as a Human Rights Promoter: Assessing Five Years' Impact of the Koraou Slavery Judgment (2013-3) *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*
- 'Benin' in *Constitutions of the Countries of the World Online*, Oxford, July 2012
- Visiting the Senegalese Legal System and Legal Research: A Human Rights' Perspective, *GlobaLex*, New York University, 2009

### Commentaries

- Note on Resolution 234 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Right to Nationality, *International Legal Materials*, American Society of International Law, 2014
- Can the ECOWAS Court revive regionalism through human rights? in 'Opinio Juris' *American Journal of International Law Symposium*, 2014
- Equating the right to life with an abolition of the death penalty under the ICCPR? The Benin Supreme Court case of Yaovi Azonhito v Public Prosecutor, in *International Law in Domestic Court (ILDC)*, Oxford, 2011
- The ICC complementary jurisdiction, states sovereignty and constitutional immunities: Control of conformity of the Rome Statute with the Constitution by the Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire, *ILDC*, 2010

- The Rome Statute “Article 98 Agreements” and states commitments under international human rights law: The Benin Supreme Court advisory opinion on a proposed impunity agreement with the USA, *ILDC*, 2009

## TRAINING – CONSULTANCIES

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- Facilitator, Regional seminar for civil society organisations on child rights litigation in African forums, Dakar, February 2018 - *IHRDA*
- Facilitator, Training of Barristers on the procedure before the African Court, Benin and Ghana, December 2017 - *African Court Coalition*
- Facilitator, VAW and SHRR Litigation Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa, Oct 2016 – *Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA)*
- Consultant, Validation of Guidelines on Litigating Women’s Rights before the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Nairobi, Kenya, 2016, *Equality Now*
- Facilitator, Strategic Women’s Rights Litigation Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa, June 2016 – *ISLA*
- Trainer, Training for Judges and Lawyers on human rights law and litigation in the African system, Conakry, Guinea, 2016 – *Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA)*
- Facilitator and trainer, Training for Judges and Lawyers on human rights law and litigation in the African system, Bamako, Mali, 2015 – *IHRDA*
- Facilitator, Regional Workshop on Litigating the Maputo Protocol, Dakar, Senegal, 2015 – *Equality Now*
- Trainer, Training for Judges and Lawyers on human rights law and litigation in the African system, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 2014 – *IHRDA*
- Trainer, Training for Judges and Lawyers on human rights law and litigation in the African system, Banjul, The Gambia, 2013 – *IHRDA*
- Facilitator, Africa workshop on strategic litigation, 2012 – *Global Rights Nigeria*
- Rapporteur, Conference ‘Strengthening the SADC Tribunal’, 2011 – *International Commission of Jurist Africa*
- Study on the implementation of a self-monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the Parliament of Benin, 2009 – *Cellule d’Analyse des Politiques de Développement de l’Assemblée Nationale du Bénin*

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## LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

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- *Conflicts of jurisdiction between the African Court and the ECOWAS Court of Justice*, Visit of the ECOWAS Court Delegation to the African Court, March 2018
- *Accountability for international crimes in African regional courts*, Civil Society

Retreat on Advancing international criminal justice in West Africa, Trust Africa, 7-8 March 2017

- *Recent developments in the jurisprudence of the African Court*, Side event by Trust Africa and the African Court Coalition, 58<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission, Banjul, October 2016
- *Litigating human rights in the African Court in an era of complementarity*, Side event by the NGO Litigants' Group, 58<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission, Banjul, October 2016
- *Overview of the operation of the African Court*, African Court sensitization seminar for media professionals from West and Central Africa, Arusha, 2016
- *African Union Regional Normative Framework and the Role of the Judiciary in the Strengthening of the Rule of Law and Constitutionalism*, Regional Meeting with the Representatives of the Judiciary to Strengthen the Rule of Law and Justice Reform in Southern Africa, African Union Department of Political Affairs, Johannesburg, Nov 2015
- *Challenges and Opportunities of African Constitutionalism: The Role of National, Regional and Continental Parliaments*, Consultation with the Pan African Parliament and Regional Parliaments to Promote Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law in Africa, African Union Department of Political Affairs, Johannesburg, Nov 2015
- *Application of the African Charter in Francophone Africa*, Colloquium on the application of the African Charter in domestic courts in Africa, Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, Nov 2012
- *Effectiveness of the ECOWAS Court of Justice: The role of regional courts, domestic courts and civil society*, International conference on 'the role of the ECOWAS Court in human rights, democracy and good governance', ECOWAS Court and UNDP, Accra, Oct 2012
- *The state's duty to investigate human rights violations: The South African experience -- Putting the jurisprudence on the duty to investigate into practice - - Taking strategic and public interest litigation cases to sub-regional forums: Focus on the ECOWAS Court of Justice -- Status of the human rights judgments of the ECOWAS Court of Justice: Implications on human rights and democracy in the region*, Africa Workshop on Strategic Litigation, Global Rights Nigeria, Abuja, 4-6 Sept 2012
- *Enforcement of judgments of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice and implications on democracy and human rights in West Africa*, Civil Society Forum, Media Foundation for West Africa, Abuja, Jul 2012
- *Sub-Regional Economic Communities and the protection of human rights in Africa*, Human Rights in Africa Advanced Course, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, Oct 2011
- *The African Charter in the Constitutional Protection of Human Rights in Benin:*

*Incorporation, Application et Reparation, 30 years of the African Charter conference, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, Jul 2011*

- *Overview of judicial decisions of the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice and their implementation status, West African symposium on the enforcement of judicial decisions from sub-regional tribunals: Gains, challenges and opportunities, International Commission of Jurists, Dakar, Jun 2011*
- *Domestic human rights litigation in African Francophone countries, ILDC Conference – 19th African Human Rights Moot Court Competition, Cotonou, Oct 2010*
- *The use of international by domestic courts, ILDC seminar for judges and lawyers, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 2009*

## CONFERENCES

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- Human rights in international criminal justice, Dakar, Trust Africa, March 2017
- AU - EU human rights dialogue, Brussels Jan 2017
- African Union Summits, Jan 2017, June 2017, Jan 2018
- SASCA Stellenbosch Annual Seminar on Constitutionalism in Africa, *University of Stellenbosch and Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa*, South Africa, 2013, 2014, 2015
- Experts meeting on complementarity between the African Court and the African Commission, Pan African Lawyers Union, Arusha, June 2012
- African Charter on Democracy and Access to Information in Africa Model Law, Centre for Human Rights and IDASA, Dakar, October 2011
- NGOs Sensitization Seminar, African Court, Johannesburg, October 2011 - 30 years of the African human rights system, Pan African Lawyers Union, Arusha, July 2011
- The role of NGOs in the Universal Periodic Review Process in West and Central Africa, Dakar, July 2010 - Implementation of the Santa Cruz Declaration, human rights and migrations in West Africa, Bamako, 12 November 2009
- International Law and Human Rights Litigation in Africa, Lagos, 14-15 August 2009
- Network of National Human Rights Institutions of ECOWAS countries, Cotonou, February 2009
- The relations between national Courts of Cassation and the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration of the Organisation on the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa: Appraisal and Prospects, Francophone Africa Supreme Courts' Association (FASCA), Lome, June 2006
- Assessment of the application of international human rights conventions in West African countries, FASCA, Cotonou, September 2005
- Contrariety of decisions between constitutional, administrative and criminal

courts, FASCA, Bamako, July 2004

- Rule of law and the separation of powers in Africa, Cotonou, FASCA, January 2004
- Application of international human rights law in the domestic legal order of African francophone countries, FASCA, Ouagadougou, June 2003

## **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

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- Individual member, Pan African Lawyers Union
- Individual member, African Court Coalition
- Benin Association of Constitutional Lawyers
- African Association of Constitutional Lawyers
- International Association of Constitutional Lawyers
- Founding member, ForAID NGO (Forum Afrique Initiatives Droits de l'Homme et Développement)
- Former Coordinator and member of the Association of the LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa

## **REFERENCES**

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- Hon. Sylvain Oré, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, +255 784 733 827 - ore@sylvainyahoo.fr
- Hon. Reine Alapini-Gansou, Judge of the International Criminal Court, Former Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, +229 90 926 515 / 97 983 788 - alapinireine@yahoo.fr
- Professor Frans Viljoen, Director, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, +27 73 393 4181 - South Africa, frans.viljoen@up.ac.za