



Judge,  
**Elizabeth Odio Benito**

Costa Rica

### Current Position

Judge, President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

### Other Positions

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2014      | Expert consultant of the University for Peace, United Nations, Costa Rica, Department of International Relations and Conflict Resolution.<br><br>Expert Consultant, of the National University of Costa Rica, Heredia, Costa Rica, Department of International Relations. |
| 2003-2012 | Judge in the Trial Division of the International Criminal Court.  |
| 2003-2006 | Second Vice President of the International Criminal Court.  |
| 1993-1998 | Judge of the International Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia, N.U.   |
| 1993-1995 | Vice President of the International Criminal Court ad hoc for the former Yugoslavia.  |

### Positions held in the Government of Costa Rica

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1998-2002 | Second Vice President of the Republic.                    |
| 1998-2002 | Minister of Environment and Energy.                       |
| 1990-1995 | Minister of Justice.                                      |
| 1978-1982 | Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic. |



|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1993 | Ambassador Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Geneva.                      |
| 1993 | Ambassador Head of Delegation World Conference on Human Rights, United Nations, Vienna. |

## Private Practice

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1965-1977 | Law Firm Odio and Partners, principal partner, Costa Rica. |
| 1982-1990 | Private Law (Commercial, Labor and Family Law).            |

## Education

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1986-1987 | Postgraduate studies in Gender, National University of Costa Rica.   |
| 1968      | Postgraduate studies in Economic and Social Development, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Organization of American States. |
| 1964      | Degree in Law and Notary Public, School of Law, University of Costa Rica.  |

## Teaching Experience in Costa Rica

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1968-1993 | University of Costa Rica, School of Law. |
| 1995      | Professor Emeritus.                      |
| 1986      | Lecturer.                                |

## Subjects Taught

- Introduction to the Study of Law.
- Private Law.
- History of Law.



- Labor Law.
- Family Law.
- International Human Rights Law.
- Economic and Social Organization of Costa Rica.

---

## Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, Costa Rica 1992 to the present

- Inter-American Seminar on Human Rights.
  - Conferences on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
  - Numerous workshops, conferences and seminars for public and private institutions.
- 

## Academic Administration Experience

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1988-1990 | Academic Vice-Chancellor, University of Costa Rica. |
|-----------|---|

---

## International Academic Experience

Guest speaker:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2013 | American University, Human Rights Academy, Law School, Washington D.C., Human Rights course.    |
| 1998 | University of Barcelona, Spain, Faculty of Law.   |
| 1998 | University of Leiden, Faculty of Law, Annie Romein-Verschoor, Conference of Honor, Netherlands. |
| 1996 | Military Academy of the University of Zaragoza, Chair Miguel de Cervantes, Jaca, Spain.         |
| 1995 | University of Utrecht, Faculty of Law, School of International Law.                             |
| 1986 | René Cassin Institute for Human Rights, University of Strasbourg, France.                       |

---



## Experience within the United Nations System

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 2000 to the present | Member of the Costa Rican national group of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.  |
| 1998-2002           | President of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.                         |
| 1992-2003           | Member and Vice President of the University for Peace Board of Directors.  |
| 1997-1998           | Member of the Administrative Tribunal of the Inter-American Development Bank.  |
| 1983-1986           | Special Rapporteur on Religious Freedoms and Thought of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Commission on Human Rights. |
| 1980-1983           | Member of the Sub-committee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Commission on Human Rights.  |

## Memberships

- Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.
- International Commission of Jurists.
- Costa Rican Bar Association.
- Steering Committee, Asser Institute, The Hague, Netherlands.

## Awards and Recognitions

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2020 | Prominent Woman in International Law de la American Society of International Law.                      |
| 2019 | Fix Zamudio Research Award in international law.   |
| 2014 | Academic Distinction, "Rodrigo Facio", University of Costa Rica.                                       |
| 2014 | Doctorate <i>Honoris Causa</i> , National University, Costa Rica.                                      |
| 2014 | Elizabeth Odio Benito Chair, Department of International Relations, National University of Costa Rica. |



|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2004 | Doctorate <i>Honoris Cause</i> , St. Edwards University, Texas, U.S.A.          |
| 2005 | Nominated to the “1000 Women of Peace” for the Nobel Peace Prize.               |
| 2007 | Women Pioneers Award at the First International Courts, Open Society Institute. |

## Publications

- Development and Interpretation of Reparations Principles: The Case Law of the IACHR and its Possible Contributions to the Rome Statute.
- Protecting Humanity: Essays in International Law and Policy in Honor of Navanethem Pillay. **Martinus Nijhoff Publishers**, Leiden. Boston, 2010.
- “Similarities and differences in procedures in the International Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court”. **Inter-American and European Human Rights Journal**, Vol. 2, No. 1-2, 2009.
- Prologue, Reparations for Victims of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity Martinus. **Nijhoff Publishers Leiden**, Boston, 2009.
- Sexual Violence as a War Crime in the New Challenges of Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflicts. **Martinus Nijhoff Publishers Leiden**, Boston, 2005.
- The International Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia. **Journal of the InterAmerican Institute of Human Rights**, Costa Rica, 1997.
- Justice for Peace. No to Impunity. **Proceedings of the Institute of Penal Studies**, Syracus, Italy, 1997.
- Human Rights and the University of Costa Rica. **Magazine of the University of Costa Rica**, 1997.
- Rape and other crimes of sexual violence punished by International Humanitarian Law as War Crimes. **Book Tribute to Professor Fernando Volio Jimenez Institute of Human Rights**, Costa Rica, 1997.
- The Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia. **Lecturer Miguel de Cervantes**, University of Zaragoza, Spain, 1996.
- Protection of Women’s Human Rights. **Institute of Human Rights**, CLADEM, 1996.
- La Elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or beliefs. **Official publication of the United Nations in all its official languages**. New York, 1989.
- The United Nations System for the Protection of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France, 1986.
- The principal of non-discrimination in education. **Journal of the Institute of Human Rights**, Costa Rica, 1986.
- Marriage and the law: necessary reforms. **Legal Journal**, No. 33, 1985, Costa Rica.
- The principal of non-discrimination: the case of women. **Journal of the Institute of Human Rights**, Costa Rica, 1985.



- United Nations Declaration on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief: its applicability and effective implementation, **Legal Journal**, Costa Rica, 1985.
- Corporal Punishment and the Penitentiary System. **Legal Journal**, Costa Rica, 1981.
- Public Officials and the Legal System. **Journal of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic**, No. 12, 1979.
- Collective Conventions and Labor Movements in Costa Rica. **Journal of Legal Sciences**, Faculty of Law, No. 35, 1978.
- Family of Fact. **Legal Journal**, Supreme Court of Justice, No. 8, 1978.
- Labor Jurisprudence of the Cassation Chamber from 1971 to 1976. **Journal of the University of Costa Rica**, No. 33, 1976.
- Population and the Role of Law in Costa Rica, Population Program, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, 1974.
- Law and Population in Costa Rica, Faculty of Law. **Journal of the University of Costa Rica**, 1973.
- Bankruptcy Agreements. **Journal of the Faculty of Law**, UCR, 1965.
- Author of numerous articles on political and social issues published in different newspapers and specialized journals of Costa Rica in the last 25 years.

---

## Languages

- Spanish, first language.
- English, (spoken, writing and reading).
- French (passive).



**Corte IDH**  
Protegiendo Derechos

**Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos**

---