



Judge, President  
**Elizabeth  
Odio  
Benito**



### **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.

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.



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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**

2019 Fix Zamudio Research Award in international  
law

2014 Academic Distinction, "Rodrigo Facio",  
University of Costa Rica.

2014 Doctorate Honoris Causa, National University,  
Costa Rica.

2014 Elizabeth Odio Benito Chair, Department of  
International Relations, National University of  
Costa Rica.



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2004	Doctorate Honoris Cause, 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 Inter-American Institute of Human Rights**, Costa Rica, 1997.
- Justice for Peace. No to Impunity. **Proceedings of the Institute of Penal Studies**, Syracuse, 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).