

Antonio Herman Benjamin

Appointed Justice of the National High Court of Brazil (STJ) in 2006 by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Professor Antonio Herman Benjamin was a career Assistant Attorney General of the State of São Paulo for over twenty years, where he headed the Environmental Protection Division for several years. Professor Benjamin was the founding president of both the Brazilian Consumer Law and Policy Institute and Law for a Green Planet Institute. He is a former president of the Brazilian Fulbright Alumni Association, a member of the UN Secretary General Legal



Expert Group on Crimes against the Environment and for a decade a Councilor of the Brazilian Environmental Council (CONAMA), first appointed by president Fernando Henrique Cardoso and later re-appointed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Professor Benjamin is the president of the Brazilian Environmental Forum of Judges (FONAMA) and the Environmental Committee of the Summit of Chief Justices of Ibero-America. At the international level, he served as co-chair of INECE –The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement. Currently, he is the chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law - WCEL, and secretary-general of the UNEP International Advisory Council for Environmental Justice. In 2014, he was appointed a Justice of the National Electoral Tribunal – TSE, a position he will hold simultaneously with his present position in the National High Court of Brazil – STJ. He is presently the Dean of the National Judicial School of Brazil (ENFAM).

Justice Benjamin was a professor at the Catholic University of Brasília School of Law. He has been a visiting professor of the University of Texas School of Law at Austin since 1994. He received his LL.B. from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, his LL.M. from the University of Illinois and his PhD from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. He is the founder and emeritus editor-in-chief of the Brazilian Consumer Law Review and the Brazilian Environmental Law Review. He has co-drafted several major Brazilian statutes, including the 1990 Consumer Protection Code, the 1992 Anti-Corruption Act, the 1994 Competition Act, the 1998 Crimes Against the Environment Act, the 2006 Forest Concession Act, the 2006 Atlantic Forest Act, and the 2012 Forest Code. Professor Benjamin has published over thirty books and articles in Brazil and abroad. During the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, he was coordinator of the UNEP World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability.

Justice Benjamin has received several awards, honours and other recognitions in Brazil and abroad. He is a Knight (Chevalier) of the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur) of France and a Commander (Commandeur) of the Order of King Leopold of Belgium. He is the recipient of the 2015 Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law, awarded by Stockholm University and considered the most prestigious international distinction conferred upon an environmental legal expert. He is a Goodwill Ambassador for Environmental Justice of the Organization of American States – OAS.

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