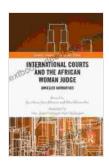
# International Courts and the African Woman Judge: Breaking Barriers and Advancing Justice

International courts play a pivotal role in shaping the global legal landscape, adjudicating disputes between states, interpreting international treaties, and advancing fundamental human rights. However, until recently, the judiciary of these courts has been predominantly male and Eurocentric.



International Courts and the African Woman Judge: Unveiled Narratives (Routledge Research in Gender

and Politics Book 3) by Josephine Jarpa Dawuni

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In recent years, there has been a growing movement to increase the representation of women and judges from diverse backgrounds in international courts. African women judges have emerged as particularly influential voices in this movement, breaking down barriers and contributing significantly to the administration of international justice.

#### **Challenges Faced by African Woman Judges**

African woman judges face a multitude of challenges as they navigate the male-dominated world of international law. These include:

- Gender bias and discrimination: African women judges often encounter skepticism, condescension, and even outright hostility from male colleagues and superiors.
- Lack of mentorship and support: There are few senior African women judges to provide mentorship and support to those who come after them.
- Cultural and linguistic barriers: African women judges may face challenges related to their cultural background and language proficiency.
- Balancing personal and professional responsibilities: African women judges often struggle to balance their demanding careers with their personal responsibilities, such as raising children.

### Achievements and Contributions of African Woman Judges

Despite the challenges they face, African woman judges have made significant contributions to international law and jurisprudence. Their achievements include:

- Advancing gender equality and women's rights: African women judges have played a key role in advancing gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls.
- Promoting human rights and social justice: African women judges have been vocal advocates for human rights, social justice, and the

rule of law.

- Ensuring diversity and representation: The presence of African women judges in international courts enhances the diversity and legitimacy of these institutions.
- Inspiring future generations: African women judges serve as role models for young women around the world, demonstrating that women of African descent can achieve the highest levels of legal scholarship and advocacy.

The increasing representation of African women judges in international courts is a testament to their determination, resilience, and dedication to justice. These women have broken down barriers and made invaluable contributions to the global legal landscape.

As we continue to strive for a more just and equitable world, it is imperative that we continue to support and empower African women judges. Their voices and experiences are essential to shaping the future of international law and ensuring that the rights of all are protected.

#### **Prominent African Woman Judges**

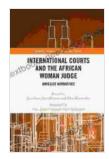
Here is a list of some prominent African women judges who have served or are currently serving in international courts:

- Judge Navi Pillay (South Africa): Former President of the International Criminal Court
- Judge Fatoumata Diarra (Mali): Judge of the International Criminal Court

- Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi (Argentina): Judge of the International Court of Justice
- Judge Abdaoud Mohamed Djama (Comoros): Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica): Judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

#### References

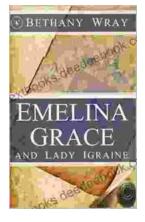
- African Women Judges' Network, https://www.awjn.org/
- International Bar Association, https://www.ibanet.org/women-in-law
- United Nations, https://www.un.org/womenwatch/women-and-the-law



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