



BIOGRAPHY

Marilyn T. Zonicle



Director of Civil Society Bahamas

Ambassador Zonicle's academic formation started with home schooling by her father, Bishop Joseph A. Zonicle. Her primary and secondary [the then grammar Government High] school education exposed her to some of the best educators which The Bahamas has produced who included: Mrs. Sadie Curtis, Mrs. Naiomi Blatch, Mrs. Mamie Astwood, Mr. Conliffe, Dr. Keva Bethel, Ms. Margaret Thomas, Mr. Colin Kelly, Ms. Miriam Saint George, all deceased, and, Ms. Majorie Davis.

She, subsequently, went on to receive graduate Diplomas from the Sorbonne, University of Paris III, France, the University of Barcelona, Spain; and, a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Degree in French and Spanish, Summa cum Laude, from McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Ambassador Zonicle also obtained a Graduate Diploma in International and Consular Law, as well as a Master of Science Degree in International Relations, majoring in International Law, from the Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

Her professional training also included the Government's highest-level Course for Public Servants, the "Advanced Diploma in Public Administration and Policy Management", at which she gave the Valedictorian Address in 1993.

Ambassador Zonicle's professional experience spans The Bahamas' Public and Foreign Services, and, Regional and International Civil Services. She has also served in multilateral, regional and bilateral Diplomatic and Consular Posts. Her last, resident Foreign Service posting was as Deputy Permanent Representative at The Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations in New York, with a mid-posting transfer as Deputy High Commissioner and Consul General to The Bahamas High Commission in London.

She returned to The Bahamas in November of 2003. Further highlights of her professional career include serving as Chargé d'Affaires and Consul General in The Republic of Haiti; as a Specialist Officer on Haiti, on secondment to the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), with residence in Jamaica; as a Professional Level United Nations Law of the Sea Officer in the United Nations Secretariat in New York and Geneva; as sole Representative of The Bahamas to Ministerial Level Meetings; chairing "The Environment Group" Sub-Committee of the 2006 to 2008 Public Sector-wide Task Force on Management of Change; Chair of Inter-Ministry/Agency, Public/Private Sector Committees, such as, the Executing Committee on Prohibition against Weapons of Mass Destruction, with particular reference to the United Nations Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which Committee also functioned as the Technical Advisory Body to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its capacity as the National Authority for the CWC; and, appointment as Chief Information Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, principal liaison with the Department of Information Technology in the Ministry of Finance for the implementation of E-Government.

From 1985 to 2013, Ambassador Zonicle has headed all Divisions of the Foreign Ministry responsible for the International Relations of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, most recently, that of the Multilateral Relations/Organizations (Political) Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

On the appointment of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, at the rank of the most senior Under Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she also served as Acting Permanent Secretary in the absence of the Permanent Secretary.

Ambassador Zonicle has also been a Resource Person for, and, Presenter to Civic Organizations, Public Sector Institutions, Universities and other academic fora, nationally, and, internationally; and, contributed academic and policy papers to the College of The Bahamas, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and, the United Nations. Ambassador Zonicle was promoted to Ambassador-at-Large in June, 2013, and retired from the Public Service in March, 2014.

Ambassador Zonicle is a past Director of the Zonta Club of Nassau and past Council Member of the Bahamas Girl Guides Association. Her professional and national motivation is the Preamble to The Constitution of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Ambassador Zonicle has been honoured by receiving the Foreign Ministry's inaugural, Peer nominated, "Distinguished Foreign Service Officer Medal", and, selection as one of Fifty Distinguished Alumni for the 2016 Jubilee Commemoration Book of the University of the West Indies' Institute of International Relations: "A History of the Institute of International Relations: 50 Years and Beyond".

In 2017, pursuant to Section 10 (d) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Act, 2014 (No. 50), on the constituting of the "Foreign Service Committee", she was appointed thereto as the Foreign Minister's "former career diplomat at the ambassadorial level".

Since retirement, Miss Zonicle has been involved in volunteer projects which include: being an ex officio member of the National Advisory Committee on national implementation of, and, regional participation in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the UNESCO designated Creative Nassau civil society organization; the Board of Civil Society Bahamas; the "Nutritional Sub-Committee" of the Healthy Bahamas Coalition; and, a Family Generational Property Development Project.

She is a health enthusiast. She enjoys all the arts.