

Curriculum Vitae - Fernanda de Mendonça Melo

Contact

Belo Horizonte, MG - Brazil

fernanda.mendoncamelo@gmail.com

+55 31 99674 1917

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/fmmelo

Professional Profile

I have extensive experience in the **legal and human rights fields**, specializing in the fight against **contemporary slave labour**. I am currently a **researcher at UFMG's Slave Labor and Human Trafficking Clinic**, working on the management of research projects, international cooperation and the formulation of public policies aimed at promoting human rights and decent work.

With a PhD and a Master's degree in Law from the **Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG)**, my research focuses on the **judicial responsibility of companies in the coffee production chain**, analyzing the relationship between corporate sustainability agendas and the fight against forced labor. I have experience leading international projects funded by the US, UK and Switzerland. My work combines **academic research and practical engagement**, promoting training and strengthening institutional networks to combat slave labor.

Academic background

- ✦ **PhD in Labor Law** - Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) | 2024 - 2028
 - ✦ **Master's Degree in Labor Law** - Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) |
 - ✦ **Bachelor of Laws** - Universidade FUMEC | 2003 - 2008
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Professional Experience

UFMG Slave Labor and Human Trafficking Clinic (2023 - Current)

Researcher and Lawyer

- Coordination of projects on **production chains in Minas Gerais and Maranhão and slave labor observatories in Rio Grande do Sul**.
- Legal advice for rescued victims and conducting **oral arguments and labor hearings**.

- Development of **databases and legal theses relevant** to labor disputes.
- Training of legal professionals and formulation of **public policies to combat slave labor**.

DHAS Consulting (2022 - Current)

Founder

- Consulting in **labor compliance and ESG**, helping companies prevent labor disputes.
- Lectures and training on **human rights and due diligence**.

American Bar Association (ABA ROLI) (2023 - 2025)

Program Officer

- Administrative and programmatic management of the project **Combating Forced Labor in the Livestock Chain in Pará**.
- Liaison with institutions such as the **National Council of Justice, the Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association and the Supreme Court**, including meetings with the President of the Supreme Court.
- Organization of **more than 10 training events** for **500+ actors from the justice system, the Federal Police and civil society**.
- Technical review of **protocols to combat forced labor** for lawyers and the Federal Public Defender's Office.

Moreira do Patrocínio & Avelino Lana Advogados (2020 - Current)

Associate Lawyer

- Management of **200 labor cases** in advisory and litigation.
- Drafting legal opinions and acting in **collective bargaining**.

Vallourec Transportes e Serviços (2014 - 2016)

Administrative Coordinator - ESG

- Integrated management of the **Human Resources, Environment, Legal and Compliance** areas.

- Implementation of **ESG reports and sustainability indicators**.

Vallourec S/A (2010 - 2014)

Labor Lawyer

- Management of **1,000+ labor cases**, drafting pleadings and monitoring litigation.
- Legal advice on **contracts, due diligence and labor risk mitigation**.

Construtora Aterpa (2009 - 2010)

Labor Lawyer

- Restructuring of the legal sector, **reducing labor litigation costs**.
- Development of **digital systems for procedural control**.

Research and Publications

Book

Melo, Fernanda de Mendonça. Slave Labor in Production Chains: whose responsibility is it? - São Paulo: Editora Dialética, 2024. 152 p.

Full articles published in journals

- MELO, F. M.; QUEIROZ, N. Gênero e Caminhos para o acesso à justiça do trabalho: invisibilidade da mulher no campo laboral. CNJ Magazine, v. 1, p. 143-152, 2022.

Published book chapters

- MIRAGLIA, L. M. M. ; RAGE, M. P. ; MELO, F. M. Labor law as a key to freeing domestic work in Brazil from the shackles of slavery. In: Renata Osório Caciquinho Bittencourt; Daniela Cristina Crepaldi; Hillary Christine Piedade Inácio; Yuli Barros Monteiro Rodrigues. (*Labour Law as an Instrument of Civilization: Homage to Professor Maurício Godinho Delgado*. 1st ed. Leme: Editora Mizuno, 2022, v. 1, p. 305-320.
- MIRAGLIA, L. M. M. ; MELO, F. M. Women's Work. In: Marcelo Maciel Ramos; Márcia F. Ribeiro da Costa Valentin; Pedro Augusto Gravatá Nicoli. (Org.).

Legal dictionary of gender and sexuality. 1st ed. Simões Filho: Editora Devires, 2022, v. 1, p. 211-218.

- OLIVEIRA, Maria Carolina Fernandes; MELO, Fernanda Mendonça. AGENDA 2030 AND THE CHALLENGES IN COMBATING SLAVE LABOR IN BRAZIL. In: *Contemporary Slave Labor: Global Phenomenon, Academic Perspectives*, 2023, p. 271.

Work Presentations

- MELO, F. M.; MIRAGLIA, L. M. M. ; OLIVEIRA, M. C. F. ; LEAL, C. R. F. ; ARAUJO, M. O. F. ; TAXI, R. A. D. The State of the Art of Contemporary Slave Labor in Brazil and its Impact on Global Industry. 2024. (Paper/Symposium Presentation).
- MELO, F. M.; BAMU, P. ; MCLAUGHLIN, R. M. ; DIXON, R. ; RUE, H. C. L. ; VAWDA, S. Constructing and Deconstructing Racism: Tales of Work and Life in Virginia, Europe, South Africa, South America, and the U.S. 2024. (Paper/Conference or lecture presentation).
- MELO, F. M.; MIRAGLIA, L. M. M. ; OLIVEIRA, M. C. F. Presentation of the UFMG Clinic of Slave Labor and Human Trafficking. 2023. (Paper/Conference or lecture presentation).
- MELO, F. M.; OLIVEIRA, M. C. F. Slave Labor in Brazilian Coffee Industry and the New German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act. 2023. (Paper/Conference or lecture presentation).
- MELO, F. M. Contemporary slave labor and its relationship with fashion. 2022. (Paper/Conference or lecture presentation).
- MELO, F. M. GENDER VIOLENCE AND PATHS TO ACCESS TO JUSTICE: VISIBILITIES AND INVISIBILITIES WITHIN THE LABOR FIELD. 2022. (Paper/Congress Presentation).
- MELO, F. M. Women's Labor Law. 2021. (Paper/Conference or lecture presentation).

Projects and Financing

- Research on Occupational Health and Safety in the Coffee Production Chain in Minas Gerais, funded by the International Labor Organization (ILO - Switzerland), with a focus on assessing working conditions, exposure to

occupational risks and the impact of work on the health of coffee workers.(2025)

- Diagnosis of the Feasibility of Legal Clinics for Assistance to Indigenous Women in Pará, funded by the UK government, with a focus on identifying legal and institutional barriers to access to justice for indigenous women vulnerable to violence at work and labor exploitation. (2024-2025)
 - Network of Legal Clinics to Combat Slave Labor in Brazil (2022-2024) - Research funded by the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS), aimed at strengthening legal clinics to combat slave labor in Brazil, with a focus on legal assistance for victims, advocacy and improving public policies.
 - Research funded by the ILO (*International Labor Organization*) for presentation at the RDW (Switzerland) (2023)
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Academic Committees and Activities

- ✦ Vice-President of the Commission to Combat Contemporary Slave Labor - OAB/MG (2025-2028)
 - ✦ Visiting Researcher at the ChainGE Lab (ERC) - Tel Aviv University (2025)
 - ✦ Member of the Contemporary Slave Labor Research Group - GPTEC/UFGM
 - ✦ Member of the Compliance Women Committee (CWC)
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Skills and Competencies

- ✓ Legal Data Analysis and Management
 - ✓ Conflict Negotiation and Mediation
 - ✓ Strategic Human Rights Advocacy
 - ✓ International Project Development
 - ✓ Legal Training
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Languages

Portuguese - Native

English - Fluent

German - Basic