

Sônia C. Mendonça

Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

Sônia Mendonça, who joined NERC in 2011, is senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary. In this role, Mendonca serves as chief legal advisor to the president and chief executive officer, the NERC Board of Trustees, and staff on all legal and regulatory matters affecting NERC.

Prior to this appointment, Ms. Mendonca served as vice president, deputy general counsel, and director of Enforcement. As deputy general counsel, Ms. Mendonça assisted the general counsel in matters of corporate governance, legal compliance, regulatory activities, and litigation. As director of Enforcement, she oversaw the implementation of the enforcement programs by NERC and the Regional Entities as well as the resolution of noncompliance with NERC Reliability Standards across the ERO Enterprise.

She also served as NERC's acting general counsel from November 2017 to April 2018 and as interim general counsel and corporate secretary from September 2019 to November 2019.

Before joining NERC, Ms. Mendonça was in private practice, where she represented energy companies in a broad range of matters, including electric transmission rate cases, mergers, and corporate reorganizations. She also advised clients with regard to the design of compliance plans and procedures.

Ms. Mendonça represented clients in administrative law judge hearings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as other types of dispute resolution proceedings. In addition to these activities, she worked with governments in developing countries on matters of energy policy.

She is a graduate of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Law School and of the American University Washington College of Law. She has been admitted to practice law in Rio de Janeiro, New York, the District of Columbia, and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.