The Role of the Federal Attorney’s Office in the Protection of the Cultural Heritage in Brazil

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In Brazil, The Attorney General’s Office—Ministério Público (MP) —acts as the ombudsman for present and future generations. The unique model of Brazil’s Attorney General’s Office allows prosecutors to play a central role in environmental enforcement, to promote the accountability of environmental agencies, and to strengthen citizens’ access to enforcement processes. The MP is responsible for the protection of the cultural and environmental heritage of the country. The role the MP plays in Brazil at present is fundamental, since the pressures for economic development frequently result in the destruction of cultural heritage, including sites, monuments, collections, archaeological and paleontological remains, as well as traditions, both tangible and intangible.