



The World Judicial Conference on Environment

Biographies of Speakers

Kunming, China

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ZHOU Qiang

Chief Justice

**President of the Supreme People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Hubei Province in April 1960.

He graduated in 1982 from the Law School of the Southwest College of Political Science & Law which is now the Southwest University of Political Science & Law (SUPSL) and got Bachelor Degree in Law; then graduated in 1985 from the Graduate School of the SUPSL and got Master Degree in Civil Law.

From 1985 to 1995, he worked in the Ministry of Justice as an official of the Research Department; Deputy Division Director, Division Director of the Legislative Affairs Department; Deputy Director-General of the General Office and Director of the Minister's Office; Director-General of the Legislative Affairs Department.

From 1995 to 2006, he was Secretary, Executive Secretary, First Secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Youth League (CCYL).

From 2006 to 2010, he was Deputy Secretary of Hunan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC); Acting Governor and Governor of Hunan Province.

From 2010 to 2013, he was Secretary of the CPC Hunan Provincial Committee; Chairman of the Standing Committee of Hunan People's Congress.

In March 2013, he was elected the President of the Supreme People's Court and became the Chief Justice of the People's Republic of China. In March 2018, he was reelected as the President of the Supreme People's Court.

He is concurrently the President of the Chinese Judges Association and the President of the Chinese Judicial Studies Association.



YANG Wanming

Justice

**Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Shanxi Province in January 1961.

From 1979 to 1983, he studied at the Law School of Jilin University and got Bachelor Degree in Law. In 1998, he got Master Degree in Economic Law from Jilin University.

From 1983 to 2000, he worked as assistant judge of No. 1 Criminal Division of the Supreme People's Court; Assistant to Chief Editor and Deputy Director-General of People's Court Daily.

From 2000 to 2004, he was Judge and Deputy Chief Judge of No. 2 Criminal Division of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2004 to 2005, he was Deputy Director-General of the General Office of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2005 to 2014, he was Chief Judge of No. 4 Criminal Division of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2014 to 2016, he was Chief Judge of No. 1 Criminal Division of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2016 to 2018, he was Justice and President of Beijing High People's Court.

From 2018, he is Justice, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court, and the President of the 1st Circuit Court of the Supreme People's Court.



YANG Linping

Justice

**Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Shanxi Province in August 1963.

From 1981 to 1985, she studied in the Law School of Shanxi University and got Bachelor Degree in Law.

From 1990 to 1993, she studied scientific socialism in Shanxi University and got Master Degree in Law.

From 1993 to 1996, she studied in Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and got a PhD in Constitutional Law.

From 1996 to 2001, she was the law clerk, assistant judge of Administrative Division of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2001 to 2005, she was Judge of Administrative Division of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2005 to 2011, she was the Deputy Chief Judge of Administrative Division of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2011 to 2013, she was Director General of Office of the State Compensation Committee of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2013 to 2014, she was Director General of Office of the State Compensation Committee and Member of the Adjudication Committee of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2014 to 2015, she was the Chief Judge of No.1 Civil Division and Member of the Adjudication Committee of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2015 to 2017, she was the Chief Judge of No.2 Civil Division and Member of the Adjudication Committee of the Supreme People's Court.

From 2017 to 2020, she was the Acting President, Justice and President of Chongqing High People's Court.

From December 2020, she is Justice, Vice-President of the Supreme People's Court.



Xia Daohu

Justice

**President of Jiangsu High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Hubei Province in May 1962.

He graduated in 1983 from the Law School of the Southwest College of Political Science & Law which is now the Southwest University of Political Science & Law (SUPSL) with a Bachelor's Degree in Law; graduated in 1986 from the Graduate School of the SUPSL majoring in jurisprudence with a Master's Degree in Law; obtained a PhD in Law from Peking University Law School in 2007.

From 1986 to 1999, he worked as an official, Deputy Director and Director of the Chief Procurator's Office in the General Office.

From 1999 to 2007, he was Deputy Director-General of the Prosecution and Appeal Procuratorial Department under the Supreme People's Procuratorate, Deputy Director-General of the Prosecution Procuratorial Department, Deputy Director-General of the General Office.

From 2007 to 2009, he was Deputy Director-General of the General Office of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, Director of the Death Penalty Review Office.

From 2009 to 2014, he was Director of the Publicity Department of the Human Resources Department of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, Deputy Director-General of the Human Resources Department, Director-General of the Criminal Appeal Procuratorial Department.

From 2014 to 2018, he was Chief Judge of the Adjudication Supervision Division of the Supreme People's Court, Member of the Adjudication Committee.

From January 2018, he is Justice and President of Jiangsu High People's Court.



LI Zhanguo

Justice

**President of Zhejiang High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Shandong Province in February 1962.

He graduated in 1983 from the Law School of the Southwest College of Political Science & Law which is now the Southwest University of Political Science & Law (SUPSL) and got a Bachelor Degree in Law.

From 1983 to 1984, he worked in Shandong People's Police School as a teacher.

From 1984 to 1994, he worked in Shandong Police College as a teacher and became Deputy Chief of Criminal Law Teaching and Research Office in the Law Department.

From 1994 to 2002, he worked in Shandong People's Procuratorate as an official, Section Chief of General Section of General Office, Vice Director and Director of Chief Procurator Office.

From 2002 to 2009, he was Deputy Chief Procurator, Chief Procurator of Linyi Municipal People's Procuratorate, Shandong Province.

From 2009 to 2013, he was Deputy Chief Procurator of Shandong People's Procuratorate.

From 2013 to 2017, he was Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Jinan Municipal Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee under the CPC Jinan Committee, Shandong Province.

From 2017 to 2018, he was the Executive Deputy Secretary of Political and Legal Committee under the CPC Shandong Committee.

From January 2018, he is Justice, President of Zhejiang High People's Court.



Wu Xiulin

Justice

**President of Fujian High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Jiangsu Province in October 1968.

He graduated in 1990 from the Law School of China University of Political Science and Law(CUPSL) and got Bachelor Degree in Law; then graduated in 1993 from CUPSL and got Master Degree in Administrative Jurisprudence. He graduated in 2006 from Zhejiang University and got Doctor Degree in Constitutional and Administrative Jurisprudence.

From 1993 to 2005, he was the cadre, clerk, Assistant Judge, Judge, Assistant of Chief Judge, Deputy Chief Judge in the Administrative Division of Shanghai High People's Court

From 2005 to 2007, he was the Vice President of Huangpu District People's Court of Shanghai Municipality.

From 2007 to 2014, he was the Chief Judge in the Administrative Division, Director of General Office, Director of the Human Resources Department, Vice-President of Shanghai High People's Court.

From 2014 to 2016, he was the President of the No.3 Intermediate People's Court of Shanghai Municipality (The Intellectual Property Court, The Intermediate Court of Railroad Transportation).

From 2016 to 2018, he was the Director of Legislative Affairs Office and the Deputy Secretary-General of Shanghai People's Government.

From January 2018, he is Justice, President of Fujian High People's Court, as well as the President of Fujian Judges Association.



GE Xiaoyan

Justice

**President of Jiangxi High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Jiangsu Province in December 1964.

She graduated in 1986 from the Department of Economic Law, East China University of Political Science and Law, where she got Bachelor Degree in Law. From 2002 to 2004, she studied at the Department of Political Sciences in the Party School of CPC Jiangsu Committee and obtained Master Degree there.

From 1986 to 1996, she worked as the law clerk, Assistant Procurator, Procurator in Jiangsu People's Procuratorate.

From 1996 to 2002, she was the Deputy Division Director and Director of the General Affairs Division in Anti-corruption Bureau of Jiangsu People's Procuratorate.

From 2002 to 2005, she was Chief Procurator of Taizhou Municipal People's Procuratorate, Jiangsu Province.

From 2005 to 2010, she was the Director of Anti-corruption Bureau and then Deputy Chief Procurator of Jiangsu People's Procuratorate.

From 2010 to 2016, she was the Acting Chief Procurator and Chief Procurator of Nanjing Municipal People's Procuratorate, Jiangsu Province.

From January 2016, she is Justice, President of Jiangxi High People's Court.



LI Yongli

Justice

**President of Chongqing High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Shandong Province in August 1965.

He graduated in 1988 from Department of Law of Northwest College of Political Science & Law which is now the Northwest University of Political Science & Law(NUPSL) and got Bachelor Degree in Law; in 2001 got Master Degree in Law from Zhongnan University of Economics and Law(ZUEL).

From 1988 to 2004, he worked as a clerk, Assistant Procurator, Section Chief of Research Section, Deputy Director, Procurator of the Research Office of Hainan People's Procuratorate.

From 2004 to 2005, he was Secretary of the General Office of the Standing Committee of Hainan Provincial People's Congress.

From 2005 to 2014, he was Director of Division of Economic Laws & Regulation, Deputy Director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of Hainan Provincial People's Congress.

From 2014 to 2017, he was Vice Director of the Legal Affairs Committee of Hainan Provincial People's Congress.

From 2017 to 2018, he was Deputy Secretary-General, Director of the Legal Affairs Office (Legal Counsel Office), and General Legal Counsel of Hainan Province.

From 2018 to 2020, he was Secretary of the Party Committee and Executive Deputy Director of Department of Justice of Hainan Province.

From January 2021, he is Justice, President of Chongqing High People's Court.



HOU Jianjun

Justice

**President of Yunnan High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Shandong Province in January 1963.

He graduated in 1983 from the Law School of the Southwest College of Political Science & Law which is now the Southwest University of Political Science & Law (SUPSL) and got Bachelor Degree in Law; then graduated in 2004 from the Economic Department of Shandong Provincial Party School and achieved Postgraduate Degree.

From 1983 to 1993, he worked in the Research Division of Shandong Provincial Political and Legal Committee as Staff Member, Deputy Section Officer, Section Officer, and Inspector.

From 1993 to 1995, he was Secretary of the General Office of Shandong Provincial Government.

From 1995 to 2000, he was Secretary of the General Office of Shandong Provincial Party Committee.

From 2000 to 2004, he was Director of the Human Resources Department, Member of the Adjudication Committee of Shandong High People's Court.

From 2004 to 2009, he was Vice-President (Deputy Department Level), Member of the Adjudication Committee of Shandong High People's Court.

From 2009 to 2018, he was Vice-President (Department Level), Member of the Adjudication Committee of Shandong High People's Court.

From January 2018, he is Justice, President of Yunnan High People's Court.



ZHANG Haibo

Justice

**President of Gansu High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born in Hebei Province in April 1964.

He graduated from China University of Political Science and Law in August 1985 with a Bachelor's Degree in Law. In 2000, he graduated from China University of Political Science and Law with a Master's Degree in Litigation Law.

From 1985 to 1996, he worked as an official of the Branch of Tianjin People's Procuratorate.

From 1996 to 2009, he worked successively as Procurator, Deputy Director of the Inspection and Prosecution Division, Deputy Director of the Inspection and Approval Division, Member of the Procuratorial Committee, Deputy Director of the Anti-Malfeasance and Tort Bureau, and Deputy Procurator-General of the First Branch of the Tianjin People's Procuratorate.

From 2009 to 2014, he was Deputy Procurator-General, and Procurator-General of the Binhai New District People's Procuratorate in Tianjin.

From 2014 to 2015, he was the Procurator-General of the First Branch of Tianjin People's Procuratorate.

From 2015 to 2018, he was Deputy Procurator-General of the Tianjin People's Procuratorate.

From January 2018, he is Justice, President of Gansu High People's Court.



Zhang Zejun

Justice

**President of Qinghai High People's Court
The People's Republic of China**

Born Hunan Province in November 1964.

He graduated from Peking University Law School in 1986 with a Bachelor's Degree in Law.

From 1986 to 1990, he worked as teacher of Hunan Branch of National Amateur Law University for Court Cadres.

From 1991 to 1994, he was secretary of the president, secretary of the Leading Party Members' Group of Hunan High People's Court.

From 1995 to 1996, he was Assistant Judge, Judge of Civil Division of Hunan High People's Court.

From 1996 to 2001, he was Deputy Director of the Research Office of Hunan High People's Court.

From 2001 to 2007, he was Deputy Director, Director of the General Office, Chief Judge of the Administrative Division of Hunan High People's Court, Director of the Office of National Compensation Commission.

From 2007 to 2014, he was Acting President, President of Huaihua Intermediate People's Court of Hunan Province.

From 2014 to 2016, he was Director of the Regulations Office of Hunan Provincial Commission for Discipline Inspection.

From 2016 to 2019, he was Leader of the Inspection Team of Hunan Provincial Party Committee.

From 2019 to 2021, he was Deputy Procurator-General of Hunan People's Procuratorate.

From 2021, he is Justice ,Vice-President, President of Qinghai High People's Court.



Inger Andersen

Executive Director

The United Nations Environment Programme

Inger Andersen is Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Between 2015 and 2019, Ms. Andersen was the Director-General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Ms. Andersen has more than 30 years of experience in international development economics, environmental sustainability, strategy and operations. She has led work on a range of issues including agriculture, environmental management, biodiversity conservation, climate change, infrastructure, energy, transport, and water resources management and hydro-diplomacy.

Between 1999 and 2014, Ms. Andersen held several leadership positions at the World Bank including Vice President of the Middle East and North Africa; Vice President for Sustainable Development and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council.

Prior to her 15 years at the World Bank, Ms. Andersen worked 12 years at the United Nations, first on drought and desertification, beginning with the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office. In 1992, she was appointed UNDP's Water and Environment Coordinator for the Arab Region.

Ms. Andersen holds a Bachelors from the London Metropolitan University North and a Masters in Development Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, following consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), announced on 8 June 2020 the appointment of Elizabeth Maruma Mrema of Tanzania as Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Since December 2019, Ms. Mrema has been the Acting Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat. Prior to that, Ms. Mrema served as Director of the Law Division at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. With over two decades of experience at the United Nations, Ms. Mrema brings to the position extensive experience in global environmental law and policymaking, implementation of environmental and sustainable development programmes, and a deep knowledge of multilateral processes. From 2009 to 2012, she served as the Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals as well as served as the Acting Executive Secretary of the UNEP/ASCOBANS (Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas) as well as Interim Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Gorilla Agreement, all based in Bonn, Germany.

Before joining UNEP, Ms. Mrema worked with United Republic of Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. During her time with the Ministry, she also lectured in Public International Law and Conference Diplomacy at Tanzania's Centre for Foreign Relations and Diplomacy.

Ms. Mrema holds a Master of Law degree from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, a Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Centre of Foreign Relations and Diplomacy in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.



Arnold Kreilhuber

**Acting Director of Law Division
The United Nations Environment Programme**

Arnold, a national of Austria, has many years of professional experience in the field of environmental law, diplomacy and policy. He believes in making sure that environmental law and governance deliver for people and the planet. Arnold joined UNEP in 2005 and advanced work on important issues such as environmental crime, human rights and the environment, judges and the environment, freshwater law and governance, and, most recently, in response to attacks on environmental defenders. Under his leadership the international community and stakeholders began to advance the notion of environmental rule of law. In 2012 he led the planning and organization of the first World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability as part of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Before joining UNEP, Arnold has worked in the governmental, non-governmental and in the private sector.

He holds a doctorate degree in international environmental law from the University of Vienna as well as a master's degree in advanced international studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.



Luc Lavrysen

President of the Constitutional Court The Kingdom of Belgium

Born in Turnhout on 16 April 1956

Master's degree in law (Ghent University, 1979) and doctor in law (Ghent University, 1997)

Lawyer with the non-profit associations Woonfonds Gent and Brusselse Buurtwerken (1979-1982)

Legal secretary at the Constitutional Court (1985-2000); councillor at the Council of State (2000-2001)

Research assistant (full-time 1983-1985; part-time 1985-1989), teaching assistant (1989-1991), academic consultant (1991-1992), visiting professor (1992- 1998), lecturer (since 1998) and full professor in environmental law at Ghent University; Director of the Centre for Environmental and Energy Law (since 1 January 2000); member of the Federal Council for Sustainable Development and President of the working group on product standards of that Council (1997-2021); former Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Environmental Law, and President of the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment

Appointed Judge to the Constitutional Court by Royal Decree of 19 January 2001 and elected (Dutch speaking) President with effect from 25 September 2020



Kari Kuusiniemi

**President of the Supreme Administrative Court
The Republic of Finland**

Kari Kuusiniemi (born in 1960) holds Master of Laws (1982), Licentiate of Laws (1985), and Doctor of Laws (1992) degrees, from Helsinki University. Before being appointed President of the Supreme Administrative Court (1.9.2018), he has served as Justice at the same Court since 2002, including presidency of Chamber (1.3.2012-2018), and vice-presidency of the Court. Before the career as judge he was Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Turku (1996-2002) and acting Professor of Law (1993-1995) and Lecturer in Environmental Law (1991-1993) at Helsinki University of Technology.

Other activities include: Docent of four Finnish Universities, visiting professor at the University of Louisville, Kentucky (September-October, 1997), Expert in the South-African Water Law review (1995-1996), Chairman, member and secretary in several law drafting commissions since 1985, Member of ERA Board of Trustees (2010-2019), Member of the Board of the National Defence Course Association (2011-), Chairman of the Board (2020-), Member of the Board of the Finnish Association of European Law (2014-) and Member of the Academy of Science and Letters (2014-)

He has published some 20 books (partly joint publications) and some 200 articles, reports, case comments, etc. in the field of Environmental and Administrative Law, mainly in Finnish.



Laurent Fabius

**President of the Constitutional Council
The French Republic**

Born 1946 in Paris, Laurent Fabius is a former student of the Ecole Normale Supérieure of the Rue d'Ulm, holder of an Agrégation higher degree in French Language and Literature and a former student of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration. Member of the “Conseil d’Etat”, Laurent Fabius occupied several governmental positions in France: Minister for the Budget (1981-1983), Minister of Industry and Research (1983-1984), Prime Minister (1984-1986), Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry (2000-2002), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development (2012-2016). He was also Member of Parliament from 1978 to 2012, and served twice as President of the French National Assembly, from 1988 to 1992, and again from 1997 to 2000. In 2015, as President of the COP 21, he played a crucial role in the negotiations that led to the Paris Climate Agreement, the first universal agreement to fight against climate change. In February 2016, he was appointed President of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic.



Vyacheslav M. Lebedev

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

President of the Scientific-Consultative Council

Member of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation

Doctor of Law, Professor

Honoured Lawyer of the Russian Federation

Judge of the highest qualification class

The Russian Federation

Born on 14 August 1943 in Moscow.

Graduated from the Law Faculty of Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1968.

Since 1969 – employment at a human resources section of a department of the Ministry of Industrial Construction of the USSR in Moscow.

Since 1970 – people’s judge at the people’s district court for Leningradskiy district in Moscow.

Since 1977 – president of the people’s district court for Zheleznodorozhniy district in Moscow.

Since 1984 – deputy president of Moscow City Court.

Since 1986 – president of Moscow City Court.

July 1989 – first appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

Chief Justice Lebedev is a Full Cavalier of the state order “For Services to the Fatherland”. He has been decorated with multiple governmental and state awards.

He was awarded the Order of Alexander Nevskiy in 2012 and the Medal of Pyotr Stolypin, 1st degree, in March 2013.



Mandisa Muriel Maya

**President of the Supreme Court of Appeal
The Republic of South Africa**

Justice Mandisa Muriel Lindelwa Maya is the President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa (SCA).

She holds B.Proc. (University of Transkei), LLB (University of Natal, Durban) and LLM (Duke University, USA) degrees and three LLD (Honoris Causa) degrees awarded by Nelson Mandela University, Walters Sisulu University and University of Fort Hare, in recognition of her contribution to the development of jurisprudence in South Africa as well as the empowerment of women in the legal profession and the judiciary. She is a Fulbright; Georgetown University Law & Gender Program; and Commonwealth Foundation Fellow and is the recipient of the 2020 Duke University Law International Law Alumnus Award.

After teaching law at the former University of Transkei, while also practising at the Transkei Society of Advocates, she became a judge and sat in various divisions of the High Court and the Labour Courts before her elevation to the SCA. She became the first woman Deputy President of the SCA in 2015 and its first woman President in 2017. She has acted as a judge in the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the Supreme Court of Namibia and the Appeal Court of Lesotho. She promoted law reform as the Chairperson of the South African Law Reform Commission and is a member of the South African Judicial Service Commission, the South African Judicial Education Institute and the Duke University Bolch Judicial Institute Leadership Council, among other leadership positions.



Brian Preston

Chief Judge of Land and Environment Court of New South Wales The Commonwealth of Australia

Justice Preston is the Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales. Prior to being appointed in November 2005, he was a senior counsel practising primarily in New South Wales in environmental, planning, administrative and property law. He has lectured in post-graduate environmental law for nearly 30 years. He is the author of Australia's first book on environmental litigation and 139 articles, book chapters and reviews on environmental law, administrative and criminal law. He holds numerous editorial positions in environmental law publications and has been involved in a number of international environmental consultancies and capacity-building programs, including for judiciaries throughout Asia. Justice Preston is an Official Member of the Judicial Commission of NSW, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW and Honorary Fellow of the Environment Institute of the Australia and New Zealand. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters by Macquarie University in 2018. He is a member of various international environmental law committees and advisory boards, including the interim governing council of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Sydney, Western Sydney University and Southern Cross University. In 2019 Justice Preston was a Visiting Fellow at Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford, and in 2020 was the Robert S Campbell Jr Visiting Fellow at Magdalen College, University of Oxford.



Antonio Benjamin

**Justice of the National High Court
The Federative Republic of Brazil**

Justice Dr. Dr.h.c. mult. Antonio Herman Benjamin, National High Court of Brazil (STJ)

Appointed Justice of the National High Court of Brazil (STJ) in 2006 by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Professor Antonio Herman Benjamin was a career Public Prosecutor of the State of São Paulo for over two decades, where he headed the Environmental Protection Division. He is a former president of the Brazilian Fulbright Alumni Association and a member of the UN Secretary General Legal Expert Group on Crimes against the Environment. Justice Benjamin is the president of the Brazilian Environmental Forum of Judges (FONAMA) and Director of the L.L.M (Master) Program of the National Judicial Academy of Brazil (ENFAM).

Justice Benjamin was a professor at the Catholic University of Brasília School of Law and has been a visiting professor and lecturer at prestigious academic institutions around the world. He is the founder and emeritus editor-in-chief of the Brazilian Environmental Law Review, published by Thomson Reuters. He has co-drafted several major Brazilian statutes, including the 1990 Consumer Protection Code, the 1992 Anti-Corruption Act, the 1994 Competition Act, the 1998 Crimes Against the Environment Act, the 2006 Forest Concession Act, the 2006 Atlantic Forest Act, and the 2012 Forest Code. Professor Benjamin has authored, co-authored and edited over thirty books and articles in Brazil and abroad.

At the international level, Professor Benjamin served as co-chair of INECE – The International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement and president of the Environmental Committee of the Summit of Chief Justices of Ibero-America. Currently, he is the chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law – WCEL and secretary-general of the “International

Advisory Council for Environmental Justice” of UNEP – The United Nations Environment Programme. He is the lead founder of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the organization that brings together Supreme Court Justices and judges from around the world who that work with Environmental Law. During the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, he was coordinator of the UNEP World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability.

Justice Benjamin has received several awards, honours and other recognitions in Brazil and abroad. He is a Knight (Chevalier) of the National Order of the Legion of Honour (Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur) of France and a Commander (Commandeur) of the Order of King Leopold of Belgium. He is the recipient of the 2015 Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law, awarded by Stockholm University and considered the most prestigious international distinction conferred upon an environmental legal expert. He is a Goodwill Ambassador for Environmental Justice of the Organization of American States – OAS.



Swatanter Kumar

Former Judge of Supreme Court

Former Chairperson of National Green Tribunal

The Republic of India

After completing BA LLB from Punjab University, he practiced at New Delhi for 23 years, and then he served as an Additional District & Sessions Judge at the Himachal Pradesh High Court from February, 1983 to October, 1983. He resigned and returned to practice at New Delhi.

During his practice, he was Legal Advisor, Standing Council to various Government and Non-Government Corporations and Public Bodies. He was also Legal Advisor at the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Pollution, which manages matters on pollution for all of India. He has practiced in Criminal, Civil, Appellate, Constitutional, Arbitration and Environmental jurisdictions in all courts including the High Courts and Supreme Court of India.

He was appointed as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court on 10.11.1994. Then he was transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 30.11.1994 from where in 2004, he was transferred to the Delhi High Court.

He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on 31st March, 2007 where he had the privilege of serving one of the best High Courts in the country. He had the occasion to deal with a variety of Administrative and Judicial Matters. One of his contributions was to establish courts at the Talukas (at village level). Having served as Chief Justice for nearly a period of three years, he was elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18th December, 2009. Upon being appointed as the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal. He resigned as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 20.12.2012. He had the occasion to deal with cases in all Jurisdiction including Arbitration Cases of National and International Jurisdiction in the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.

He joined the National Green Tribunal on the same day. During his tenure, he was instrumental in delivering several landmark judgments widening the horizons of environmental jurisprudence in India. These judgments have related to cleaning of rivers Ganga and Yamuna, Lakes, Air Pollution, Himalayan Glaciers, Municipal Solid Waste and Protection of Forests. Some of his Judgments were of International Scope, like those dealing with oil spills because of sinking ships. He introduced for the first time 'the practice of a consultative process of stakeholders' in the dispensation of environmental justice. In consonance with the legislative intent of enacting the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for expeditious disposal of cases, he assured that in the Principal Bench of the NGT, nearly 82% cases were disposed of within the year of his institution. Under his leadership, the National Green Tribunal has held various international as well as Regional Conferences on environment in various parts of the country, where many countries from all across the globe have actively participated and contributed to the burning issues of ecological conservation and climate change. In the National Green Tribunal he disposed of 209 cases in one day.

He disposed of a large number of cases in all fields of law while he was a Judge of the High Court, the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court and Judge of the Supreme Court. He disposed of 670 cases in a day in the Punjab & Haryana High Court, 80 cases in a day when he was the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and 75 cases in a day when he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. In his long carrier as a Judge of various High Courts and Supreme Court of India, He has enunciated various legal principles, more particularly in the field of constitutional, criminal and arbitration jurisprudence.

For his contribution as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Judge and Chief Justice of High Courts and the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal, he has been bestowed with 12 different Awards including the National Law Day Award, lifetime achievement awards, International Human Rights Award, Bharat Jyoti Award, Distinguished Services Award by the Indian Medical Association and awards by other National and International organizations. He has, during his tenure in the judiciary authored and pronounced various landmarks Judgments in the field of Constitutional Law, Arbitration and Environment Jurisprudence.

He has also been nominated as the member of the Governing Body of the Global Judicial Institute for the Environment which works under the UNEP and has addressed various national and international conferences organized by the United Nations and various other national and international organizations.

It was to promote this educative and awareness driven impetus that he had, during his judicial tenure organized and addressed various lectures, seminars, colloquiums and conferences all across the globe sharing the dias and exchanging ideologies with the highest dignitaries of various countries around the world, including the President, Prime Minister, Home Minister, Minister of Environment of India on various occasions, as well as international dignitaries such as the President of France, Director UNEP, Judges of the Supreme Courts of various Countries and states including

Lord Carnwath, Justice Michael Wilson and Justice Dr. Luc Lavrysen, to name a few. It was in this pursuit that he also availed of the opportunity to address the students and academia at various Universities and institutions around the globe including the University of Houston, Texas, Supreme Court of Hawai'i, UN, Geneva, amongst others. He do believe that in the present times, there is a definite need of academia – input from the legal education to interact with and provide guidance to Judges at various levels of the judicial hierarchy of India.

Post retirement 2017, he has been involved in diverse activities relating to Education, Social and International lectures, in India and Abroad. He has been nominated by parties and as well appointed by the Courts as Sole Arbitrator, Presiding Arbitrator of the Multiple Member Arbitral Tribunal and Member of the Multi Member Arbitral Tribunal.

These Arbitration Proceedings, where he has been nominated or appointed, the opposite party Respondent amongst other is Union of India, State Government, National Highway Authority of India, Public Sector Undertaking Corporations and National and International Companies. He has also been nominated Arbitrator by Foreign Companies in India. In number of cases, Awards have been pronounced or matter settled with utmost expeditiousness.



Syed Mansoor Ali Shah

**Justice of the Supreme Court
The Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

Justice Shah was elevated to the bench at the Lahore High Court in 2009 and after serving as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court for almost two years was elevated to the Supreme Court of Pakistan in early 2018. He did his schooling at Aitchison College, Lahore and got his law degree from the University of Cambridge, UK, as well as, the University of the Punjab, where he also obtained a degree in Masters in Economics. As a corporate litigator, he was a partner at AFRID, SHAH & MINALLAH and took keen interest in public interest litigation with special focus on environmental issues and sustainable development. He espoused a passion for teaching and taught law for almost two decades at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan College of Law and Punjab Law College, Lahore. He was also part of the steering committee that established the law school at LUMS, now called Syed Ahmed Hassan School of Law & Policy (SAHSOL).

His areas of special interest are the constitutional law, human rights, climate and water justice, environmental sustainability, disability rights, criminology, digital surveillance, privacy and proportionality. He believes in continuous judicial reforms; he spearheaded the formation of Alternate Dispute Resolution Centers (ADRC) in Punjab as the Chief Justice to provide an alternative to litigation in order to reduce the chronic backlog and staggering pendency of cases. He set up Criminal and Civil Model Courts to create working coordination between stakeholders in order to speed up dispensation of justice, introduced Case Management and Court Automation Systems in Punjab both at the Lahore High Court and the District Courts, installed first ever Enterprise IT System with the help of Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) to sustain the

IT vision of the court for the next decade and to make the judicial system; open, transparent, smart and fully connected at all levels. To provide access to justice to an ordinary litigant and the lawyers, online Call Centre, Judicial Mobile App and online Sahulat (care) Center were established.

He underlines the need for Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Video Linking, Human Resource Development and Restructuring of the District Judiciary as the effective engines of change for the future and would like them to be mainstreamed to achieve state of the art judicial governance. He lays great emphasis on empowering the District Judiciary by enhancing their capacity through international and domestic training, based on performance indicators and by providing them a secure and conducive working environment, especially for the women judges. He feels that there is a need to increase judge per capita to improve the quality and speed of dispensation of justice in the country.

He helped restructure the curriculum at the Punjab Judicial Academy and brought it in line with the global best practices building a sustainable platform for judicial capacity building of the members of the District judiciary and the ministerial court staff. He laid special emphasis on research and played a foundational role in setting up the Lahore High Court Research Centre (LHCRC).

At the Supreme Court of Pakistan, he has helped establish e-courts by video linking the Principal Seat of the Supreme Court with all the Provincial Registries of the Supreme Court, which has helped save travel cost to Islamabad from all over the country and has brought relief to the working schedule of the lawyers who can attend to more cases, work more efficiently by avoiding adjournments. This was done prior to Covid-19 and has attained exceptional utility during the pandemic. The new SC Judicial Mobile Application helps lawyers and litigants navigate their way through the cause lists and court rosters and has enhanced their access to justice. Research and scholarship are the hallmarks of any apex court in the country, hence Research Centre (SCRC) at the SC building was established, manned by bright and promising Civil Judges from all across Pakistan. SCRC carries the vision to eventually provide and support research to all the courts in the country, thereby enriching our jurisprudence and the scholarship of our judges.

Justice Shah is an accredited mediator from CEDR, London; an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, UK; a judicial member of the Global Judicial Institute on Environment (GJIE) (Brazil); a member of the Global Constitutionalism (Yale University, 2020-) and a Member of the Rhodes Scholarship Committee for Pakistan (2019-). He is an avid golfer, loves sports and enjoys cycling, reading, travelling and music.



Ambeng Kandakasi

Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme and National Courts of Justice The Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Justice Ambeng Kandakasi was appointed Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme and National Courts of Justice of Papua New Guinea (PNG) on 13th December 2018. He was appointed a Justice of the same Courts in 2000. His Honour holds a master's degree in Law from the University of San Diego, USA and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of PNG. Also, His Honour is accredited as a mediator in Australia, New Zealand and PNG. Before His Honour's appointment, he was a partner of the firm of Young & Williams Lawyers and taught law at the University of PNG.

Presently, His Honour chairs the PNG Judiciary's ADR Committee overseeing the development and successful implementation of court annexed mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution in PNG. His Honour leads a team of Judges, Magistrates and lawyers designing ADR and mediation systems and structures and implementing them. Mediation is now fully functional. Arbitration Reforms are now being attended to. Through his leadership, the State of PNG has become the 160th country to sign up to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. Also, under his leadership PNG has successfully hosted an international conference on Mediation and Arbitration in March 2019.

He has a passion for continuing legal, judicial, mediation and ADR education and is actively involved in training in these fields. Most of his trainees have been judges, magistrates, senior government and business leaders, lawyers and other professionals, in Solomon Islands, Australia, Fiji, Malaysia and PNG. He has attended and facilitated at a number of local and international workshops and trainings in a number of areas of the law, ADR and in particular mediation. He has published a number of Judgments on mediation and ADR. Further, he has presented and published

several papers at international and local conferences and journals in the areas of mediation and ADR and human rights. His Honour was and continues to be the Vice President of the Perth based, Asia Pacific Mediation Forum.

One of his most recent passion is in the area of environmental law with focus on climate change and greenhouse effect.



Suntariya Muanpawong

**Secretary of the Court of Appeal Region I
The Kingdom of Thailand**

Justice Suntariya Muanpawong is the Secretary of the Court of Appeal Region I. She received Bachelor and Master of Law from Thammasat University, Barrister at Law from Thai Bar Institute and Master and Doctorate Degree in public law from Muenster University, Germany. Before becoming a judge, she was a lawyer, a teacher in a Southeast Asian refugee camp and a legal officer in the Harbor Department. Justice Suntariya was the first supervisor of the Judicial Research Institute, where she played a significant role in developing the accountability and responsiveness of the judiciary. She attended various human rights programs held by international institutions. She has been a proponent of people-oriented justice reform and has conducted many research projects on child rights protection, gender justice, prisoner rights and environmental jurisprudence. She used to be the Secretary of the Environmental Law Division and Deputy Secretary of the Supreme Court. She has joined many commissions and working groups to develop the environmental laws.



Lord Robert Carnwath

Former Justice of the Supreme Court

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Lord Carnwath retired as a Justice in March 2020 after a distinguished judicial career over 25 years, in which he also served as Chairman of the Law Commission, and Senior President of Tribunals, and which culminated in him spending eight years sitting in the UK Supreme Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Although he participated in all aspects of the work of the Supreme Court, his principal areas of expertise have been on issues relating to planning and the environment, property, rating, local government and administrative law. He has given many leading judgments on these subjects (some of which are listed on this profile).

Prior to his appointment to the High Court, he practised at the Bar for 24 years from the predecessor chambers of Landmark Chambers, specialising principally in planning, property and administrative law, taking silk in 1985. Between 1980 and 1985 he served as Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue, and between 1988 and 1994 as Attorney-General to HRH Prince of Wales.

As a judge he has taken an active interest in advancing understanding of the law of the environment and climate change around the world (since 2005 as a member of a judicial taskforce set up by the UN Environmental Programme), and has spoken at judicial conferences in many parts of the world. In 2005 he was a founder member, and first Secretary General of the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE). He also took a particular interest in the law and legal systems of other Commonwealth jurisdictions and has been a regular speaker at conferences of the Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association and the Commonwealth Law Association.

In this country he is Honorary President of the UK Environmental Law Association and of the Planning and Environmental Bar Association. He also has strong academic connections, including

Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; Visiting Professor of Oxford University; Honorary Professor of University College London; and Visiting Professor in Practice of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the LSE.

Outside the law, he is a keen amateur musician and he is a former Governor of the Royal Academy of Music (Hon FRAM) and former Chairman of the Britten-Pears Foundation.



Damien J. Eastman

Deputy General Counsel The Asian Development Bank

Mr. Damien J. Eastman is the Deputy General Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Mr. Eastman joined ADB in 2014 as Assistant General Counsel for Institutional and Administrative Affairs, providing legal advice and support on a wide variety of institutional, operational and administrative matters, including advice on ADB's institutional governance and its legal framework; ADB's privileges and immunities, external litigation and arbitration; government relations; institutional procurement; and ADB staff grievances and disciplinary procedures, HR policies, ADB's internal staff rules and regulations, staff benefits, and pension matters.

Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Eastman spent more than 10 years in the Legal Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC, where he advised on the Fund's legal relations with its member countries and other international organizations and was responsible for the oversight of the Legal Department's internal governance advisory group. He was the Fund's lawyer for a number of European crisis programs, various debt relief operations for IMF member countries in the African and Asian regions, and was involved in developing the Fund's policies in the area of sovereign debt restructuring.

Before the IMF, Mr. Eastman practiced law in Sydney with Allens-Linklaters (1997–2000), and in London with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (2001–2003) where he specialized in corporate and commercial litigation, international law and international arbitration. An Australian national, Mr. Eastman holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) from Harvard Law School, and degrees in Arts (BA) and Law (LL.B, 1st Class Honors) from the University of Sydney and the University of Technology, Sydney. He is admitted to practice law in Australia and the United Kingdom.



James Thornton

Founding CEO of ClientEarth ClientEarth

The New Statesman has named James as one of 10 people who could change the world.

The Lawyer has picked him as one of the top 100 lawyers in the UK.

In 2016, he was named as one of the 1,000 most influential people in London.

He has twice won Leader of the Year at the Business Green Awards. The Financial Times awarded him its Special Achievement accolade at the FT Innovative Lawyers Awards.

James has many years of experience as an environmental lawyer and social entrepreneur. A member of the bars of New York, California and the Supreme Court of the United States, and a solicitor of England and Wales. He founded the Los Angeles Office of NRDC, which does internationally important environmental work with the support of the Hollywood community. He was Editor-in-Chief of the New York University Law Review, where he later served as Adjunct Associate Professor of Environmental Law.

He launched ClientEarth in 2007, sparking fundamental change in the way environmental protections are made and enforced across Europe. Now operating globally, ClientEarth uses advocacy, litigation and research to address the greatest challenges of our time – including nature loss and climate change.

In the years since founding ClientEarth, James has developed an ever-growing team of environmental lawyers following his innovative approach to defend the oceans, protect forests and the people who depend on them, and tackle the climate crisis at its root.

With his leadership, ClientEarth has made air pollution one of the major issues of the day and brought successful actions protecting the health of citizens across Europe. Its work is always

built on solid law and science. In 2017, James co-authored a book telling the fascinating story of ClientEarth since it was founded. The book won the judges category in the Business Book of the Year Awards in 2018.

He graduated from Yale, Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude, with departmental honours in philosophy. He is a Conservation Fellow of the Zoological Society of London; a fellow of the Ashoka Foundation; Member of the Advisory Committee of the International Coalition for Green Development on China's Belt and Road Initiative; Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Bristol; and Visiting Fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.



Christina Voigt

**Chair of the Climate Change Specialist Group of the IUCN
World Commission on Environmental Law,
Professor of Law at the University of Oslo**

Dr. Christina Voigt is a renowned expert in international environmental law and professor of law at the University of Oslo. Professor Voigt has published widely on legal issues of climate change, environmental multilateralism and sustainability and is a frequent speaker at international and national events. From 2009-2018, she also worked as legal adviser and negotiator for the Government of Norway in the UN climate negotiations.

Professor Voigt is currently co-chair of the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee. She is also chair of the Climate Change Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and a member of the IUCN Climate Change Task Force.