



**British Institute of
International and
Comparative Law**

The Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship in Public International Law





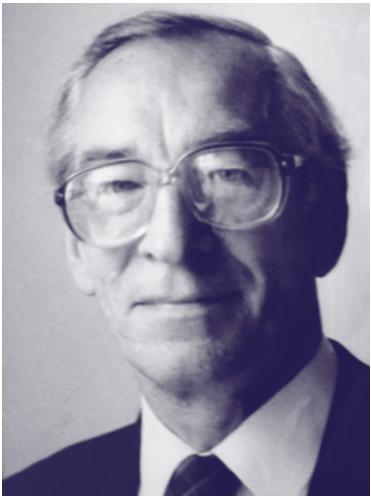
"Public international law provides the order and structure to international activities... and is increasingly a daily matter for governments, business leaders, lawyers, civil society organisations and other decision-makers"

Law is fundamentally important to community life and prosperity. In the global dimension, public international law provides the order and structure to international activities; it operates through agreed laws, regulations and norms to enable states, organisations, corporations, individuals and other participants to work on the international plane. Public international law is increasingly a daily matter for governments, business leaders, lawyers, civil society organisations and other decision-makers. This is now vividly illustrated by the multitude of issues connected with the UK's future relationship with the EU.

Much work still needs to be done to encourage greater engagement with, and observance of, the treaties, customary practices and institutions that inform and guide the many levels of international relationships. Public international law helps to address fundamental and complex matters, including, for example, international peace and security, armed conflict, terrorism and counter-terrorism, human rights, trade, taxation, business, communications and the environment. These are issues of concern to us all, in every state.

Sir Arthur Watts (1931-2007) was one of the leading international lawyers of his generation with a career that spanned senior government service and successful private practice, with substantial scholarly output. The British Institute of International and Comparative Law has established the Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship in Public International Law in his memory. The Fellowship is funded through the Arthur Watts Appeal with the aim of ensuring that the practical application of public international law remains securely at the heart of the Institute's work.

Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC
Chairman of the Arthur Watts Appeal



Sir Arthur Watts (1931-2007)

Biography

Widely liked and highly regarded, Sir Arthur Desmond Watts KCMG QC, barrister and international arbitrator, was among the leading international lawyers of his generation.

Born in London, he went to Downing College, Cambridge, to read economics and then law, finding a particular passion for its international dimension. With firsts in the law tripos and the LLM, he won the Whewell Scholarship and joined the Foreign Office.

He was posted to Cairo in the aftermath of the Suez crisis and later to Bonn, from where he returned for an assignment as the principal adviser to the Law Officers on international law.

Sir Arthur was closely involved in preparations for Britain's entry into the European Community, and became the first legal adviser to the UK's representation in Brussels. Back in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office he was appointed CMG and led for the UK in negotiations over Antarctica before serving as the FCO Legal Adviser from 1987 to 1991.

Sir Arthur took silk in 1988 and was appointed KCMG the following year. After retiring from the Diplomatic Service in 1991 he was made a Bencher of Gray's Inn and Honorary Fellow of Downing College. In his legal practice at 20 Essex Street Chambers, Sir Arthur's advice was sought by many States including Brunei, Colombia, France, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Nigeria, Slovakia and Ukraine. He was much in demand as an international arbitrator, both in proceedings between States and in investment disputes, and as an advocate before the International Court of Justice.

He also undertook the difficult assignment for the UN to bring about a settlement over the assets and liabilities of the former Yugoslavia.

In addition, Sir Arthur made many important contributions to legal literature on international law.

A long-standing and eminent member of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Sir Arthur served on its Council of Management (1987-2005) and then its Advisory Council.

"Sir Arthur was closely involved in preparations for Britain's entry into the European Community, and became the first legal adviser to the UK's representation in Brussels"

British Institute of International and Comparative Law

As a leading independent legal research organisation with charitable status, unaffiliated to any university, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law is the only body of its kind in the UK and one of very few in the world. The Institute is focused on applied research and has earned a very high international reputation for its work.

The Institute is uniquely positioned to bring together scholars and practitioners, and serves as an invaluable focal point and global network for its members, experts, others who participate in its work and the wider public. Established 60 years ago, it is headquartered in central London.

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Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship in Public International Law

The main aims of the Fellowship, with its research activities and events, are to:

- Promote discussion and study of contemporary issues of public international law, combining conceptual analysis with working knowledge of its practice;
- Develop comparative approaches to public international law, examining issues in international practice from a variety of different regional and national perspectives;
- Analyse and critique British practice of public international law;
- Foster links between international lawyers across government departments and embassies, private practice, the judiciary, academia and the not-for-profit sector;
- Encourage participation of early career public international lawyers in the Watts programme, especially in identifying and shaping the future.

Research and Events



The work of the Arthur Watts Fellowship has included the following projects, events and partnerships:

Treaty law and practice: A research project in collaboration with the Centre for International Law in Singapore, which brought together treaty professionals from a range of governments in South-East Asia and international organisations.

Partnership activities: In 2012 we established an effective partnership with the Law School at Melbourne University, enabling work to be done with visiting research fellows and interns in areas of joint interest.



Dialogues between international and public law: in collaboration with Melbourne University Law School a conference was held in London in July 2016. Academics and practitioners from around the world debated how national public law and public international law should and must co-exist.

Legal issues relating to democratic participation in Hong Kong: an analysis of the international law obligations of China and of the UK; the status of the Joint Declaration and Basic Law guarantees in Hong Kong law; and relevant obligations of the UK Government under UK law.

Law of the sea: this project investigated the obligations on States to exercise restraint in undelimited maritime areas. The results were published in a report and disseminated at a conference.

The Arthur Watts Public International Law Seminar Series: sponsored by Volterra Fietta, this series covers a wide range of topical public international law issues including climate change and the refugee crisis.

The legality of unilateral acts in relation to disputes over territorial sovereignty: research into the legal significance of unilateral acts involving military or other use of force in relation to disputes over territorial sovereignty and related issues, especially when altering the territorial status quo in disputed areas.

The Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law



Markus Gehring is a barrister and solicitor of the Law Society of Ontario, Canada, a Rechtsanwalt in the Frankfurt/Main Bar in Germany and an affiliate member of Landmark Chambers in London. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), a Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge, a Fellow in Law of Hughes Hall and serves as Lead Counsel for the Centre for International Sustainable Development

Law (CISDL). His main areas of research are international trade law, international sustainable development law, including climate change, and the legal implications of Brexit and EU external relations law.

"The Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship is uniquely placed to make a significant contribution in the field of public international law"

The Arthur Watts Research Fellow on the International Law of Territorial Disputes



Dr Constantinos Yiallourides leads on projects, events and workshops pertaining to the use of force, law of the sea and territorial disputes.

His research expertise spans a number of international law fields with a particular focus on the law of the sea, natural resources law, energy and marine environmental law and he has been widely published in these fields. He has also collaborated with organisations such as UNESCO, Deloitte and Marine Scotland, providing legal and policy expertise on a wide number of projects, including an EU-wide study concerning liability regimes for offshore oil and gas incidents in the European Economic Area and a cross-disciplinary project concerning transboundary freshwater conservation in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

The Arthur Watts Appeal

Public international law is of major concern and consequence to communities of all sizes and their future prosperity.

The establishment of the Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship in Public International Law has been made possible by the generosity of many benefactors, including leading international lawyers and governments, to whom we extend our grateful thanks. The Institute is particularly indebted to Mr Allan Myers, AO QC of Melbourne, for his significant personal donations.

More support is needed to ensure that the Institute is able to achieve its longer-term ambition to endow the Fellowship for the foreseeable future, thus keeping public international law at the heart of the Institute's work.

We are offering opportunities for organisations (including law firms, corporations, trusts and foundations) and individual donors to support the Fellowship as it develops new projects and events in public international law. We are happy to consider ways in which donors can be involved in our research, as well as other opportunities for engagement and recognition.

We hope that you will consider supporting this important work and look forward to discussing the possibilities with you.

Donors to the Arthur Watts Appeal

We would like to thank the following donors for their support:

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We would also like to thank Volterra Fietta, the sponsor of the Arthur Watts Seminar Series in Public International Law 2014-2017 and 2018-2020.

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