



**British Institute of  
International and  
Comparative Law**

# The Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship in Public International Law



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International and  
Comparative Law**

# A word from Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC



Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC

*‘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.

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, and to advance this cause that he pursued. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franklin Berman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Sir Franklin Berman KCMG QC**

Chairman of the Arthur Watts Appeal;  
and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the  
British Institute of International and Comparative Law

# 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 only body of its kind in the UK and one of very few in the world... and has earned a very high 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 over 50 years ago, it is headquartered in central London.

## **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.

**For further information about the  
Arthur Watts Fellowship, please visit  
[www.biicl.org/arthurwattsfellowship](http://www.biicl.org/arthurwattsfellowship)**

# The Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law

The Inaugural Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellow is Jill Barrett, who joined the Institute from the Legal Adviser's team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), where she was a Legal Counsellor. Jill brings to this role more than twenty years' experience of advising on legal aspects of foreign policy, negotiating international agreements and representing the United Kingdom abroad. Before joining the FCO, Jill held lectureships in Law at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, (specialising in the People's Republic of China) and at the University of Durham.

## Research and Events

Among the new research initiatives already introduced or planned for the future under the Fellowship are:

### **Treaty law and practice**

A research project has commenced in collaboration with the Centre for International Law in Singapore, and brings together treaty professionals from a range of governments in South-East Asia and international organisations.

### **The Antarctic Treaty**

In assessing the adequacy of the international legal framework for challenges in the Antarctic region, the research will also consider its merits as a model for other regions, such as the Arctic.

### **Customary international law**

This project will compare how some national courts interpret and apply customary international law in judicial decisions.

### **Evidence before International Courts and Tribunals**

This project will build on the success of the Institute's first project in this field – and which was directly supported by Sir Arthur – on evidence before the International Court of Justice (published in 2009).

### **Partnership activities**

We are pleased to have 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.

### **Events**

We also facilitate the Arthur Watts Public International Law Seminar Series which draws on the work of the Fellowship. For more information and to register for an event, please visit

[www.biicl.org/events](http://www.biicl.org/events)

**To find out more about the Arthur Watts Fellowship, please visit**

[www.biicl.org/arthurwattsfellowship](http://www.biicl.org/arthurwattsfellowship)



Jill Barrett, Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law

# 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 a significant personal donation. A full list of our donors can be found on the final page of this brochure.

A very substantial sum has already been raised towards the initial Watts Appeal target of £500,000. More support will help the Institute to reach that goal and, ideally, go beyond it. Our longer-term ambition is to endow the Fellowship for the foreseeable future.

We are offering opportunities for organisations (including law firms, corporations, trusts and foundations) and individual donors to support the Fellowship as it develops new legal ideas and applications in public international law. Support can be given either on a general basis or in relation to specific research projects. We are happy to consider ways in which donors can be involved in our research, as well as other opportunities for engagement and recognition.

The Arthur Watts Senior Research Fellowship is uniquely placed to make a significant contribution in the field of public international law, and we would welcome your support. We look forward to discussing the possibilities with you.

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# Sir Arthur Watts (1931-2007)

## Biography



Sir Arthur Watts

*'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'*

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

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.

**For further information about Sir Arthur Watts and his work, including his bibliography and selected oral pleadings before the International Court of Justice, please visit [www.biicl.org/arthurwattsfellowship](http://www.biicl.org/arthurwattsfellowship)**

# Donors to the Arthur Watts Appeal

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# Contact Us

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