The Position of Heads of State
and Senior Officials in International Law

Thursday 23 January 2014, 17:30 to 19:30
British Institute of International and Comparative Law,
Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

Biographies

Chair

Dame Rosalyn Higgins DBE QC

Dame Rosalyn Higgins DBE QC is President of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, and Honorary President of the American Society of International Law. She was a Member of the International Court of Justice from 1995 to 2009, and was elected President of the Court from February 2006 to February 2009.

Prior to being elected to the International Court, Dame Rosalyn practised as a barrister in public international law, including immunity law. She has written extensively on the subject of State and diplomatic immunities, as well as international legal theory and many other aspects of international law. Dame Rosalyn was also Professor of International Law at the University of Kent at Canterbury (1978-1981) and Professor of International Law at the University of London (London School of Economics) from 1981 to 1995.

She has served as counsel in numerous cases before the ICJ, as well as arbitrating several international disputes. She was also a Member of the Committee on Human Rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1985-1995), and Special Rapporteur for new cases (1989-1991). Dame Rosalyn is currently an adviser on international law to the Iraq Inquiry.

Dame Rosalyn was on the Board of Editors of the ‘American Journal of International Law’ from 1975 to 1985 and since 2003, of the ‘Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law’ and the ‘British Yearbook of International Law’.
Speakers

Joanne Foakes

Joanne Foakes is an Associate Fellow in International Law at Chatham House. She specialises in public international law, international immunities and international organisations, as well as the relationship between municipal and international law. She was previously a Legal Counsellor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (1995-2008), where she also worked as Assistant Legal Adviser (1984-1991). From 1991 to 1995 Joanne was seconded as Deputy Principal Crown Counsel to the Hong Kong Government, as well as being a member of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group. Joanne is a barrister of the Inner Temple, where she practised from 1979 to 1984, during which she also undertook university teaching.


Dr Philippa Webb

Dr Philippa Webb specialises in public international law, having joined The Dickson Poon School of Law in September 2012 after a decade in international legal practice. She was previously visiting Assistant Professor in the Advanced LLM Programme at Leiden University (2009-2011). Dr Webb holds a doctorate (JSD) and an LLM from Yale Law School. She obtained the University Medal in her LLB and the University Medal and First Class Honours in her BA (Asian Studies), both of which were awarded by the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Philippa has extensive experience in international courts and tribunals. She served as the Special Assistant and Legal Officer to Judge Rosalyn Higgins during her Presidency of the International Court of Justice (2006-2009) and, prior to that, as the Judicial Clerk to Judges Higgins and Owada (2004-2005).

She was the Associate Legal Adviser to Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo at the International Criminal Court (2005-2006). Philippa has worked at the UN Secretariat in New York and in the Sydney and Tokyo offices of an international law firm. She speaks French and Japanese. She is the Director of Mooting in the School of Law. She co-authored the third edition of ‘The Law of State Immunity’ with Lady Hazel Fox CMG QC. Her publications also include ‘International Judicial Integration and Fragmentation’, a book published in 2013.

Guest of Honour

Lady Hazel Fox CMG QC

Lady Fox CMG QC was formerly Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (1982-1989), and General Editor of the International and Comparative Law Quarterly (1987-1997). She is a member of the Institut de Droit International, as well as a member of the International Law Association Committees on State Immunity Diplomatic Protection, and Reparation for Victims of War Damage.

Lady Fox is an Honorary Fellow of Somerville College, University of Oxford, where she was previously a lecturer and tutor in law. She is also a Barrister at 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, and a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn. In 2006, Lady Fox was admitted as Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, for services to international and comparative law, in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

She is the author of numerous books on a variety of international law topics, notably ‘The Law of State Immunity’, first published by OUP in 2008. The third edition, published in 2013, was co-authored with Dr Philippa Webb.