

Kwon, O-Gon (Republic of Korea)

Biographical note

Mr. O-Gon Kwon worked as one of the permanent judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) from November 2001 to March 2016. He served as the Vice-President of the ICTY from 2008 to 2011. During his mandate, Kwon presided over the trial of former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadžić. Previously, he sat on the trial of Slobodan Milošević, former President of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and on the trial of Popović and others, in which seven Bosnian Serbs were accused of involvement in crimes following the July 1995 fall of the Srebrenica enclave. He was also involved in a number of pre-trial proceedings, contempt trials and sentencing judgments. Further, he was a member of the Referral Bench, which determined whether certain cases pending before the Tribunal are suitable to be referred for trial in the national courts of a State, instead of being tried at the Tribunal. He also served as a member of the Independent Panel on the International Criminal Court Judicial Election of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court from 2010 to 2012.

Before his international career, Kwon served in the judiciary of the Republic of Korea for 22 years as a judge in various courts, including the Seoul District Court, Changwon District Court, Suwon District Court and Taegu High Court. He also served as the Assistant Legal Advisor to the President of the Republic of Korea (1981-1984), the Planning Director at the Office of the Court Administration of the Supreme Court of Korea (1990-1992), and the Director of Research at the Constitutional Court of Korea (1997-1999).

Currently, Mr. Kwon serves as the President of the Korean Society of Law, which is the association of all jurists, *i.e.*, judges, prosecutors, attorneys and law professors in Korea. He also works as an attorney at Kim & Chang, one of the most prominent law firms in Korea, and as the President of the International Law Institute of the firm. Further, he is also chairing two committees established by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea, the Management Committee of the Judicial Policy Research Institute and the Committee for the Development of Criminal Justice. In addition, he has been serving as a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of International Criminal Justice (Oxford) since 2007.

Mr. Kwon holds an LL.B. (1976) from Seoul National University College of Law and an LL.M. (1983) from the Graduate School of Seoul National University. He took his bar apprenticeship in the Judicial Research and Training Institute at the Supreme Court of Korea (1979). He also holds an LL.M. (1985) from Harvard Law School, U.S.A.

He received a Moran Medal, Order of Civil Merit from the President of the Republic of Korea in September 2008. He also received the Korean Legal Culture Award from the Korean Bar Association in 2013 and the Youngsan Legal Culture Award from the Youngsan Foundation in 2011. He was also nominated as the Lawyer of the Year by the Legal Press Club in 2009.

Curriculum Vitae

Education

Harvard Law School (LL.M., 1985)
Judicial Research and Training Institute, Supreme Court of Korea (1979)
Graduate School, Seoul National University (LL.M., 1983)
College of Law, Seoul National University (LL.B., 1976)

Experience

President, Korean Society of Law (2017-Present)
President, International Law Institute, Kim & Chang (2016-Present)
Chair, Judicial Policy Management Committee, Judicial Policy Research Institute, Supreme Court of Korea (2014-Present)
Chair, Committee for the Development of Criminal Justice, Supreme Court of Korea (2016-Present)
Member, Board of Editors, Journal of International Criminal Justice, Oxford University Press (2007-Present)
Permanent Judge, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, the Netherlands (2001-2016)
Vice-President, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, the Netherlands (2008-2011)
Member, Independent Panel for the ICC Election Coalition for the International Criminal Court (2010-2013)
Presiding Judge, Taegu High Court (2000-2001)
Presiding Judge, Seoul District Court (1999-2000)
Director of Research, Constitutional Court of Korea (1997-1999)
Presiding Judge, Seoul East District Court (1997)
Presiding Judge, Suwon District Court (1995-1997)
Chair, Press Arbitration Commission, Gyeongsangnam-do Province (1994-1995)
Presiding Judge, Changwon District Court (1993-1995)
Research Judge, Supreme Court of Korea (1992-1993)
Planning Director, Ministry of Court Administration, Supreme Court of Korea (1990-1992)
Judge, Taegu High Court (1988-1990)
Judge, Seoul Criminal District Court (1986-1988)
Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of the Secretary to the President of Republic of Korea (1980-1984)
Judge, Seoul Civil District Court (1979-1986)

Admissions

Admitted to bar, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1979

Publications

Books

Commentary on the Civil Code (Pakyoungsa, 1993)

Articles

Forgotten Victims, Forgotten Defendants, 227 *Beyond Victor's Justice? The Tokyo War Crimes Revisited* (2011)

The Challenge of an International Criminal Trial as Seen from the Bench, *Journal of International Criminal Justice* (Oxford University Press), 5 (2007)

A Comparative Study on International Criminal Trials and Korean Criminal Trials, 15 *Human Rights and Justice* 359 (2006, Korean Bar Association)

Recent Trends in International Humanitarian Law: the case of the ICTY, 12 *Criminal Cases Study* 578 (Pakyoungsa, 2004)

Small Claims Court in the U. S. and Korea, 15 *Korean Journal of Comparative Law* 95 (LL.M. paper, Harvard Law School, 1985)

A Study on Maritime Liens (LL.M. paper, Graduate School of Seoul National University, 1983) and many others.

Awards

Korean Legal Culture Award, Bar Association of the Republic of Korea (2013)

Youngsan Legal Culture Award (2011)

Lawyer of the Year, Legal Press Club (2009)

Moran Medal, Order of Civil Merit, President of the Republic of Korea (2008)