

Statement of qualifications

Australia has the honour of nominating Judge Kevin Parker for the Advisory Committee on the Nominations of judges of the International Criminal Court.

Judge Parker has had a long and distinguished legal career both in Australia and at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Admitted as a legal practitioner in Australia in 1960, he was appointed as the Senior Assistant Prosecutor for Western Australia in 1967 and the Chief Prosecutor in 1971. He was subsequently appointed as Queen's Counsel in 1977 before serving as the Solicitor-General of Western Australia from 1979 to 1994. From 1994 until 2003 he was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and in that role he conducted many major criminal trials and dealt with a large number of criminal appeals.

Concurrently, Judge Parker was a legal officer of the Royal Australian Air Force (Reserve), serving as Judge Advocate from 1977 to 1985 and Reviewing Judge Advocate from 1985 to 1997. He held the rank of Air Commodore on his retirement.

In 2003, Judge Parker became a permanent judge of the ICTY, and served in that capacity until 2011. During his tenure at the ICTY, Judge Parker served as Vice-President for two terms from 2005 to 2008 and was the Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber II from 2008 to 2011. As a judge of the ICTY, Judge Parker presided over a record number of five trials, three of which involved multiple accused. He also conducted the Inquiries into the deaths in custody of Slobodan Milosevic and Milan Babic, served as a member of the Rule 11 *bis* Chamber, which was responsible for the transfer of cases to the courts of Balkan countries, as well as the Rules Committee, and he had the pre-trial management of over 10 cases.

Judge Parker's extensive domestic and international legal experience clearly establishes his competence in both criminal and international law. Indeed, his energy and commitment to excellence as a judge of the ICTY has been widely remarked upon.

During his domestic legal career, Judge Parker held many appointments that required the oversight and assessment of legal practitioners, namely, membership of the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia (1972-1979), membership (1977-1979) then Chairmanship (1979-1992) of the Barristers' Board of Western Australia, membership of the Council of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration (1982-1988), Presidency of the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia (1992-1994), Chairmanship of the Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal of Western Australia (1992- 1995), and Membership of the Consultative Committee of Australian Law Admitting Authorities(1983-1994). As Solicitor-General it was his responsibility to identify legal practitioners who were suitable for appointment as Judges, a role that he performed for over 14 years.

In 1989, Judge Parker's outstanding service to the law was recognised when he was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, and in 2008 he was made a Companion of that Order, which is Australia's highest civil honour, for his service to International law. In addition he has served as the Australian Honorary Aide-de-Camp (Air) to HM Queen Elizabeth II from 1979 to 1981. These distinguished awards and appointments confirm the eminent standing and high moral character of Judge Parker. Indeed, as noted by the Chief Justice of the Western Australian Supreme Court on the occasion of Judge Parker's election to the ICTY, 'to all who know him, Judge Parker is held in the highest of esteem for his wisdom, compassion, common sense, legal skills, and his vast knowledge of the law'.

Judge Parker is deeply conscious of the importance of the task to be carried out by the Advisory Committee. Although he is from the common law tradition, his experience has demonstrated to him the importance of international judges looking beyond national legal traditions in the fulfilment

of their role. It is his strongly held view that the success of the International Criminal Court will depend heavily on the quality of its judicial work.

The Australian Government recommends Judge Parker's nomination to the Bureau's working group and to States Parties.

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