

Kwon, O-Gon (Republic of Korea)

[Original: English]

Curriculum vitae

Judge O-Gon Kwon is currently an attorney-at-law at Kim & Chang law firm who serves as the President of the firm's International Law Institute. Judge Kwon is also serving as the chair of the Advisory Committee for Judicial Policy of the Supreme Court of Korea and as a member of the Advisory Board of the Constitutional Court of Korea. Additionally, Judge Kwon has been serving as a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal of International Criminal Justice (Oxford University Press).

Judge Kwon worked as one of the permanent judges of the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for 15 years from November 2001 to March 2016. He served as the Vice-President of the ICTY from 2008 to 2011. During his mandate at the ICTY, Judge Kwon presided over the trial of a 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 fall of the Srebrenica enclave in July 1995.

Afterwards, Judge Kwon was elected as the President of the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in December 2017, and served in that post for about three years until February 2021. During his mandate as the President of the ASP of the ICC, he successfully launched the Review process, which is still on-going. Judge Kwon also served 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 from 2017 to 2022.

Prior to his international career, Judge Kwon served in the judiciary of the Republic of Korea for 22 years as a judge in numerous 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).

Judge 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, USA.

Judge Kwon 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 of Law and Culture in 2011. Furthermore, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Asialaw in 2017, and Kyung-Ahm Special Prize in 2018. He was also awarded the Lawyer of the Year by the Legal Press Club in 2009.

Personal information

Date of birth:	2 September 1953
Nationality:	Republic of Korea
ICC working language:	English (proficient)

Relevant international professional activities

2007-Present	Member, Board of Editors, Journal of International Criminal Justice, Oxford University Press
2017-2021	President, Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court
2001-2016	Permanent Judge, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, the Netherlands

2008-2011	Vice-President, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, the Netherlands
2010-2013	Member, Independent Panel for the ICC Election, Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Relevant national professional activities

2016-present	President, International Law Institute, Kim & Chang
2017-present	Arbitrator, Korean Commercial Arbitration Board
2021-present	Member, Advisory Board, Constitutional Court of Korea
2024-present	Chair, Advisory Committee for Judicial Policy, Supreme Court of Korea
2020-2021	Chair, Committee for the Implementation Legislation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Ministry of Justice
2017-2022	President, Korean Society of Law
2014-2020	Chair, Judicial Policy Management Committee, Judicial Policy Research Institute, Supreme Court of Korea
2017-2019	Chair, Advisory Committee on the Human Rights Issues in North Korea, Ministry of Justice
2016-2017	Chair, Committee for the Development of Criminal Justice, Supreme Court of Korea
2000-2001	Presiding Judge, Taegu High Court
1999-2000	Presiding Judge, Seoul District Court
1997-1999	Director of Research, Constitutional Court of Korea
1997	Presiding Judge, Seoul Eastern District Court
1995-1997	Presiding Judge, Suwon District Court
1994-1995	Chair, Press Arbitration Commission, Gyeongsangnam-do Province
1993-1995	Presiding Judge, Changwon District Court
1992-1993	Research Judge, Supreme Court of Korea
1990-1992	Planning Director, Ministry of Court Administration, Supreme Court of Korea
1988-1990	Judge, Taegu High Court
1986-1988	Judge, Seoul Criminal District Court
1980-1984	Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of the Secretary to the President of Republic of Korea
1979-1986	Judge, Seoul Civil District Court

Other affiliations

2019-present	Member, Asan Award Committee
2023-present	Member, Board of Directors, Sejong Foundation
2022-2024	Member, Board of Trustees, Seoul National University

Education

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

Awards

2018	Kyung-Ahm Special Prize, Kyung-Ahm Education & Culture Foundation
2017	Lifetime Achievement Awards, Asialaw Asia-Pacific Legal Practice Awards (Asialaw Profiles)
2013	Korean Legal Culture Award, Federal Bar Association of Korea
2011	Youngsan Legal Culture Award
2009	Lawyer of the Year, Legal Press Club
2008	Moran Medal, Order of Civil Merit, President of the Republic of Korea

Publications [Book]

- 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