Sir Elihu Lauterpacht CBE QC LLD has had a distinguished career in international law, combining teaching and practice on an extensive scale.

He was called to the Bar in 1950, becoming a Member of Chambers at 3 Essex Court, later to become 20 Essex Street, in 1951. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1970. He has practised extensively before the International Court of Justice and other international jurisdictions, as well as before the English courts, throughout this period, his most recent appearance being before the Administrative Court in London earlier in 2011. He was ad hoc judge in the Bosnia case before the International Court, has been an arbitrator in NAFTA, ICSID and other arbitrations, the President of the East African Market Tribunal, and a member of the Panel of the UN Compensation Commission, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank Administrative Tribunals and of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission. Sir Elihu’s appearances before the International Court of Justice include the Nottebohm case in 1953, the North Sea Continental Shelf cases, the Constitution of the Maritime Safety Committee advisory opinion, the Barcelona Traction case, the Nuclear Tests cases, the Qatar-Bahrain case and the Sipadan and Ligitan case.

In 1953 Sir Elihu became a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge and was successively Lecturer and Reader in International Law in the University, being appointed an Honorary Professor of International Law in 1994. He has left a permanent mark on international law through his work as author, editor and innovator. In 1956 he started the British Practice in International Law, the forerunner of similar publications in a number of other countries, from which there subsequently evolved in other hands the United Kingdom Materials on International Law. He became editor of the International Law Reports in 1960, and inaugurated the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal Reports in 1983 and the ICSID Reports in 1993. He has lectured at the Hague Academy of International Law and is a member of the Institut de Droit International. He remains actively involved in practice, particularly in investment and territorial disputes. In 1983, Sir Elihu founded the Research Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge, the Centre having subsequently been renamed the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, in recognition of the remarkable contribution to international law made by both Sir Elihu and his father, Sir Hersch Lauterpacht. The Lauterpacht Centre is now commonly regarded as one of the premier research institutions of international law worldwide. Sir Elihu remains closely involved in the work of the Centre as its Director Emeritus. In recognition of his contribution to international law, he was knighted in 1996.

Sir Elihu’s professional activity has generated a huge mass of learned opinions and drafts which form a unique archive that will in due course be available at the Lauterpacht Centre. His published academic works include Jerusalem and the Holy Places (1968), The Development of the Law of International Organizations by the Decisions of International Tribunals (1976) and Aspects of the Administration of International Justice (1991), as well as numerous articles. He has systematically arranged and edited International Law: the Collected Papers of Hersch Lauterpacht, the fifth and final volume of which was published in 2004, and a biography of Sir Hersch Lauterpacht published in 2010.