

MR. EDWARD MCWHINNEY

Professor of International Law and Past President, Institut de Droit International

Edward Watson McWhinney is a graduate of Yale University, and took his doctorate from Yale University (in Constitutional and International Law). He went on to do post-doctoral research work in The Hague, Berlin, Pisa and Geneva.

He was a Lecturer and Assistant Professor at Yale University (in Law and Political Science) for four years, and afterwards held full Chairs at the University of Toronto's Law School and the Centre for Russian Studies; at McGill University (where he was also Director of the Air-Law Institute); Indiana University (where he was Director of International and Comparative Law); and most recently, Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. He was named (by decree of the French Cabinet) Professeur-associé teaching at the University of Paris (Sorbonne) in 1968, and came back to teach again at the new Paris I in 1982 and 1985. He has been a Visiting Professor teaching at the University of Heidelberg and the Max-Planck-Institut in 1960-61 and 1990, the Meiji University in Tokyo, and The Hague Academy of International Law in 1973, 1990 and 2002. He has also given special courses of lectures at the Collège de France; the University of Madrid; the National Autonomous University of Mexico; the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; the Institut Universitaire of Luxembourg; the Institute of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing; and other World centres.

Dr. McWhinney was elected to the Institut de Droit International (Geneva), in 1967, the first member from Canada to the century and a quarter-old academy. He was elected President of the Institut for the two-year term 1999-2001, only the third jurist from outside Europe to be elected to that office. He is a titular Member of the Académie Internationale de Droit Comparé (Paris), to which he was first elected in 1985.

He was also a Member and Special Advisor of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly for three years in the early 1980's.

In professional-legal life, he has been a Crown Prosecutor; Royal Commissioner of Enquiry; Consultant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations; Constitutional and International Law Advisor to several Quebec Premiers, to the Premier of Ontario, to the federal Government of Canada and to a number of foreign Governments.

He was a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague (1985-1991).

In public life, he was elected as Member of Parliament in the Canadian federal Parliament in Ottawa, and then successfully re-elected to a second term, and during that time was, successively, Parliamentary Secretary (Fisheries) and Parliamentary Secretary (Foreign Affairs). He chose not to stand for a third term and returned, instead, to his professional advising and consulting and teaching role.

Dr. McWhinney is the author of 30 books (two in French and one in German), and of 14 co-authored books, as well as some 500 scientific articles, published or translated in nine different languages. He is contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica and past Member of its International Editorial Advisory Committee.

Interrupting his early studies, he had won his Commission as Pilot-Officer in the Air Force, as a 19-year old.

Dr. McWhinney was awarded the Aristotle Medal by the Greek Government in 1997, with the citation "for his contribution to the progress of science, free thought and intellectual development - values inextricably linked with Greek civilization throughout the years".