

PROFILE



JUSTICE SAMUEL KOFI DATE-BAH

Education:

- Achimota School, Ghana (1956-1962);
- LL.B (First Class Honours) Univ. of Ghana, 1965;
- Qualified as barrister at law, Ghana, 1966;
- LL.M (Yale Law School) 1967;
- Ph.D. (London School of Economics, London University), 1969.

Work Experience:

- 2008 – to date: **Justice of the Supreme Court of the Gambia;**
- 2003 – to date: **Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana**, responsible for many leading judgments;
- Currently: also, Chairman, Management Committee of the Accra Commercial Court; Chairman, Examination Committee of the Ghana Judiciary; Chairman, Business Law Reform Committee of Experts, currently engaged in reforming the companies legislation of Ghana; Chairman, Ghana Law Reform Commission; Chairman, Council of the University of Ghana, Legon.

Previously:

- 1984 – 2003: **Special Adviser (Legal) at the Commonwealth Secretariat**, London, responsible for effective legal advisory and negotiating services to the developing member states of the Commonwealth. Played instrumental role as leader of a multidisciplinary Commonwealth Secretariat team which assisted the first independence Government of Namibia to negotiate:
 - a joint-venture agreement with De Beers that has been the bedrock of the Namibian economy since then; and
 - several petroleum exploration agreements with international petroleum companies on behalf of the government.
- 1969 – 1984: Taught contract, tort, commercial law and public international law during earlier **academic career**. Positions held include:
 - 1969 to 1981, **Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and then Associate Professor, Faculty of Law**, University of Ghana;
 - 1979-1980, **Associate Professor of Commercial Law**, University of Nairobi;
 - 1980-84, **Professor and Head of Department of Private Law, University of Calabar**, Nigeria;
 - Also held visiting academic positions at **Lincoln College, Oxford University** (1972); at the **Yale Law School** (1976); and at the **University of Fribourg**, Switzerland (1998).
- 1969-1979, **Part-time legal practitioner** in Accra

- In the 1970s, **Member of the Ghana Law Reform Commission.**
- In the 1970s, **Representative of the Ghana Government to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.** Elected Chairman of the Commission in 1978.
- 1996 to date: **A member of the UNIDROIT (The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, Rome) Working Group** that produced the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts.

Membership of Learned Societies:

- Since 2000, Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences; and
- Since 1996, Member of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law.

Recent Public Lectures delivered:

- In February 2008, the 41st J B Danquah Memorial Lecture of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, on “On Law and Liberty in Contemporary Ghana”;
- In March 2009, the University of Ghana Law Faculty Golden Jubilee Lectures on “Law Faculty at Fifty: Contribution to Education, Governance and Socio-Economic Development.”

Publications:

Extensive publications on Ghanaian law and on and international commercial law.