



PROFESSOR SEAN MURPHY

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Arbitration
Environmental Law and Natural Resources
Human Rights
Public and Private International Law

Admitted (US) 1986

CONTACT:

seanmurphy@matrixlaw.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7404 3447
Paul Venables, Senior Practice Manager
paulvenables@matrixlaw.co.uk

Prof Sean Murphy is the Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., where he teaches international law and U.S. foreign relations law. Since 2012, he is also a Member of the U.N. International Law Commission, where he serves as Special Rapporteur for Crimes against Humanity. During 2018-2020, he is the President of the American Society of International Law.

OVERALL PRACTICE

Professor Murphy advises, litigates, and arbitrates on a wide range of international law issues for States, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, corporations and individuals before international and national courts and tribunals. Such issues include: maritime boundary disputes; foreign investment disputes; international environmental law; international claims relating to the use of force; law of international organisations; international humanitarian law; human rights; and international criminal law.

SELECTED CASES

Professor Murphy's prior cases have been before numerous courts and tribunals, including the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Tribunal, the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, and Annex VII arbitration under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. Such cases have included:

- ICL Europe Coöperatief U.A. (the Netherlands) v. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, PCA Case No. 2017-26 (arbitrator)
- Agility Public Warehousing Company v. Republic of Iraq, ICSID Case No. ARB/17/7 (arbitrator)
- Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo (Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda), International Court of Justice (damages phase) (counsel)
- Application of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia v. Greece), International Court of Justice (counsel)
- Advisory Opinion on Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo, International Court of Justice (counsel)
- Dispute Concerning the Maritime Boundary (Guyana v. Suriname), Law of the Sea Convention Annex VII Arbitral Tribunal (counsel)

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- Cases Concerning the Use of Force, Central/Western Fronts & Other Claims (Eritrea/Ethiopia), Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission (counsel)
- Case Concerning Oil Platforms (Iran v. U.S.), International Court of Justice (counsel)
- Case Concerning Compañía del Desarrollo de Santa Elena, S.A. v. Costa Rica, International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) (counsel)
- Case Concerning Elettronica Sicula S.p.A. (ELSI) (U.S. v. Italy), International Court of Justice (counsel)

EMPLOYMENT

From 1987 to 1995, Professor Murphy served in the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State, specializing in international dispute resolution, international environmental law, use of force, and the law of war.

From 1995 to 1998, Professor Murphy served as the Legal Counselor of the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, representing the U.S. Government before the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Hague Conference on Private International Law, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He also served as the U.S. Agent to the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal.

Since 1998, Professor Murphy has been a full-time academic, teaching international law, international business transactions, international environmental law, law of the sea, international organizations, and U.S. foreign relations law. He has been a visiting professor at the University of Göttingen, l'Université de Paris X (Ouest-Nanterre La Défense), and the University of Melbourne.

SCHOLARSHIP

Professor Murphy has published numerous articles in a variety of national and international law journals, and his books include: *Principles of International Law* (3rd ed. 2018); *International Law Relating to Islands* (2017); *U.S. Foreign Relations Law* (5th ed. 2017) (with Swaine & Wuerth); *International Law: Cases and Materials* (6th ed. 2014) (with Damrosch); *Litigating War: Mass Civil Injury and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission* (2013) (with Kidane and Snider); *Public International Law in a Nutshell* (5th ed. 2013) (with Buergenthal); and *Humanitarian Intervention: The United Nations in an Evolving World Order* (1996).

EDUCATION

Professor Murphy received his B.A. from Catholic University of America (1982) and his J.D. from Columbia University (1985), where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*. He received his LL.M. from Cambridge University (1987) and S.J.D. from the University of Virginia (1995).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Vice-President, American Society of International Law (2015-2018);
Counselor, (2014-15); Executive Council (2001-2004, 2014-present)

Member, Board of Editors, *American Journal of International Law* (2000-2010)

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Member, Board of Editors, Journal of National Security Law & Policy (2010-present)

Member, American Law Institute (2012-present)

Member, U.S. Department of State Legal Adviser's Advisory Committee on Public International Law (1999-2016)

RECENT LECTURES

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (2017) ("Preventing and Punishing Crimes Against Humanity")

Hague Academy of International Law (2016) ("International Law Relating to Islands")

LaLive Lecture (2015) ("Dispute Resolution under the Law of the Sea")

AWARDS

American Society of International Law 1997 & 2003 Certificates of Merit for Books

U.S. Department of State 1989 & 1998 Superior Honor Awards

American Bar Association 1996 Outstanding Younger Federal Lawyer Award

American Journal of International Law 1995 Francis Deák Prize for Outstanding Scholarship by a Younger Author

Council on Foreign Relations 1993 Fellowship

Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar 1983-1985, Columbia Law School

Phi Beta Kappa, 1982

Sean is regulated by the Bar Standards Board and accepts instruction under Standard Contractual Terms, details of which can be found on our website under Code of Conduct.