

THE SUPREME CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF EGYPT

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The Honorable Deputy Chief Justice Adel Omar Sherif

Brief Biographical Note

Dr. Dr. h.c. Adel Omar Sherif is the Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt; a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas and the Vice-President of the International Judicial Academy, Washington, D.C. USA.

He holds a number of law degrees, including LL.B. in Law and Economics, Advanced Studies Diploma in Public Law, Advanced Studies Diploma in Administrative Law, and Ph.D. in Constitutional Law, from Cairo and Ain Shams Universities in Egypt.

After working in private practice for a short period of time, he was appointed to the Council of the State (Egypt's system for administrative judiciary), where he served between 1980 and 1992 in the various positions within the judicial section and other departments of the Council. In 1992, Justice Sherif moved to the Supreme Constitutional Court as Assistant Counselor for the Commissioners' Body. He was promoted to full Counselor in 1993 and was assigned Acting Head of the Commissioners' Body that same year. In December 2002 he was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Justice.

Prior to his arrival to the bench as a DCJ in 2002, Justice Sherif, had occasionally been delegated to serve, in addition to his main judicial work, as a part-time legal adviser to several government agencies, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Egyptian Antiquities Organization, the Cultural Palaces Organization, the Real-Estate Bank of Egypt, and the Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration. At the time-being he is a member of the Specialized National Councils, Administrative Development Sector, faculty member at Helwan university law school in Cairo and many other legal associations and academic institutions both inside Egypt and outside. At the international level, Justice Sherif serves as Vice-President of the International Judicial Academy in Washington DC. Also, he is a council member of Centre of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law (CIMEL) at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London, a member of the International Board of Judicial Advisers for the Judges Newsletter of The Hague Conference on Private International Law and a member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Judicial Reference Group.

In the environment area, Justice Sherif is a member of both the judicial advisory board to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); a member of the specialist judicial group and the soil specialist group at the International Union for Conservation of the Nature (IUCN). In addition, Justice Sherif serves as a Secretary General for the Arab Supreme Courts Union for the Protection of

the Environment, and he is also a member of the Executive Planning Committee of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement, INECE, Washington, DC, USA. Further, Justice Sherif has recently been selected as a member of the Steering Committee of the Commission on Environmental Law at the IUCN.

Justice Sherif was a Visiting Fellow at the Human Rights Law Centre of the College of Law, DePaul University in Chicago, IL in 1992, the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex from 1993–94, the Federal Judicial Center in Washington D.C. in 1996 a Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Law, McGill University from 1998-99. As of the Spring Semester of 2008, Justice Sherif has been a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Comparative Law at Dedman School of Law, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, USA.

Justice Sherif has contributed significantly to the development of the international judicial cooperation movement, especially throughout his direct engagement in the activities of various international judicial forums, including his membership of the Judicial Group on Strengthen Judicial Integrity, who developed the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct. In addition, he often represents the Egyptian judicial community in international events, conferences and seminars. Moreover, he has served as the *Rapporteur* of a series of international human rights conferences known collectively as “The Cairo Conference” and for two regional and international conferences on capacity building of judges on environmental law.

In 2005, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan awarded Justice Sherif the Medal of the Constitution of Kazakhstan. In addition, in 2007, the Ateneo de Davao University in the Philippines conferred upon Justice Sherif an honorary doctorate degree in laws.

He has written and published widely on various legal aspects including human rights, constitutional issues, Islamic law and environmental law.