

ROBERT H. ALSDORF

Judge (ret.), Attorney at Law

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As a practicing lawyer and as a retired judge, as well as in my pre-professional days, I have long been engaged in international and cross-cultural activities.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Selected Presentations, Projects and Panels

- Workshop on Trial Advocacy Skills, a program co-sponsored by the **Uganda** Law Society and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), in Kampala, Uganda (2005)
- “Judicial Independence and Judicial Accountability: An Elected Judge’s Perspective,” presentation at Commonwealth Lawyers Association Judicial Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, **Malaysia** (2002); subsequently published in the volume noted above
- “The Right to a Jury Trial in the North American System of Justice,” in a conference on jury reform entitled *Una Valoracion Critica Desde La Perspectiva Del Derecho Comparado*, in Managua, **Nicaragua**, organized by the European Union (2002)
- Instructor in Constitutional Law and the Rule of Law, a program of lectures and mock trial demonstrations, co-sponsored by U.S. AID and the ABA Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), conducted in the Central Asian republics of **Kazakhstan** and **Kyrgyzstan** (1995)
- ABA Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI): analysis and commentary incorporated into formal reports given to the lawmakers in countries requesting ABA assistance, including the following:
 - Draft Constitution for the Republic of **Nigeria** (July, 1999)
 - Draft Freedom of Information Act for the Republic of **Georgia** (June, 1999)
 - Concept Paper for New **Albanian Constitution**; topic: the judiciary’s power of constitutional review (December, 1997)
 - Draft Judicature Statute for the Republic of **Ukraine** (May, 1997)
 - Draft Law on Principles of Self-Government for the Republic of **Georgia** (November, 1996)
 - Draft revisions to the Constitution of the Republic of **Belarus** (September, 1996)
 - Draft Constitution for Republic of **Ukraine** (July, 1996)
 - Draft Penal Code of the Republic of **Kyrgyzstan** (January, 1996)
 - Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of **Latvia** (November, 1995)
 - Statute Defining the Function and Administration of the High Council of Justice and 1995 Draft Constitution for the Republic of **Albania** (October & December, 1995)
 - Draft Charter of the **City of Moscow** for the **Russian Federation** (November, 1994)
 - Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of **Kazakhstan** (January, 1994)
 - Two Draft Laws Seeking to Define the Legal Status of the **Gagauz Republic of Moldova** (August, 1993)

International Residencies & Skills

- Seattle-**Tashkent** Sister City Society, promoting exchanges of students, lawyers and judges, and the construction of a Peace Park in Tashkent (1985-1995)
- Secondary School Teacher, European and African History, as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kambia, **Sierra Leone** (1967-69)
- Raised in **Japan** (1949-63), high school diploma from **Canadian Academy**, Kobe, Japan (1963)
- Languages: True fluency only in English, but retain a modest competency in **Japanese, Russian, French, Temne** and **Krio** languages

DOMESTIC EXPERIENCE

Current Position as Attorney (2005-)

- **Partner**, Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP (Seattle, WA), specializing in litigation, arbitration, mediation and appeal of complex litigation (2005-)
- **Honors**: Named one of the “Best Lawyers in America” by *Woodward/White* (2006-); Selected to “Super Lawyers” by *Washington Law & Politics* (2006-)

Judicial Experience (1990-2005)

- **Trial Judge**, Superior Court (appointed July, 1990; elected September, 1990; re-elected 1992, 1996 & 2000; the Superior Court is the state trial court of general civil and criminal jurisdiction); **Pro Tem Court of Appeals Judge** for the State of Washington, Division I (March, 1995)
- **Honors**: Outstanding Judge Award, King County Bar Association, 2002; Judge of the Year, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, 2001; Judge of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates, Washington Chapter, 2000; Vanguard Award, Washington Women Lawyers, 2000; Out of fifty-one judges, ranked first in every category analyzed by members of the King County Bar Association, 2004
- **Judicial Responsibilities and Leadership**: Chief Civil Judge (2000); Assistant Chief Civil Judge (1999); Chair, Individual Calendaring Program (1992); Member, King County Superior Court Judges Executive Committee (1999-2002); Chair, King County Mass Tort /Toxic Tort Panel (1993-96); Chair, King County Asbestos Panel (Chair of Asbestos Panel, 1993-97; Asbestos Motions Judge, 1991-95; chief Maritime Asbestos Judge, 1994-2000; Asbestos Settlement Judge, 2001-3); Member, National Mass Tort Litigation Committee: appointed by the National Conference of State Court Chief Justices (1993-98); Washington State Liaison Judge to the National Center for State Courts, Williamsburg, Virginia (1993-98)

Prior Experience as Attorney (1973-1990)

- Armstrong, Alsdorf, Bradbury & Maier, P.C., Seattle, Washington: federal and state litigation practice with substantial emphasis on antitrust and unfair business practices, franchises, securities, municipal law, contract disputes and real estate (co-founder and partner, 1979-84; President, 1984-90)
- Culp, Dwyer, Guterson & Grader, Seattle, Washington (litigation associate, 1975-79)
- Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.(Honors Program, 1973-75)

PUBLICATIONS

- “The Sound of Silence: Thoughts of a Sitting Judge on the Problem of Free Speech and the Judiciary in a Democracy,” *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2003)
- “Judicial Independence and Judicial Accountability: An Elected Judge’s Perspective,” published in volume entitled *Judges and Judicial Accountability* (**Commonwealth Lawyers Association**, 2003)

AFFILIATIONS

Selected Professional Committees and Activities

- American Bar Association: Member (1975-); **International Law Section, International Judicial Affairs Committee** (Co-chair, 2007-), **Sierra Leone Task Force** (Chair, 2007-); Appointed Member, **Africa Law Initiative Council** (2007-)
- Elected Member, American Law Institute (drafter and publisher of Restatements of Law)(1999-)
- Inns of Court, Seattle Chapter, Master and Founding Member (2002-present), President (2003-04)

Professional Memberships

- United States Supreme Court; Ninth and Tenth Circuits of U.S. Court of Appeals; District of Columbia; Eastern and Western Districts of Washington; State of Washington

EDUCATION

- J.D., Yale Law School, 1973
- M.A. (Am. Hist.), Yale Hall of Graduate Studies, 1973
- B.A., *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Distinction in History, Carleton College, 1967