



Gabrielle Kirk McDonald

Gabrielle Kirk McDonald began her judicial career in 1979 as a judge with the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She has been a judge of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in The Hague, The Netherlands since 2001. Before joining this Tribunal, she served in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia as one of the original judges elected by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993. There, she presided over the first international criminal trial since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. In 1997 her colleagues elected her President of the Tribunal. In that capacity she presided over the Appeals Chamber, hearing appeals from both the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and over a period of increased activity and expansion. The number of accused in custody more than tripled in a single year, two additional courtrooms were constructed, the Security Council amended the Tribunal Statute to provide for an additional Trial Chamber and the Outreach Programme was conceived. Upon graduation from Howard University School of Law, first in her class, she became a civil rights attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City, handling employment discrimination cases in federal courts throughout the South. She continued a civil rights practice in Houston, Texas. She has taught courses in Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure and various civil rights law seminars at several law schools. She is co-editor of the three-volume, Kluwer Law International, Substantive and Procedural Aspects of International Criminal Law, The Experience of International and National Courts, (Gabrielle Kirk McDonald and Olivia Swaak-Goldman eds., 2000). Judge McDonald has received numerous awards and honors. The National Bar Association presented her with its first Equal Justice and Ronald Brown International Law Awards. The American Society of International Law honored her with the Goler Teal Butcher Award for Human Rights. She was also presented with the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. In 2007, she was a recipient of the first Women Groundbreakers in International Justice Award from the Open Society Institute. In 2008, Judge McDonald received the Dorothy I. Height Lifetime Achievement Award. She has received the Doctor of Law Honoris Causa from various institutions, including the Georgetown University Law Center, the University of Notre Dame, Howard University, the Stetson College of Law and Amherst College. She was a Member of the Board of Trustees of Howard University, her alma mater, for 23 years and continues to be a Trustee Emerita. She was on the Board of the American Bar Association Human Rights Center and the

Genocide Prevention Task Force. She is a Member of the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association. She is admitted to practice law in the states of New York and Texas. Judge McDonald is the mother of a son, Michael, and a daughter, Stacy, who are attorneys.