

Bio Note
Professor David J. Attard

Professor David Attard has been admitted as Advocate in Malta, and a Barrister at law in England and Wales. He is a member of the Middle Temple, London.

Professor Attard read law at the University of Malta (LL.D.) and the University of Oxford (D.Phil.). In 1988, he was appointed to the Chair of Public International Law at the University of Malta. He has been a Visiting Professor of International Law at the University of Rome II, a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, and a Fullbright Fellow, Yale Law School. The Université de Paris I- Panthéon Sorbonne has appointed him Professor Invité for the academic year 2007-2008.

In 1990, he was appointed the first holder of the UNEP Chair of Environmental Diplomacy. Since 1992, he has been the Director of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, which has to date trained in Malta some 477 Government lawyers from 114 States.

Professor Attard has contributed various articles to leading journals. His book “The Exclusive Economic Zone in International Law” (Clarendon Press) was awarded the Paul Guggenheim (International Law) Prize, Geneva.

In 1988 on Professor Attard’s advice, the Government of Malta requested the United Nations to take action to protect the global climate. His proposal led to the 1992 UN Convention on the Protection of Global Climate. In 1989, through his initiative, the Swiss and Maltese Governments established at the University of Malta the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies which now trains diplomats from Mediterranean States.

Professor Attard has been the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization in London and Special Legal Advisor to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi.

In 1989 Professor Attard was appointed member of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Council of Europe, Strasbourg. In 2004 Professor Attard was awarded the French honour of Chevalier dans l’Ordre National de la Legion D’Honneur by the President of the French Republic. In 2007 Professor Attard was awarded the Order of Merit by the Government of Malta.

Since 2005, Professor Attard has been a member of the EU Expert Group on Maritime Policy.

In 2006 Professor Attard was elected Pro-Chancellor and President of the University of Malta Council.