



Thomas Laker

Judge Thomas Laker, a German citizen born in 1956, served as Presiding Judge at the Administrative Law Court in Hamburg (Germany) from 2005 to 2020. Prior to this, he was seconded to the Department of Justice of Hamburg (1992-1996), to the Administrative Court of Appeal of Hamburg (1999-2000) and to the Social Law Court of Hamburg (2005). He was appointed among the first Judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, where he served two terms as President (2010-2011; 2013-2014). Currently, he serves as Judge on several administrative tribunals of international organisations and agencies, including the Council of Europe (since 2021), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (since 2020), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (since 2019) and as chairperson of the Panel of Adjudicators of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (since 2016) as well as Chairperson of the Joint Appeals Board of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (since 2011).

Judge Laker has passed the German State Examinations in law and holds a PhD from the University of Göttingen (Germany). He is co-author of the 'Handbook on the Internal Justice System at the United Nations'. His mother tongue is German, and he has passed the United Nations Language Proficiency Examinations in English and in French.