

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; a Fullbright Fellow, Yale Law School; and in 2008 he was appointed Professor Invité at the Université de Paris I- Panthéon Sorbonne.

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.

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.

Professor Attard held the posts of 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 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 he was awarded the honour of Official, National Order of Merit by the President of Malta. In 2009 he was awarded the Orden de Isabel la Católica by the King of Spain. In 2010 the President of Italy awarded Professor Attard the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Professor Attard was a member of the EU Expert Group on Maritime Policy which produced the EU Green Paper on Maritime Policy.

Professor Attard was a member of the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), Council of Europe, Strasbourg.

In 2006 Professor Attard was appointed Pro-Chancellor and President of the University of Malta Council. In 2011 he was appointed Chancellor of the University by the President of Malta.

In 2011 Professor Attard was elected Judge at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Hamburg.