

**Justice Saleem Akhtar**  
**Formerly Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan**  
**&**  
**Federal Tax Ombudsman, Pakistan**



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Telephone : 92-21-5848904 & 92-21-5843467  
Fax :  
Date of Birth : March 23, 1932  
Qualification : B.A., L.L.B.  
Profession : Started Law practice specializing in Admiralty, Maritime, Commercial, Taxation, Arbitration and Constitutional Law

1967-68 Elected Joint Secretary of High Court Bar Association  
1968-69

1971-72 Elected twice Secretary High Court Bar Association  
1972-73

1979-80 Elected Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council

1980 Elevated to the Bench as Judge of the High Court of Sindh

1985 Appointed as Election Tribunal for Elections of the Senate,  
1988 National & Provincial Assemblies of the Punjab, Sindh & Baluchistan

1985 On restoration of Constitution in 1985 appointed as Chairman Provincial Review Board, constituted under Article 10 of the Constitution of Pakistan

1989 Nominated as member of the Karachi University Syndicate and also a member of the Board of governors of Institute of Business Administration

1990 Member of the Committee for Separation of Judiciary from Executive constituted by Supreme Court of Pakistan

1991 Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan

- 1995 Nominated as member of the Executive Council of the Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad
- 22-03-1997 Retired as Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan
- 1997 For the second time nominated as member of IUCN Environmental Law Commission, Germany
- 1998 Member of Pakistan Environmental Protection Council established under section 3 of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, 1997
- 1998-99 Consultant with the Asia Foundation for Legal and Judicial Reform Project of Ministry of Law, Government of Pakistan funded by Asian Development Bank
- 1999 President and Founder member of Pakistan Environmental Law Association (PELA)
- Sep 2000 Appointed as first Federal tax Ombudsman of Pakistan
- 2000 Elected Member, International Council of Environmental Law, Bonn, Germany
- 2000 Member National Council for Conservation of Wildlife in Pakistan (NCCW) Government of Pakistan
- 2002 Elected President Emeritus, Pakistan Environment Law Association
- March 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by PELA
- Sep 2004 Completed four years tenure as Federal Tax Ombudsman
- 2004 On invitation of Bangladesh Enterprises visited Dhaka to brief and introduce Tax Ombudsman Law
- 2004 Visited India to address and participate in Lawyer Training Workshop on Public Interest Environmental Law for SAARC Countries lawyers organized by M.C. Mehta Environmental Foundation at Dehradun

- 2004 Visited Nepal to address and participate in South Asian Judicial Interaction on Environmental Justice and Equity organized by the Forum for Justice and Supreme Court of Nepal
- Dec 2004 Chairman, Task Force for Corporate Tax Policy
- 2005 Chairman Task Force for investigation in March 2005 Stock Exchange Crisis
- 2005 Visited India to address and participate in Environment Law Workshop for SAARC countries lawyers organized by M.C Mehta Foundation at Dehradoun
- 2006 Chairman Committee for Revision of Trade Organization Ordinance 1961
- 2007 Honorary Director General, Sindh Judicial Academy

Attended various conferences abroad.

1. Conference on Patent Law organized by World Intellectual Properties Organization held in Peking, China in December 1986
2. **SAARC** Law Conference held at New Delhi, India in 1993
3. Environmental Law Conference Organized by International Bar Association at Madrid, Spain in 1994
4. IUCN World Congress at Montreal, Canada in October, 1996
5. **SAARC** Law Conference at Dhaka, Bangladesh, in December, 1996
6. International Conference on Global Drugs Law at New Delhi, India, in February, 1997
7. Attended and Addressed Asian Ombudsman Association's Conference at Beijing, China 2002
8. Attended and Addressed Asian Ombudsman Association's Conference at Seoul, South Korea 2003

9. Attended and Addressed International Ombudsman Institute's Conference at Quebec, Canada 2004

Closely associated with the drafting of Admiralty Jurisdiction of High Courts Ordinance (Ord. III of 1980)

Contributed to the book entitled Maritime Law Vol. III B Registration of Vessels and Mortgages of Vessels published by International Bar Association (1980)

Contributed Summary of Pakistan Admiralty Law for Prof. William Tetley's book "Maritime liens and Claims" 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed 1997

Addressed lectures on Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 in Seminars organized by IUCN at Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore and Peshawar for creating awareness orientation and capacity building of the officials

Delivered lecture on Intellectual Property in a conference organized by World Intellectual Property Organization for training of District & Sessions Judges at Bahrain in 2008.

Delivered important and leading judgments on Contract, Tort, Income Tax, Shipping, Admiralty, Banking, Commercial Law, Arbitration, Constitution, Human Rights, Environmental Law and Conventions and Criminal Law

On the eve of retirement from Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of Pakistan referred to various leading judgments and paying rich tributes said that "going through the rulings one gets the impression that Mr. Justice Saleem Akhtar belongs to the activist class of Judges disposed of to take immediate notice of acts of violation of rights and abuse of authority. He has made valuable contribution to the development of Law. His rulings would leave lasting impact on the development of jurisprudence and evolution and development of Constitution. He has been a harbinger of setting new trends evolving new concepts and expounding new principles of law and justice".

While inaugurating the launching ceremony of Pakistan Environmental Law Association (20.8.1999) the Chief Justice of Pakistan speaking with reference to superior Courts role in protection of environment "paid tributes to Justice Saleem Akhtar for his landmark judgments on issues involving environment. He said the most celebrated case was that of **Shahla Zia Vs WAPDA**. Justice Saleem Akhtar through most ingenious interpretation, expanded the ambit of Article 9 of the Constitution to include the right to health service and quality life". (Dawn 21.8.1999)

In the address delivered by Dr. Parwaz Hassan on Judicial Activism towards sustainable Development in south Asia at the UNEP Judges Symposium held in Johannesburg South Africa August 2002 attended by Chief Justices and judges all over the world said:

“.....before I speak about Pakistan, let me identify the three heroes who, using public interest litigation, immeasurably served sustainable development in south Asian region. I salute former Chief Justice Bhagwati of India, Justice Saleem Akhtar, a former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the late Dr. Mohiuddin Farooq, the President of the Bangladesh Environmental Law Association. Each of them helped anchor sustainable development in the jurisprudence of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh interpreting the wide language of fundamental rights not as a mechanism for fossilizing the law but as a living tissue from which legal principles were created to meet the needs of an evolving society.”

After retirement mainly engaged in Arbitration cases as Arbitrator / Umpire and Consultant.

Appointed Arbitrator by ICC International Court of Arbitration, the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the High Court and Private parties.

As first Federal tax Ombudsman established the Secretariat at Islamabad and two Regional Offices at Lahore and Karachi from the scratch. During a period of four years besides redressing individual grievances, in 5688 Complaints, recommendations were made for institutional reform systemic improvement and resolved disputes employing alternative dispute resolution mechanism. The Stakeholders, taxpayers and independent observers have noted improvement in tax culture to their satisfaction.