

Ralph Zacklin | Class of 1968

Ralph Zacklin is a distinguished expert in International Law, boasting nearly 30 years as a United Nations (UN) International Lawyer and former Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. His career began in 1967 at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace before he joined the UN in 1973, collaborating with Secretaries-General Perez de Cuellar, Boutros-Ghali, and Alumnus Kofi Annan. During his tenure, Zacklin held pivotal roles such as Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Deputy to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs. Zacklin's career reflects a commitment to the rule of law and the principles of international justice. His contributions have left a lasting impact on the UN's legal operations and the broader field of International Law, cementing his legacy as a key figure in multilateral legal affairs.









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Zacklin made significant contributions to International Law, particularly in the areas of terrorism and conflict. In the photo, Rabbie L. Namaliu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, signing numerous conventions on the suppression and financing of Terrorism, in 2003.

He chaired several significant panels, including the UN inquiry for Timor-Leste and the independent panel investigating the 2007 Algiers attack on the UN Headquarters. Zacklin's illustrious career at the UN spanned over three decades. In the photograph above, taken in 2008, he is seen meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon while serving as Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs.

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