

LALANATH DE SILVA

Curriculum Vitae

Lalanath De Silva has been a public interest litigator and advocate for over two decades. Pioneering the growth of public interest law in the area of the environment, he has appeared in most of Sri Lanka's leading environmental cases on behalf of victims, communities and non-governmental organizations.

He also worked for the government for two years as the Legal Consultant to the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Sri Lanka. During that time he was responsible for drafting and enacting numerous regulatory provisions addressing noise, hazardous waste, ozone depleting substances, and ambient air quality, among others. Lalanath was also instrumental in drafting a new environmental bill that contained progressive and state of the art provisions.

He co-founded the Environmental Foundation Ltd and the Public Interest Law Foundation in Sri Lanka.

From 2002-05 he served as a Legal Officer in the Environmental Claims Unit of the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva. While in this position, he was responsible for processing environmental damage claims arising out of the first Gulf War. In June 2005, he joined the World Resources Institute as the Director of the Access Initiative. The Access Initiative (TAI) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working to ensure that people have the right and ability to influence decisions about the natural resources that sustain their communities. TAI now operates in more than 54 countries and has over 200 civil society groups in its network.

Lalanath has a PhD from the Law School of the University of Sydney, Australia and a Master of Laws degree from the Law School of the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. He graduated from the Sri Lanka Law College with honors and was admitted to the bar in Sri Lanka in 1981.