

Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Ken Watkin, OMM, CD, QC



Ken Watkin served for 33 years in the Canadian Forces, including four years as the Judge Advocate General, the senior military legal advisor and superintendent of the military justice system. For a significant period following the 9/11 attacks until 2010 he was responsible for providing operational law advice regarding Canada's air, sea, land and Special Forces operations both overseas and in Canada. During his career Ken was the legal advisor to a 1993 joint military/civilian board of inquiry investigating the Canadian Airborne Regiment battle group in Somalia. From 1995 until 2005 he was Government counsel in respect of various international investigations and inquiries arising from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, and in 2004 appeared in that capacity before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania. Ken has also participated as an expert in international working groups tasked with clarifying the law as it applies to contemporary armed conflict in relation to targeting, direct participation in hostilities, occupied territory, air and missile warfare, as well as cyberwarfare.

Since his retirement in 2010 Ken served as a Foreign Observer to the Israeli Independent Commission investigating the 31 May 2010 Gaza blockade incident, and as the Charles H. Stockton Professor of International Law at the United States Naval War College (2011-2012). Recently, he has been working as a consultant with the United Nations regarding civil/military cooperation in the collection of the evidence on the battlefield for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism related offences.

In 2002 Ken was appointed by the Governor General of Canada to the Order of Military Merit, and in 2010 he received the Canadian Bar Association President's Award that recognizes the significant contribution of a Canadian jurist to the legal profession, to the CBA or to the public life of Canada.

Ken is a graduate of The Royal Military College (BA Hons 1976) and Queen's University (LLB, 1980 and LLM, 1990) in Kingston, Ontario Canada. From 2002 to 2003 he was a Visiting Fellow at the Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School. He continues to attend international law conferences and workshops, and to write about humanitarian, human rights and national security law issues including targeting and air warfare. His book, *Fighting at the Legal Boundaries: Controlling the Use of Force in Contemporary Conflict*, published in May, 2016 by Oxford University Press, <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/fighting-at-the-legal-boundaries-9780190457976?cc=ca&lang=en&> is the recipient of the 2017 Francis Lieber Prize from the American Society of International Law. The prize is awarded annually by the Lieber Society on the Law of Armed Conflict to the author of a book which the judges consider to be outstanding in the field of law and armed conflict.