Dr Penelope J. Ridings

Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: **Dr Penelope J. Ridings**
Nationality: New Zealand
Position: Member of the International Law Commission

EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1987
MJur (with Distinction), University of Auckland, New Zealand, 1979
BA/LLB (Hons), University of Auckland, New Zealand, 1978

SUMMARY

Dr Penelope Ridings is a Member of the United Nations International Law Commission for the 2023-2027 term. Dr Ridings is a barrister and international lawyer from New Zealand with broad experience in public international law and extensive practical experience in developing, implementing, and adjudicating international law.

Since joining the International Law Commission, Dr Ridings was appointed as Special Rapporteur with responsibility for 'Due Diligence in International Law'. She was elected Rapporteur for the Commission's 75th Session in 2024. Actively engaged in discussions across all International Law Commission topics, Dr Ridings has also engaged closely with Pacific Islands Forum countries, alongside co-chairs of the Commission's "Study Group on Sea-Level Rise".

While serving as a Commission member, Dr Ridings has continued to adjudicate international disputes, presiding over high-profile arbitrations. In 2025, she chaired proceedings under the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (*UK – Sandeel*) and the appeal arbitration under the WTO Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (*China – Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights*). Dr Ridings has also served on several ad hoc Annulment Committees of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), including as President, and served as a designated member of the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators and of the Panel of Conciliators.

Dr Ridings has represented New Zealand at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). She acted as Agent, Counsel, and Advocate in *Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v Japan, New Zealand Intervening),* and Counsel in *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC).* Between 2016 and 2019, Dr Ridings served as an independent panelist before the WTO on multiple disputes. She has also represented New Zealand at the WTO, including serving as Lead Counsel before the Appellate Body across several cases.

During her career in the New Zealand diplomatic service, Dr Ridings held senior legal positions including as Chief International Legal Adviser for New Zealand's Foreign Ministry (2011-2015) and head of the Ministry's Trade Law Unit. During her diplomatic career, she also served as Ambassador to Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (2008-2011) and High Commissioner to Samoa (2001-2004). She has extensive experience in negotiating international agreements, including trade and regional fisheries agreements.

As a barrister and international lawyer, Dr Ridings provides legal advice to a range of international organisations and government agencies. She is currently Legal Advisor to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). In 2023, she assisted New Zealand's submission to the ITLOS on *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Member of the International Law Commission** (2023-2027 term)
- **Barrister and International Law Consultant** (2015-present)
- **Chief International Legal Adviser**, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (2011-2015)
- **Ambassador** of New Zealand to Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (2008-2011)
- **International Trade Law Adviser** and Head of Trade Law, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (2004-2007)
- **High Commissioner** of New Zealand to Samoa (2001-2004)
- **Deputy Director**, Legal Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1998-2001)
- **Deputy High Commissioner** of New Zealand to Samoa (1995-1998)
- **First Secretary**, New Zealand Embassy, Bonn, Germany (1991-1994)
- **Legal Adviser**, Legal Division, New Zealand Ministry of External Affairs and Trade (1988-1990)
- **Legal Adviser**, Attorney-General's Office, Samoa (1980)
- **Lecturer of Law**, University of Auckland Law School, New Zealand (1979)

ARBITRAL, ADJUDICATION, AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

INDEPENDENT ARBITRATION

- Member of Pool of Arbitrators for the WTO Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA), 2020-2025.
- **Chair,** MPIA Appeal Arbitration in:

  China – Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, (WT/DS611) appeal arbitration, 2025.
- **Chair,** in:

  UK-Sandeel (The European Union v. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, No.2022-45), 2025.
- Designated by New Zealand to the *Panel of Arbitrators and Panel of Conciliators* of the *International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes* (ICSID), 2019-2025.
- **President,** ICSID ad hoc Annulment Committee for:

  Strabag SE, Erste Nordsee-Offshore Holding GmbH and Zweite Nordsee-Offshore Holding GmbH v. Federal Republic of Germany (ARB/19/29).

  Smurfit Holdings B.V. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (ARB/18/49).

  LSG Building Solutions GmbH and Others v. Romania (ARB/18/19).
- **Member**, ICSID ad hoc Annulment Committee for:

  Eurus Energy Holdings Corporation v. Kingdom of Spain (ARB/16/4).

  Alhambra Resources Ltd. v. Republic of Kazakhstan (ARB/16/12).
- **Independent WTO Panelist**, in:

  United States – Certain Measures Relating to the Renewable Energy Sector (DS 510), 2018-2019.

  Ukraine – Anti-Dumping Measures on Ammonium Nitrate from Russia, (DS 493), 2017-2018.

  European Union – Measures Affecting Tariff Concessions on Certain Poultry Meat Products from China, (DS 492), 2017.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR NEW ZEALAND

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- **Agent, Counsel and Advocate** for New Zealand in *Whaling in the Antarctic (Australia v. Japan, New Zealand Intervening*), 2012-2014.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

- **Counsel and Advocate** for New Zealand in: *Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission* (SRFC), 2013-2014.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- **Counsel,** for New Zealand in:

  Indonesia – Importation of Horticultural Products, Animals and Animal Products (DS 477), 2015-2016.
- **Lead Counsel,** for New Zealand in WTO dispute settlement consultations in:

  Australia — Measures Affecting the Importation of Apples from New Zealand (DS 367), 2007.

- **Lead Counsel** for New Zealand before the WTO Appellate Body in:

  United States – Final Dumping Determination on Softwood Lumber from Canada – Recourse to Article 21.5 by Canada (DS 264), 2006.

- **Lead Counsel** for New Zealand before WTO panel and Appellate Body in:

  United States — Safeguard Measure on Imports of Lamb from New Zealand (DS 177), 1999-2001.

GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES AND REVIEWS

- **Special Adviser,** *Review of the New Zealand Intelligence and Security Act 2017*, 2022-2023.
- **Chair**, Performance Review of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), 2022.
- **Counsel** for the New Zealand Crown, *Inquiry into Operation Burnham* – on issues of detention in non-international armed conflict, 2019-2020.
- **Chair**, Performance Review of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Organisation (SPRFMO), 2018.

NEW ZEALAND COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

- **Expert,** before the New Zealand High Court in: *New Zealand Steel Ltd v. Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs* in the matter of the exercise of powers under the *Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act 1988*, 2020.
- **Expert Witness for the Crown**, New Zealand Waitangi Tribunal on investment obligations and interpretation of the *Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement* (WAI 2522), 2016.
- **Witness**, before the New Zealand Waitangi Tribunal on investment issues and the mixed ownership model as they relate to the freshwater inquiry in: *National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources* (WAI 2358), 2012.

NEGOTIATION EXPERIENCE

Dr Ridings has extensive experience in bilateral and multilateral negotiations and has played a leading role in negotiating agreements spanning oceans, fisheries, trade, and investment. This includes roles as Head of Delegation for negotiations establishing the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Cape Town Agreement of 2012, and the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. She also led and oversaw legal input into New Zealand's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, including investment chapters, and was Legal Counsel for the *Korea-NZ FTA*, *NZ-Thailand Closer Economic Partnership,* and the *Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement*.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES AND APPOINTMENTS

- Special Rapporteur for the topic 'Due Diligence in International Law,' 2025.
- Rapporteur for the International Law Commission's 75th Session, 2024.
- Member of Pool of Arbitrators for the WTO Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement, 2020-2025.
- Panel of Arbitrators and Panel of Conciliators of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), 2019-2032.
- List of Conciliators (Annex V) and List of Arbitrators (Annex VII) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Roster of arbitrators for disputes under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and several FTAs.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND HONOURS

- Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for Services to the State, 2015
- Associate Member of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand.
- Council Member, Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law 2011-2015.
- Barrister and Solicitor to the High Court of New Zealand, and Member of the New Zealand Bar Association.
- Member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law.
- Member of the American Society of International Law.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Dr Ridings' research and practice focus on public international law, with particular expertise in international dispute settlement, arbitration and mediation, international trade and investment law, the law of the sea, fisheries, and environmental law. She has published and presented widely across these fields.

Recent publications include:

- "The Development of International Law Through Climate Change Advisory Opinions: The 'Hardening' of Due Diligence" in Benoit Mayer and Massimo Lando (eds.), *Advisory Opinions on Climate Change* (Cambridge University Press 2027).
- "Women in WTO Dispute Settlement: The Role of Individuals as Catalysts for Gender Inclusion" in *Reckoning and Renewal: The World Trade Organization and Its Dispute Settlement System at 30. Essays in Honour of Valerie Hughes* in Nicolas Lamp ed (University of Toronto Press 2025).
- "International Arbitrations" in P Green, B Hunt and T Kennedy-Grant, *Green and Hunt on Arbitration Law and Practice* (Thomson Reuters) editions 2015-present.
- "Women and the International Law Commission: Knocking at the Door of Gender Diversity" in *Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law*, Vol 27 (2024) 390-421.
- "The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement – A Framework for the Future" in Nilüfer Oral and Tara Davenport (eds) *UNCLOS at 40: Essays in Honour of Ambassador Tommy Koh* (National University of Singapore Press, 2024) 41-49.
- "The Influence of Scholarship on the Shaping and Making of the Law of the Sea" *The International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law* 38 (2023) 1–27.
- "Labour Standards on Fishing Vessels: A Problem in Search of a Home?" *Melbourne Journal of International Law* 22(2) (2021) 1-24.
- "New Zealand and International Dispute Resolution: Drivers and Influence" in An Hertogen and Anna Hood (eds), *International Law in Aotearoa/New Zealand* (Thomson Reuters, 2021).
- "Arbitrating International Trade Disputes: What does the Future Hold?" presentation to the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Conference, August 3, 2019: *SSRN*.
- "Redefining environmental stewardship to deliver governance frameworks for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction" *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 75(1) (2018) 435.
- "Investment Negotiations: Walking the Tightrope between Offensive and Defensive Interests*" New Zealand Business Law Quarterly* 21(4) (2015) 277-296.
- "The Intervention Procedure in Whaling in the Antarctic: A Threat to Bilateralism?" *Australian Yearbook of International Law*, 32 (2014) 97-112.
- "Whaling in the Antarctic: Some Reflections by Counsel" (with Elana Geddis), *New Zealand Yearbook of International Law*, 11 (2013) 143-158.