

BIOGRAPHY – JUDGE DHAYA PILLAY

Judge Dhaya Pillay has dedicated her professional life to the pursuit of transformation through the law and has a wealth of experience as a defender of human rights. As an attorney in apartheid South Africa in the 1980s, she focused her work on assisting political detainees during states of emergency and on other politically related cases. She was a judge of the Labour Court from 2000 to 2010, when she was appointed to the KwaZulu-Natal High Court, where she still serves. She has acted as a judge on the Supreme Court of Appeal and is a commissioner of the Independent Electoral Commission. She is currently acting as justice of the Constitutional Court and is also shortlisted for a permanent appointment on this, South Africa's highest court.

Judge Pillay has, throughout her career, also maintained a strong presence in academia. She has served as an extraordinary professor of the Faculty of Law at the University of Pretoria. She has been a visiting academic or fellow at the University of Seattle, New York University, Oxford University, the Open University, and most recently, Harvard University. She has also penned several academic publications throughout her career. In April 2020, she obtained her doctorate in law (LLD) from the University of Pretoria. She is currently working on converting her thesis into a book to be published toward the end of 2021.