

## Edwin Cameron

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Edwin Cameron studied at Stellenbosch, Oxford and the University of South Africa, winning the top academic honours at all three universities. He joined the Johannesburg Bar in 1983, and from 1986 practised as a human rights lawyer at the University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS), where in 1989 he was awarded a personal professorship in law. While at CALS, he co-drafted the Charter of Rights on AIDS and HIV, co-founded the AIDS Consortium and founded and was the first director of the AIDS Law Project.

In 1994, President Mandela appointed him an Acting Judge of the High Court to chair a Commission into illegal arms deals. He was appointed permanently to the High Court in 1995. In 1999/2000 he served for a year as an Acting Justice in the Constitutional Court before being appointed permanently to the Supreme Court of Appeal.

From 1998 to 2008, he chaired the Council of the University of the Witwatersrand. He is the Patron of the Guild Cottage Children's Home, Sparrow's Nest Children's Home, the Soweto HIV/AIDS Counsellors' Association (SOHACA), Community AIDS Response (CARE), Ladybrand Hospice and Vuyani Dance Theatre.

Edwin Cameron has co-authored a number of legal and other books, including *Defiant Desire – Gay and Lesbian Lives in South Africa* (1994) and *Honoré's South African Law of Trusts* (2002). In 2007 he was appointed Visiting Judge at Birkbeck College, University of London.

He has received many awards and distinctions. These include Honorary Fellowships of Keble College, Oxford and of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies, London; the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights (2000); Stellenbosch University's Alumnus Award (2000), Transnet's HIV/AIDS Champions Award and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Excellence in Leadership Award (2003). In 2002 the Bar of England and Wales honoured him with a Special Award for his contribution to international jurisprudence and the protection of human rights.

In 2006 *Witness to AIDS* was jointly awarded South Africa's most prestigious literary award for non-fiction, the Sunday Times/Alan Paton prize.