Philip J. Shapiro Endowed International Visiting Scholar Lecture
Wednesday, October 22, 2014

“Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Disputes”
The Honorable Shunji Yanai
Judge and Former President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
The Philip J. Shapiro Endowed International Visiting Scholars Program was established in 2010 with a gift from Philip J. Shapiro ’78, president and CEO of Liberty Maritime Corporation and a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board. The program annually brings legal scholars, government officials and prominent members of the international legal and business communities to the Maurice A. Deane School of Law. The visitors interact with faculty and students to discuss timely issues in the fields of international and comparative law. A public lecture for the Hofstra Law community is part of each visitor’s stay.

Shunji Yanai of Japan, a member of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany, since 2005, served as president of the Tribunal from October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2014. As president of ITLOS, Judge Yanai served as the president of the Chamber of Summary Procedure, which hears claims by summary procedure at the request of the parties and provides provisional rulings when the Tribunal is not in session. He also served as president of the Chamber for Maritime Delimitation Disputes.

Before becoming a member of ITLOS, Judge Yanai had a distinguished career as a Japanese diplomat. He joined the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 1961 after receiving his LL.B. from the University of Tokyo. He served as the director of the International Conventions Division, the Legal Affairs Division and the Treaties Division and as the director-general of the Foreign Policy Bureau. He became deputy minister for foreign affairs in 1997 and served in that position until 1999, when he was appointed ambassador to the United States.

Following his retirement from the Foreign Ministry in 2002, Judge Yanai entered academe, becoming a professor of international law at Chuo University in Tokyo (2002-2007). He also served as a visiting professor of international law at Waseda University in Tokyo.

Judge Yanai also serves as the president of the Japan Branch of the International Law Association. Among his past organizational appointments, he has served as a member of the Vienna Conference on the Law of Treaties (1968-1969), the U.N. Outer Space Committee and Legal Subcommittee Sessions (1973-1974), the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea (1973-1978) and the Drafting Committee of the Law of the Territorial Sea (1977). As a diplomat, he was also involved in fisheries negotiations with Indonesia, the Soviet Union and the Republic of Korea.

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