



林三元 Lin San-Yuan

Chairperson of the Indigenous Legal Affairs Committee at the Taiwan Bar Association

Professional Qualifications:

- Passed the Judicial Officer Special Examination
- Passed the Bar Examination
- Passed the Civil Service Examination for Higher-Level Legal Personnel



Education

- LL.D., School of Law, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University
- LL.M., School of Law, University of Edinburgh, UK
- LL.B., Department of Law, National Taiwan University

Experience

- Chief Attorney at San-Yuan Law Firm
- Member of the Indigenous Peoples Committee at the Legal Aid Foundation
- Chairperson of the Indigenous Legal Affairs Committee at the Taiwan Bar Association
- Former Deputy Director of the Judicial Administration Department at the Judicial Yuan
- Former Judge at the Taiwan High Court, Taichung Branch
- Former Judge and Presiding Judge at the Taichung District Court, Taiwan

Biography

I. Participation in Law and Policy Formulation for Indigenous Peoples and Legal Professional Development:

Dr. Lin has served multiple terms on the Indigenous Peoples Committee at the Legal Aid Foundation, leveraging his strong connections with indigenous communities to address their collective legal challenges. He has been consulted as an expert by government agencies to assist in the amendment of key policies and laws, including the Wildlife Conservation Act and the Regulations on Indigenous Consultation and Consent. Additionally, Dr. Lin has lectured at various legal education and training sessions, sharing his insights on effectively engaging with indigenous communities to inspire more attorneys to specialize in indigenous law.

II. Contribution to Cases Involving Indigenous Peoples

Dr. Lin is committed not only to formulating regulations and policies but also to actively defending the rights of indigenous peoples. He serves as a bridge between culture and law, enhancing the cultural sensitivity of judicial agencies. For instance, Dr. Lin has been a key member of the legal team in prominent cases involving indigenous peoples in Taiwan, such as the Truku People's case against Asia Cement Corporation and the Tamazuan community's fight against mining. In these cases, Dr. Lin led efforts to analyze indigenous rights to consultation and consent as outlined in international human rights conventions and to develop a framework for indigenous consultation and consent rights in Taiwan through comparative law. His work contributed to Taiwan's Supreme Administrative Court issuing a ruling consistent with international human rights standards, addressing gaps in legal protections and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and cultural preservation.

III. Support for Indigenous Cultures

In addition to his work in indigenous law, Dr. Lin is actively involved in the protection and promotion of indigenous cultures. With his expertise in intellectual property rights and indigenous law, he has assisted government agencies in developing the Protection Act for the Traditional Intellectual Creations of Indigenous Peoples. Dr. Lin has also authored a book on indigenous traditional intellectual creations, aiming to educate both indigenous communities and the general public about the Act and empower communities to safeguard their traditional creations. Meanwhile, Dr. Lin volunteers as a legal consultant for Vox Nativa Taiwan, supporting children in rural areas who lack educational resources. He also supports the Vox Nativa Children's Choir, which not only preserves the unique choral traditions of the Bunun people but also helps children build self-confidence and character through choral practice and performance. Overall, Dr. Lin is deeply committed to preserving and advancing the heritage of indigenous cultures.