

VAN Z. KRİKORIAN
Biographical Information

House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs – March 2019

Van Z. Krikorian serves as Co-Chair of the Armenian Assembly of America (www.aaainc.org). He began with the organization in 1977, and has served as Chairman of its Board of Directors, and in other positions for over forty years. He is also Chairman of the Armenian National Institute (www.armenian-genocide.org), and serves in other community organizations.

In 1991, Mr. Krikorian was appointed and served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Moscow CSCE meetings; in 1992, he served as Deputy Representative and Counselor to the United Nations (UN) for the newly independent Republic of Armenia. He is a founding member of the Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission, which he began in 2001 and concluded in 2004, after the Commission jointly produced the International Center for Transitional Justice legal opinion on the applicability of the UN Genocide Convention to the Armenian Genocide as well as recommendations to concerned governments.

Mr. Krikorian has also initiated several pieces of U.S. human rights legislation, including Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act and the Humanitarian Aid Corridors Act. In the 1993 decision Krikorian v. Department of State, the District of Columbia Federal Court of Appeals acknowledged that United States policy historically recognized the Armenian Genocide. He also was amicus counsel in the Federal District Court and Court of Appeals cases rejecting attempts to force denialist “contra” Armenian Genocide teaching in Massachusetts public schools.

He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Pace University Law School in White Plains, NY, teaching International Trade Law, Antitrust, International Arbitration, Conflict of Laws, and International Business Transactions, and has been a member of the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Board of Advisors from 2005 to 2016. While maintaining his law practice, since January 2007, Mr. Krikorian has worked as Chairman and CEO of Global Gold Corporation, an international exploration and mining company he joined in 2003. Previously, Mr. Krikorian was a partner in the New York office of Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz and prior to that until 1998 practiced with Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler, both in New York City.

Mr. Krikorian received his B.A. degree in International Affairs in 1981 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1984. Following law school, he was a clerk in the United States Federal Court for the District of Vermont. In the summer of 1980, he studied at the Armenian Seminary in Bikfaya, Lebanon, and is active in the St. Gregory Armenian Church in Westchester. Originally from Framingham, Massachusetts, he resides with his wife, Priscilla, who is also an attorney, in Rye, New York, they have four children. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Armenian Bar Association, the New York Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, and the Vermont Bar Association (Professional Responsibility Committee).