

Irena Lipowicz

Ombudsman (Human Rights Defender), Prof. LLD at the KSWU

Born in Gliwice. After her A-levels (1972) she graduated with distinction at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Silesia (1972-76). From 1976 onwards she worked as assistant, later as research assistant at the Faculty of Law of the University of Silesia. In 1981 she did her LLD which was followed by the postdoctoral lecture qualification in 1992 (professorial dissertation entitled 'Conception of the Internal Sphere in Administrative Law').

She continued her academic activity at the University of Silesia and the National School of Public Administration. Since 1998 she has been teaching at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw being currently director of the Administrative Law Chair. She was stipendiary of the Humboldt Foundation: 1983-84 in Tübingen and 1989-90 in Heidelberg. She published over 80 academic dissertations and lectured at the Universities of Cologne, Athens, Berlin, Graz, Dresden and Tübingen. From 2006 to 2010 she was professor at the Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Since 1980 she has been member of the 'Solidarność' trade union. Moreover she is founder member of the 'Upper Silesian Association' (1988).

From 1991 to 2000 she was member of Parliament (Sejm) as member of the Democratic Union parliamentary party, later of the Freedom Union. She was member of the Commission of the Constitutional National Assembly.

In the third legislative period she was chairwoman of the Commission for Territorial Self-Administration, representative chairwoman of the Freedom Union parliamentary party and vice chairwoman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE as well as member of the Commission for foreign affairs.

From 2000 to 2004 she was extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Austria, 2004 to 2006 ambassador – representative of the Foreign Minister for the Polish-German Relations. From 2005 to 2010 she was member of the College of the Supreme Chamber of Control (NIK). From 2008 to 2010 she was a managing director of the Foundation of Polish-German Cooperation. She was member of the Committee for Law of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Irena Lipowicz was sworn into the office of Human Rights Defender during the 71st session of Polish Parliament.

Awards: Knight's Cross of the Order of Rebirth of Poland, Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold for Services to the Republic of Austria, Great Cross of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as awards of the provinces Styria and Upper Austria. Prizes: Edward Wende Prize and Grzegorz Palka Prize for the merits for the territorial self-administration.