

**The Republic of China Constitutional Court
Reporter**

R.O.C.
Constitutional Court
Reporter

INTERPRETATIONS
Nos. 1~233
(1949–1988)

Second Edition

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The Republic of China Constitutional Court
(Grand Justices Council)
Reporter

INTERPRETATIONS

Nos. 1~233

(1949~1988)

Second Edition

Under Personal Supervision of

Dr. Yueh-Sheng Weng

President of Judicial Yuan

Compiled and Executed by

Justice Lai, In-Jaw

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Justice Vincent Sze

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RECOMPILATION OF THE R.O.C. CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

REPORTER:

A Short History of the J.Y. Interpretation English Translation Project

**by Yueh-Sheng Weng
President, Judicial Yuan
Chief Justice, Constitutional Court
March 20, 2007**

More than half a century has passed since the system of constitutional interpretation was established in this land, forging a very significant link in the historical development of democracy and rule of law in this nation. Constitutional interpretations given by the Justices also serve as important information to help our international friends around the world to understand the development of democracy and rule of law in our nation while promoting the international exchange of jurisprudential thought. In order to provide other countries with an introduction to the R.O.C. judicial practice in constitutional interpretation, the Judicial Yuan devised a plan in 1999 to make English translations of the J.Y. interpretations available and put this plan high on the Yuan's administrative agenda for the year 2000.

In January 2000, the Honorable Vincent Sze was unanimously elected by the other Justices as the convener for the "Preparatory Meeting for the Task Force on the English Translation of the J.Y. Interpretations," and soon thereafter the Honorable Yueh-Sheng Weng, President of the Judicial Yuan, and the Honorable Sze co-chaired and convened said meeting, inviting over a dozen people, including law professors and lawyers, to discuss matters relating to the translation project. A preliminary conclusion was reached at the meeting, which was to initially select and translate those interpretations of greater import in terms of constitutional government and rule of law, and then to move on to complete the translation of all of the interpretations. At the meeting, Professor Syue-Ming Yu was invited to serve as the editor-in-chief, and N. T. Li, Esq. (Lee and Li, At-

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orneys-at-Law), John C. Chen, Esq. (Formosa Transnational Attorneys at Law), C. Y. Huang, Esq. (Tsar & Tsai Law Firm), and David T. Liou, Esq. (Baker & McKenzie) were invited to serve as the executive editors. The translation work commenced soon after the meeting.

In order to establish a uniform style of translation, the task force convened a number of meetings to discuss such issues as form, translation of keywords and so on. It was also decided that the work would be titled “The Republic of China Constitutional Court Reporter.” In December 2000, Volume One was published, consisting of 64 interpretations; in December 2001, another 78 interpretations were compiled into Volume Two; in December 2002, Volume Three—with 91 interpretations—was published; and then in September 2003, with an additional 117 interpretations, Volume Four was compiled.

At the end of September 2003, the Justices from the sixth term were honorably discharged from their office. The Honorable In-Jaw Lai, the Honorable Syue-Ming Yu and the Honorable Tzu-Yi Lin were elected by the Justices who took office in October as the co-conveners for the matters relating to the English translation of the interpretations. In December of that same year, 81 interpretations were compiled into Volume Five; in July 2006, 169 interpretations were compiled into Volume Six (129 interpretations) and Volume Seven (40 interpretations). Thanks to the unceasing efforts of the various translators, by February 2007, the translation of all of the 622 interpretations given by the Constitutional Court as of the end of 2006 had been completed. What a remarkable feat!

For the purposes of precision and convenience, a re-review and re-compilation of the English translation of all of the interpretations has been initiated. Mr. Vincent C. Kuan was entrusted to conduct a number-by-number review of the contents of the various interpretations. After completion of the review, the interpretations are to be divided into five volumes by the year of their production; that is, J.Y. Interpretations Nos. 1 to 233 (1949 to 1988) will be compiled into Volume I; J.Y. Interpretations Nos. 234 to 392 (1989 to 1995) will be compiled into Volume II; J.Y. Interpretations Nos. 393 to 498

(1996 to 1999) will be compiled into Volume III; J.Y. Interpretations Nos. 499 to 570 (2000 to 2003) will be compiled into Volume IV; and J.Y. Interpretations Nos. 571 to 622 (2004 to 2006) will be compiled into Volume V.

For over seven years, through the English translations of the J.Y. interpretations, the international community has not only learned more about our nation's system of constitutional interpretation, but has also gained a deeper appreciation of the spirit of democracy and rule of law embodied in said system. Moreover, this translation project certainly has expanded beyond the bounds of the translations themselves to encompass the publicity of the nation's development of constitutional government and rule of law, as well as the promotion of exchange of experiences in the judicial practice of constitutional interpretation. As of the year 2007, translators began translating the J.Y. interpretations into Japanese with an aim to helping more foreign friends become aware of our nation's development in constitutional interpretation.

The untiring and unceasing participation by and devotion of the translators and the staff of this Yuan in the translation work and planning are deeply appreciated. Thanks to all your efforts, the various volumes of this great work will be available in printed form in a brand-new layout, adding a precious page to the annals of the Judiciary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yen-chang Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the characters "Yen-chang" on the left and "Wong" on the right, connected by a horizontal stroke.

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