



# Jerome A. Cohen



## Hold's Court



### Reflecting on the Last Five Decades of Chinese Legal Development



A Celebration of the 80th Birthday of a  
Pioneer in the field of Chinese and Asian Legal studies  
Interviewed by National Committee President  
Stephen A. Orlins

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON  
UNITED STATES - CHINA RELATIONS

**Jerome Alan Cohen** is a professor at New York University School of Law, co-director of its U.S.-Asia Law Institute and adjunct senior fellow for Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. He writes frequently about China and Taiwan.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale College (1951), Mr. Cohen spent the year after his college graduation in France as a Fulbright scholar. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1955, where he was editor-in-chief of the Yale Law Journal, and went to Washington to serve as law secretary to U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren for the 1955 term and to Justice Felix Frankfurter for the 1956 term. He subsequently practiced law, served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia and as a consultant to the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. His academic career began at the University of California School of Law at Berkeley (Boalt Hall) in 1959 and moved to Harvard Law School in 1964, remaining there as a faculty member for almost two decades, with two stints abroad -- as a visiting professor of law at Doshisha University in Kyoto (1971-72) and as an honorary professor of law at the University of Hong Kong (1979).

Mr. Cohen joined Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP in 1981 as a senior partner representing companies and individuals in dispute resolution and contract negotiations in China, Japan, Vietnam, Korea, and other countries in East Asia. He and his wife Joan lived in Beijing from 1979 to 1981, while he took part in trade and investment contract negotiations and taught a course in Chinese on international business law for Beijing officials and she continued pursuing her career in Chinese contemporary art.

Professor Cohen currently serves as a director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and of the American Foreign Law Association, chair of the Asia Law Initiative Advisory Council for the American Bar Association, and on the advisory board of Human Rights Watch-Asia. He received the AFLA Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and was awarded the 2000 Lifetime Service to Asian Legal Development Award. He has been a member of the panel of arbitrators of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and chair of the China Advisory Committee for the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution.

Mr. Cohen has held many other positions: chairman of the New York/Beijing Friendship Committee and the American Arbitration Association's China Conciliation Committee; trustee of The Asia Society, the China Institute in America and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; corporate director of the Japan Society; advisor to the government of Sichuan Province; vice chair of the advisory council for The Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Joint Center in China; and member of the board of editors of the *China Quarterly* and the *American Journal of International Law*.

**Stephen A. Orlins**, president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations since 2005, was managing director of Carlyle Asia and chairman of the board of Taiwan Broadband Communications. Prior to joining Carlyle, Mr. Orlins was senior advisor to AEA Investors, Inc. and a managing director of Lehman Brothers and president of Lehman Brothers Asia (1983-1991). From 1976 to 1979, Mr. Orlins was an attorney-advisor in the office of the Legal Advisor of the U.S. Department of State, where he was a member of the legal team that established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Orlins is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a student of Professor Cohen.

**National Committee on United States-China Relations**

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