

David Kenani Maraga

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

May 5, 2019



David Kenani Maraga is the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya. He is also the chair of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), the body with the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the judiciary, and is president of the Supreme Court of Kenya.

Maraga holds a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Nairobi; a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the same university and a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Kenya School of Law.

Prior to joining the judiciary, Maraga was a legal practitioner in private practice for 25 years. He was involved in a number of community development activities and engagements, including serving in the constitutional reforms as a member of the Constitutional Review Task Force that represented the Seventh-day Adventist Church East African Union, and was instrumental in the enactment of Article 32 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 that guarantees freedom of worship to all religious denominations in Kenya.

Maraga received significant international news coverage, including a major article in the New York Times, following his Supreme Court decision to overturn the results of a presidential election due to questions of integrity. He pursued this decision—a decision only made by a country's Supreme Court three times in recent history and made for the first time ever on the continent of Africa—although he publicly delayed the Supreme Court's deliberations until after sundown on Sabbath.

Maraga also works as a part-time lecturer at the University of Nairobi on a *pro bono* basis and has presented papers in numerous local and international seminars and conducted law training sessions and workshops.

His contribution to the development of the law, both as a legal practitioner and as a judge, has been immense. The transformative effect of Maraga's work has made him one of the most sought-after speakers both locally and internationally. He has received numerous awards including the Elder of the Golden Heart Award (2016), the Jurist of the Year Award (2017) and the Legal Excellence Award (2018).

Maraga is a God-fearing man and a member of the local Seventh-day Adventist church where he serves as an elder. He is a devoted husband and father of three children. He has served as a member of the board of governors of several secondary schools in the country and supports a number of charitable initiatives in Kenya. Away from official duty, Maraga follows his passion of mentoring young people and offering counsel, with the prime objective of entrenching a culture of integrity and discipline in the Kenyan society and beyond.

For his lifelong commitment to service, integrity and the development of the law, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Chief Justice David Kenani Maraga with the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.