Judge Michel served on the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit for 22 years before retiring in 2010. In his last 5 years, he was chief judge and a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States and its Executive Committee. He was appointed to the later position by the Chief Justice of the United States. Before joining the court, he served in numerous public positions, including as a local and federal prosecutor, including with the Special Watergate Prosecutor's Office. He was appointed as assistant counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee (Church committee), Counsel to Senator Arlen Specter, Justice Department Korea-Gate prosecutor and Associate Deputy Attorney General. Since retiring he has advocated for reviving the US patent system, writing scores of articles and speaking at dozens of conferences as well as filing amicus briefs with the Supreme Court and the Federal Circuit. He has testified on patent policy before the US Congress on multiple occasions. In addition, he consults with private clients on patent litigations and serves as a mediator, arbitrator and expert witness.