

Catriona Murdoch

Call: 2009



Catriona Murdoch joined Chambers in 2011 following the successful completion of a mixed law-pupillage.

Catriona specialises in human rights and criminal law both domestically and internationally. She is based in The Hague appointed to the defence team of Jovica Stanišić and Alfred Musema before the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT). Catriona is currently instructed in a range of civil ECHR claims and an Article 2 Inquest. She continues to accept instructions in the UK in all practice areas.

In February 2018 Catriona formed part of a panel of experts on the law of starvation and conflict and food insecurity issues in The Hague. Catriona has given legal seminars in the UK and was appointed in 2017 to the Panel of Consultants and Experts at the International Nuremberg principles Academy. In 2016 she delivered training on behalf of the Association of Defence Counsel at the UN ICTY on drafting before the international tribunals.

In her spare time, Catriona enjoys watching and playing rugby, travelling, reading and spending time with her family.

Catriona is recommended as a leading junior by Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.

'She has a natural talent for spotting legal themes and issues ripe for refinement.'

Legal 500 2018

"She is a star of the future." "She has the totality of the evidence at her fingertips and works extraordinarily hard."

Chambers & Partners 2019

Crime

International

Catriona is currently appointed to the defence of Stanišić for his re-trial, led by Wayne Jordash QC and Iain Edwards. Catriona also acts for Alfred Musema before the MICT in his review proceedings following his life sentence imposed by the ICTR; she is led by Steven Kay QC and Gillian Higgins.

Catriona is a Senior Legal Consultant for [Global Rights Compliance](#) researching and drafting issues relating to international humanitarian law in Ukraine and leading the Yemen Accountability Project which focuses on the niche crime of starvation. Global Rights Compliance is led by Wayne Jordash QC and Scott Martin.

For most of 2013 Catriona was based in Nairobi and Arusha working on the appeal of *The Prosecutor v Nteziryayo* (ITCR-98-42-A), returning for the oral submissions in April 2015. The Appeals Chamber ordered a substantial reduction to sentence resulting in Nteziryayo's release in 2016, 18 years after his initial arrest.

Catriona was previously based in The Hague whilst she worked on the defence trial of *The Prosecutor v Prlic et al* (IT-04-74) at the ICTY. She also assisted lead counsel Karim Khan on several of his other cases at the ICC and ICTY, including the contempt case against Hartmann (IT-02-54-r77.5). Following that she worked in Rwanda at a Legal Advice Clinic affiliated with the African Justice Foundation, advising clients on issues of HIV/AIDS's discrimination, property rights and sexual offences.

Crime

Domestically Catriona is frequently instructed in magistrates' trials (private and legally aided), crown court mentions, sentences, and bail applications, for the defence and prosecution.

Selected Cases

Defence: International

- *The Prosecutor v Stanišić & Simatović* (MICT-15-96) – present
- *The Prosecutor v Musema* (MICT-12-15) – present
- *The Prosecutor v Nteziryayo* (ITCR-98-42-A) – appeal (2013-2015) (released)
- *The Prosecutor v Prlić et al* (IT-04-74 – trial 2010
- *The Prosecutor v Hartmann* (IT-02-54-r77.5) – contempt trial 2010

Defence: Youth Court

- P v H (2012): Assault PC and possession of an offensive weapon trial. Acquitted after trial of all charges.
- P v G (2011): Three day GBH double-handed trial. Defendant accused of stabbing the complainant in the neck with a bottle.
- P v C (2011): Assault PC. In light of the defence's challenge to, and media interest in the legality of the arrest, all charges dropped following the first appearance. See [Telegraph Article](#). Girl, 14, arrested by four police for 'assaulting' them.

Defence: Driving Offences

- P v S (2012): Special Reasons trial – unfit through prescription drugs. Three medical experts.
- P v S (2011): Careless driving and racially aggravated s.5 Public Order Offence. Acquitted of all charges.
- P v N (2011): Special Reasons trial – laced drinks. Special Reasons accepted in full, no disqualification.

Crown Court

- R v T (2011): Supply of Class A and Class B – suspended sentence and POCA confiscation order.

Private Prosecution

- Buckinghamshire County Council v K (2012): Unfair Trading Regulations (Crown Court).
- Eastbourne Borough Council v K (2012): Benefit Fraud sentence (Crown Court).
- Child Support Agency v L (2011): Liability Agreed.
- Crawley Borough Council v S (2011): Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Order granted, restaurant closed. Acted for the prosecution.

Local Government & Public Law

Human Rights

Catriona has a flourishing civil liberties, she is currently instructed in ECHR claims, actions against the police, prisons, local authorities and the NHS. Catriona offers expertise in complex mental-health related issues and is developing a niche practice in the emerging field of misuse of private information claims.

Public Inquiries & Inquests

For eighteen months Catriona was legal assistant to HHJ Michael Topolski QC on The Baha Mousa Inquiry, representing Corporal Payne, the first British soldier to be convicted of a war crime. She assisted in drafting submissions to the Chairman on a range of legal and military matters including the appropriate standard of proof in Public Inquiries.

Catriona is currently instructed in a lengthy Article 2 Inquest, dealing with the death of a vulnerable young man following his investigation and arrest by the police. Catriona represented the family at a two-day hospital death inquest with complex medical and human rights issues.

Selected Cases

Coroners Courts

- Re: Parker (2018)
- Re: O'Connor (2017)
- Re: Stankey (2012)

Appointments

- Panel of Consultants and Experts at the International Nuremberg principles Academy (2017).

Awards

- First Prize, Kalisher Essay Competition (2011)
- Finalist, Plea in Mitigation Competition, College of Law and 25 Bedford Row (2009)
- Graham Challis European Scholarship (2009)

Education

- College of Law, London, BVC (Very Competent), (2009)
- University of Santa Cruz, California Legal & Political Studies (First Class) (2006)
- University of Sussex, LLB (Hons) Law with American Studies (2007)

Memberships

- CBA
- HRLA
- IBA

- ICCBA-ABCPI

Publications

- Panel Expert on the law of starvation and conflict and food insecurity issues in The Hague (2018).
- She delivered training on drafting before the international tribunals on behalf of the Association of Defence Counsel at the UN ICTY (2016)
- *Will Seven Million Starving Yemenis Ever Find Justice?* Al Jazeera (2017)
- Porous Borders: Prosecuting at Source, Counsel Magazine (2016)
- Living on Death Row, Criminal Bar Quarterly, Issue 3 (2014)
- International Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Justice Weekly, Vol 176 (2012)
- The Oath and the Internet, Criminal Law and Justice Weekly, Vol 176 (2012)
- Advice to the Attorney General on Assisted Suicide (Kalisher Essay Competition 2011) Criminal Bar Quarterly, Issue 1 (2012)
- Co-editor of Judge Reinardus's and the Institute of Legal Practice and Development Rwandan Bench Book on Gender Based Violence (2010)

She leads monthly advocacy training sessions with Wayne Jordash QC, Iain Edwards and Joe Holmes for interns and pro-bono consultants on the Stanišić defence team in The Hague.