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ADC-ICT
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

ROADS DIVERGED

IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

Examining the paths taken and not taken in modern-day international criminal law and where the road may lead

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5 DECEMBER 2026

MUSEUM SOPHIAHOF
THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

PROGRAMME

Welcome by Marie O'Leary, ADC-ICT President



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

A favourite time in the calendar, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the ADC-ICT Annual Conference 2026. This year's theme utilises Robert Frost's contemplation of "two roads diverged in a yellow wood", inviting us to reflect on the paths that international criminal justice has taken, the lessons learned, and the terrain of the future.

Our programme brings together a distinguished group of judges, defence counsel, prosecutors, academics, diplomats, and legal practitioners to examine contemporary defence viewpoints and fair trial affairs, revisit international criminal law approaches that may have been left behind, and explore new legal trends and developments. While the evolution of international criminal justice may be a rocky road, we recall that it is filled with equal uphill climbs and downward slopes; the path is rarely linear, but the journey is what builds our strength and stability.

We greatly thank our sponsors – 9 Bedford Row, 25 Bedford Row, and the Irish Rule of Law International – for their generous support in ensuring today's discussions could advance, and a warm thank you to our speakers and moderators for their wisdom in these dialogues.

I wish you a captivating and constructive day and hope the conference serves as a wellspring of your work.

With best wishes and thank you for your dedication to international criminal justice.

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Association of Defence Counsel practising before the International Courts and Tribunals

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5 DECEMBER 2026 | MUSEUM SOPHIAHOF | THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

The ADC-ICT Annual Conference brings together defence counsel, judges, prosecutors, victims' representatives, academics and legal practitioners to reflect on the evolution of international criminal law over the past three decades and consider the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Through a series of engaging discussions, we will revisit past practices, examine current developments and explore new approaches to strengthening the fairness, effectiveness and credibility of international criminal justice.

PROGRAMME

09:15 – 09:30	**Welcome Address – Marie O'Leary** *President, ADC-ICT*
09:30 – 11:00	**Panel I – *To where it bent in the undergrowth: Defence Practice Today***
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30 – 13:00	**Panel II – *Yet knowing how way leads on to way: Practices we've fallen out of practice with***
13:00 – 14:30	**Lunch**
13:45 – 14:30	**Lunchtime Side Event: Ireland's Influence on International Criminal Law**
14:30 – 16:00	**Panel III – *And that has made all the difference: New practices we should take***
16:00 - 16:05	**Closing Remarks - Sarah Bafadhel** *Vice President, ADC-ICT*

09:30 – 11:00

PANEL I

To where it bent in the undergrowth:

Defence Practice Today

This panel examines contemporary defence practice across international and hybrid tribunals. It will consider how procedural developments have affected equality of arms, fair trials and effective representation, and explore the challenges and opportunities faced by defence teams across different international jurisdictions.

SPEAKERS

Judge Alphons Orie
Moderator

Philippe Currat
Defence Counsel
Switzerland, Ousman Sonko Case

Peter Haynes KC
Defence Counsel
ICC, Duterte proceedings

Sophie Menegon
Defence Counsel
KSC, Thaçi et al. proceedings

Kerrie Ann Rowan
Defence Counsel
KSC, Thaçi et al. proceedings

11:30 – 13:00 PANEL II

Yet knowing how way leads on to way:

Practices we've fallen out of practice with

This panel revisits best practices developed in the ICTY, ICTR, ICC and other international courts that may have been neglected or set aside over time. Through critical reflection, it will consider whether such procedural, evidential and trial practices should be revived to strengthen the fairness, efficiency and legitimacy of international criminal justice today.

SPEAKERS

Judge Joanna Korner KC
Moderator

Anta Guissé
Defence Counsel
Remember the time: Lament for the Forgotten Rights of the Defence

Prof. dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh
Professor, School of Law, Utrecht University
The Road Taken: Victim Participation and the Limits of International Criminal Justice

Geoff Roberts
Defence Counsel
Ending paper proceedings: Towards a return to oral witness testimony

Pubudu Sachithanandan
Prosecutor, ICC
Building a More Connected Professional Community: Renewing Traditions of Collegiality through Advocacy Training

13:45 – 14:30

LUNCHTIME SIDE EVENT

Ireland's Influence on International Criminal Law

Hosted in partnership with the Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI), this session will explore Ireland's significant contribution to the development of international criminal law through its practitioners, judges and institutions.

SPEAKER

- **Judge Fergal Gaynor**

14:30 – 16:00

PANEL III

And that has made all the difference: *New practices we should take*

Looking ahead to the future of international criminal law, this panel explores emerging developments likely to shape the next decade, including technological innovation, evolving defence strategies, new accountability mechanisms and changing approaches to international justice.

SPEAKERS

Judge Keebong Paek
Moderator

Dr. Gabrielė Chlevickaitė
Senior Researcher in International Criminal Law, Asser Institute
From more evidence to better evidence: New evidentiary practices and challenges in Ukraine

Dr. Adina-Loredana Nistor
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Criminology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
From Blind Spots to Best Practices: Integrating Culture into International Justice

David Vaughn
Team Leader, EUAM Trust Through Justice Project
Strengthening the Domestic Adjudication of International Crimes: Lessons Learned and Best Practices from Ukraine

09:30 – 11:00 PANEL I

To where it bent in the undergrowth: Defence Practice Today



Judge Alphons Orie

Judge Alphons Orie has served as a Judge of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) since its establishment in July 2012, adjudicating matters as a Single Judge and as a member of the Appeals Chamber. From 2001 to 2017, he served as a Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where he presided over several major trials, including Galić, Gotovina et al., Krajišnik, Mladić, and Stanišić & Simatović. He also served on the ICTY Rules Committee. Prior to his international judicial career, Judge Orie held several positions within the Dutch judiciary, including Justice of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands. He previously practised as a criminal defence lawyer, including before the ICTY, and advised the Dutch government on matters relating to the establishment of the International Criminal Court. Judge Orie has also served as a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration and President of the Disciplinary Appeals Board of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. He holds a law degree from Leiden University and an honorary doctorate from the Free University of Amsterdam. In 2008, he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau.



Philippe Currat

Philippe Currat holds a PhD in law and is a member of the Geneva Bar. His doctoral thesis focused on crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2005), and he served as principal legal adviser to the Office of the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (2005). As Secretary-General of the International Criminal Bar (2012–2017), he took part in the negotiations that led to the creation of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA). He is on the ICC's list of counsel. He has taught international criminal law at the University of Strasbourg and has been teaching the course on defence in the Master's 2 programme in International Criminal Justice at the University of Lille since 2015. For the past 15 years, he has been involved in numerous judicial capacity-building programmes in situation states across Africa. He served for 10 years on the Human Rights Commission of the Geneva Bar Association, where he also served as Vice-Chair.



Peter Haynes KC

Peter Haynes KC has over 25 years of experience appearing before international courts and tribunals in The Hague. A member of St Philips Chambers, he has represented clients in cases involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and international terrorism. He currently serves as Lead Defence Counsel for former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte before the ICC. His previous international experience includes representing Jean-Pierre Bemba before the ICC, securing his acquittal of all charges on appeal in 2018, and defending General Vinko Pandurević before the ICTY. He also represented victims before the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and was appointed to represent the interests of Joseph Kony in proceedings before the ICC. From 2019 to 2021, he served two consecutive terms as President of the ICCBA. In addition to his international criminal practice, he has advised governments, heads of state and international organisations on matters relating to international law, human rights and the rule of law.



Sophie Menegon

Sophie Menegon has been practising as a barrister at the Paris Bar since 2014. She is also registered on the list of Counsel before the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC), based in The Hague. She has a professional Masters Degree in International Law and International Administration from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. For several years she participated actively in the work of the Legal Commission of Amnesty International France, particularly regarding the extension of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda (ICTR) and Ex-Yugoslavia (ICTY), and the setting up of training sessions in International Public and Criminal Law. Between 2007 and 2019, she has been a member of Mr Katanga's defense team before the ICC and has worked with other defence teams. Since the end of 2020, she is Counsel within the defense teams of Mr Thaçi before the KSC. In Paris she has worked mainly on cases of general criminal law, white collar crime and press law. She is also specialised in international criminal law, extradition law and requests of withdrawal of INTERPOL Notices.



Kerrie Ann Rowan

Kerrie Ann Rowan is dual qualified counsel (New York and England and Wales) who practises in all areas of criminal defence, based at *25 Bedford Row* Chambers, London. She was instructed as Co-Counsel for trial in the matter of Prosecutor v Thaçi et al before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, representing the second defendant Mr Kadri Veseli. Previously, Kerrie was a member of the defence team for the first defendant in the matter of Prosecutor v Haradinaj et al (retrial) at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. She has also conducted research for matters before the ICC. Her domestic criminal practice focuses on serious and white-collar crime, and she is regularly instructed as fresh counsel in matters before the Court of Appeal. She has been recognised by both Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners.

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11:30 – 13:00 PANEL II

Yet knowing how way leads on to way: Practices we've fallen out of practice with



Judge Joanna Korner KC

Judge Joanna Korner CMG KC is a judge of the ICC. She is assigned to the Trial Division and currently serves as Presiding Judge in proceedings concerning former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and in the case of The Prosecutor v. Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (Ali Kushayb). Judge Korner has more than 45 years of experience in criminal law as a judge, prosecutor and defence barrister. Prior to joining the ICC, she served as a Judge of the Crown Court of England and Wales from 2012, presiding over serious and complex criminal cases. She previously worked as a Senior Prosecuting Trial Attorney at the ICTY, leading prosecutions in several major cases, including Stanišić and Župljanin, Brđanin and Talić, and Stakić. From 2004 to 2005, she served as Senior Legal Adviser to the Chief Prosecutor of Bosnia and Herzegovina, assisting with the establishment of the War Crimes Section of the State Prosecutor's Office. Judge Korner has extensive experience delivering international criminal law and advocacy training to judges and lawyers worldwide, with particular expertise in complex trials and the treatment of vulnerable witnesses. In 2004, she was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to international law.



Anta Guissé

Anta Guissé is a criminal defence lawyer admitted to the Paris Bar (France) where she was sworn in in 1999. Ms Guissé has more than 20 years of experience on defence teams before international courts and tribunals. She worked on several cases before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (2002–2010). She served as International Co-Lawyer for former Head of State KHIEU Samphân before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (2012–2023), and as Defence Counsel at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (2021). In late 2021, Ms Guissé joined the Defence of Mr Alfred YEKATOM at the International Criminal Court. She was also one of the lawyers representing the family of the late former Head of State Thomas Sankara in the trial for his assassination before the Military Tribunal of Burkina Faso. Between 2023 and 2026, Ms Guissé has served as Vice-President for Defence on the Executive Committee of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA), and is currently Chair of the ICCBA Defence committee and member of the Training Committee.



Prof. dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh

Prof. dr. Brianne McGonigle Leyh is Professor of Global Justice Studies at Utrecht University's School of Law. She is the co-Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM) and is a member of the Montaigne Center for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice. Her specializations include human rights law, transitional justice, victims' rights, and documentation and accountability for serious human rights violations. Beyond academia, McGonigle Leyh served as a co-counsel for Civil Parties in the first trial at the ECCC and is a Senior Peace Fellow with the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG).



Geoff Roberts

Geoff Roberts has been involved in international criminal defence work for over twenty years. He is currently Lead Counsel for Rexhep Selimi before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers where trial proceedings have recently concluded. He has previously represented Anselme Nzabonimpa before the IRMCT and Assad Sabra before the STL, as well as previously working for Defence teams at the ICTY, ICC and ECCC.



Pubudu Sachithanandan

Pubudu Sachithanandan is a Trial lawyer at the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC. He has a wealth of experience on teams investigating and prosecuting crimes that occurred in Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His ICC cases include Katanga & Ngudjolo, Kony *et al*, Ongwen, Al Bashir, Abu Garda, Banda & Jerbo, and Harun & Kushayb. He also served on the Prosecution teams for the Bizimana and Ngirabatware cases at the ICTR. Pubudu holds an MSt in International Human Rights Law (Oxford), an LLM and LLB (University of London), and has completed Programs on Advanced Principles of Humanitarian Law and Policy, as well as International Humanitarian Law and Counter-terrorism (Harvard University).



13:45 – 14:30 LUNCHTIME SIDE EVENT

Ireland's Influence on International Criminal Law



Judge Fergal Gaynor

Fergal Gaynor has been a Judge at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers since 2020, and is also the Reserve International Co-Prosecutor at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). He served in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 2007 and 2008; at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for nine years; and as a Senior Assistant Prosecutor at the ECCC in 2015 and 2016. He was Lead Counsel for victims at the International Criminal Court case against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, and represented victims pro bono in litigation concerning the commencement of investigation in the Situation in Afghanistan and the Situation in Palestine before the ICC.

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14:30 – 16:00 PANEL III

And that has made all the difference: New practices we should take



Judge Keebong Paek

Judge Keebong Paek is a judge of the ICC. He is assigned to the Trial Division and has more than 30 years of experience as a prosecutor, defence lawyer and international legal adviser, specialising in criminal law, international cooperation and complex investigations. Prior to joining the ICC, Judge Paek was a Senior Attorney at Kim & Chang in Seoul from 2014 to 2024, where his practice focused on criminal defence, corporate investigations, regulatory matters, financial crime and cross-border litigation. From 1992 to 2010, he held various prosecutorial positions in the Republic of Korea, including Director of the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office. He also served as Director of International Legal Affairs at the Ministry of Justice, working on international criminal justice and legal cooperation. Judge Paek has extensive experience with the UNODC, serving as Senior Prosecutorial and Judicial Adviser for Southeast Asia and the Pacific from 2011 to 2014, and previously as an Associate Expert at its headquarters in Vienna. He holds an LL.B. from Seoul National University, an LL.M. from Columbia Law School and a doctorate in law from Hanyang University.



Dr. Gabrielė Chlevickaitė

Dr. Gabrielė Chlevickaitė is Senior Researcher in International Criminal Law at the T.M.C. Asser Institute and the University of Amsterdam, where she coordinates international criminal law–related projects, specifically "Restoring Dignity and Justice in Ukraine II" (Asser sub-project) and MATRA–Ukraine 2025–2029. In this role, she has developed and delivered trainings and other capacity-building activities for Ukrainian judges, prosecutors, and defence lawyers, and led the drafting of several expert reports, i.a. on Ukrainian legislation implementing the Rome Statute and on the proposed Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression. Gabrielė conducts research into fact-finding in international criminal investigations and prosecutions at international and national fora, including PhD supervision on the topic. Prior to joining the Asser Institute, she was Assistant Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2021–2023) and co-director of the Center for International Criminal Justice (CICJ) (2017-2023). Earlier in her career, Gabrielė worked at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (2013–2017) and later contributed to the Independent Expert Review of the Rome Statute system (2020–2021). She was invited visiting scholar at the University of Toronto and at iCourts, University of Copenhagen.



David Vaughn

David Vaughn is a lawyer with more than 25 years of experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating legal and judicial reform projects throughout Europe and Eurasia, Africa, and Latin America. He led United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded activities that furthered legislative and bar reform in Kazakhstan, promoted judicial reform in Russia, and expanded women's legal rights in Albania, Benin, Eswatini, Guatemala, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, and South Africa. David also supervised and provided technical guidance to rule of law and commercial law reform projects in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Morocco, Nicaragua, and Zambia. He recently served as Chief of Party for the USAID/Ukraine Justice for All Activity which focused on improving justice systems, services, and societal engagement to meet the justice needs of individuals and businesses, including efforts to ensure accountability for war crimes and damage caused by the war. He is currently Team Leader for the Trust Through Justice Project which is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and implemented by the European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM) in partnership with Chemonics Europe focusing on strengthening the domestic adjudication of cases involving international crimes in Ukraine. David holds a J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law, as well as an M.A. in political science and B.A. in Russian from the University of Vermont. He also completed a certificate program on mediating disputes at Harvard Law School. David speaks Ukrainian and Russian and is proficient in French and Spanish.



Dr. Adina-Loredana Nistor

Dr. Adina-Loredana Nistor is Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminology at Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. She has an interdisciplinary focus, blending international criminal law, socio-legal studies, and cultural anthropology. In 2019 she was a Visiting Professional at the Investigations and Analysis Unit within the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) at the ICC. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and book volumes (Adina-Loredana Nistor (0000-0001-9943-4025) - ORCID) and presented at conferences and expert seminars in Europe, the US and Asia. Besides teaching in the master's program International Crimes, Conflict and Criminology at VU University Amsterdam, Adina is a member of the board of the Centre for International Criminal Justice, a knowledge hub dedicated to interdisciplinary studies of mass atrocity crimes and international criminal justice (www.cicj.org).

16.00–16:05

Closing Remarks



Sarah Bafadhel

Sarah Bafadhel is a barrister at 9BR Chambers in London. She has appeared for the defence before the ICC, the STL, the IRMCT and the ICTY, and has represented States before the ICC. Her practice covers international criminal law, international humanitarian law and human rights, with a focus on universal jurisdiction and complementarity. She also acts in challenges to UN, EU, US and UK sanctions designations and INTERPOL red notices. Sarah advises governments, international organisations and civil society on the collection and use of forensic, witness and digital evidence in accountability proceedings, and on rule of law and capacity building projects. Sarah is currently a Vice President of the ADC-ICT.

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