

**ADC-ICT
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**



THE ONE ABOUT EXPERTS

**Exploring Contemporary
ICL Practice &
Challenges with Experts & Friends**

20 25



**Marriott Hotel, The Hague
29 November 2025**

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The One About Experts brings together practitioners, defence counsel, and experts in international criminal law to explore the essential role of expertise in shaping contemporary practice. The conference will provide a platform to examine how knowledge, experience, and strategic insight influence decision-making in complex international criminal proceedings. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with discussions on the practical application of defence expertise, the use and impact of expert testimony, and the design and implementation of hybrid and domestic justice mechanisms.

Through this holistic exploration, the conference aims to illuminate the challenges and innovations driving the evolution of international criminal law, offering participants insights and a deeper understanding of how expertise contributes to effective and fair justice.

The event is designed for practitioners, academics and students alike, fostering interaction, exchange, and learning from leading voices in the field. It highlights the dynamic interplay between theory and practice, while showcasing the evolving approaches that define accountability, advocacy, and expert engagement in international justice today.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks

Speaker: Dragan Ivetic, ADC-ICT President
Time: 9:15 - 9:30

The One Where the Defence Counsels Give Their Expert Opinions on 2025

Time: 9:30 - 11:00

This panel will spotlight the expertise of defence counsel in ongoing international criminal proceedings. Drawing on casework experience, it will explore key developments, strategic choices, and ethical considerations that define defence practice. Participants will gain first-hand insight into the challenges counsel face in 2025 and how their expertise shapes outcomes in international trials.

The One Where They Talk About Expert Witnesses in ICL

Time: 11:30 - 13:00

This panel will examine the role of expert witnesses in international criminal law. It will address the identification and instruction of experts, the processes through which they are called, and the presentation of their testimony in court. The discussion will highlight how expert evidence is used, tested, and evaluated, and the broader impact it has on the pursuit of justice.

The One Where Experts Talk About International Domestic Justice

Time: 14:30 - 16:00

This panel will explore domestic justice mechanisms addressing international crimes and the practical expertise required to make them effective. Discussions will examine the skills needed to conduct field investigations, work within national legal frameworks, and support accountability processes in complex environments.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- 09:25 – 09:30 **Welcome**
Dragan Ivetic, President, ADC-ICT
- 09:30 – 11:00 **The One Where the Defence Counsels Give Their Expert Opinions on 2025**
Annie O'Reilly, Moderator
Mylène Dimitri, Defence Counsel, ICC
Iain Edwards, Defence Counsel, ICC, IRMCT and KSC
Kate Gibson, Defence Counsel, ICC, IRMCT and KSC
Joe Holmes, Defence Counsel, KSC
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Break**
- 11:30 – 13:00 **The One Where They Talk About Expert Witnesses in ICL**
Peter Haynes KC, Moderator
Judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor, *International Criminal Court*
Judge Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godínez, *International Criminal Court*
Sabrina Rewald, International Legal Consultant and Co-Founder, *Fénix Foundation*
Dr. Anna Sagana, Assistant Professor, *Department of Clinical Psychological Science, Maastricht University*.
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**
- 14:30 – 16:00 **The One Where Experts Talk About International Domestic Justice**
Jason Antley, Moderator
Prof. Mohamed Badar, School of Law, *Northumbria University School of Law*
Linda Osman, Legal Officer, *Syrians for Truth and Justice*
Benjamin Thorne, Assistant Professor in Criminal Law, *University of Reading*
- 20:30 onwards **Social Event - Bar & Restaurant Suzie Q**
Dr. Lelykade 33-37, 2583 CL, The Hague
-

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Annie O'Reilly

Annie O'Reilly is co-counsel for Mr Kadri Veseli, who is due to stand trial at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in 2023. Prior to this, she spent more than a decade working in ICL: first at the ICTY, where she was a defence team members, and later at the ICC where she occupied various positions in the Office of the Prosecutor. Ms O'Reilly is a member of the New York Bar. Annie is also a member of the ADC Training Committee and former Vice President.



Mylène Dimitri

Ms. Dimitri brings over two decades of experience to her role before international courts. Currently, she serves as the Lead Counsel for Alfred Yekatom in the Central African Republic II Situation at the International Criminal Court and has also worked as Associate Counsel for Mr. Jean-Pierre Bemba (Article 70).

At the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Ms. Dimitri represented Dr. Augustin Ndirabatware, the Minister of Planning, as his Lead Counsel through both trial and appeal stages. Additionally, she was Co-Counsel for Arsène Shalom Ntahobali, the son of the Minister of Women's Affairs, Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, in their trial and appeal proceedings.

Ms. Dimitri has also navigated trials in absentia, notably co-representing Mustafa Badreddine's rights and interests at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon until the proceedings were terminated. Subsequently, she transitioned to a Legal Consultant role for Mr. Hassan Habib Merhi.

In Canada, she undertook a ground-breaking trial under universal jurisdiction, defending Désiré Munyaneza against charges related to the 1994 Rwandan Genocide before both the Quebec Superior Court and the Quebec Court of Appeal.

Ms. Dimitri is also an esteemed speaker, having delivered numerous lectures and conferences on open-source investigations and the intricacies of defending suspects in wartime. She was also part of a group of experts invited by the Nuremberg Academy to debate on the length of the proceedings before the ICC. Additionally, she has conducted specialized training for Ukrainian lawyers, further showcasing her commitment to legal education and international human rights. She was also invited to provide a presentation on international criminal courts and tribunals to the appeals judges in Quebec, Canada during their annual training.





Iain Edwards

Iain Edwards was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2000. He is a member of IMCB Chambers in London. Since 2009 Iain has specialised in international criminal defence, working on three cases before the ICTR. He then defended Mustafa Baddredine before the STL, Mr Stanišić and Mrs Fatuma before the IRMCT, and (briefly) Mr Al-Hassan before the ICC. He is currently instructed as counsel for Mr Abd-Al-Rahman (ICC), Mr Kilaj (KSC) and Mr Nteziryayo (IRMCT). He has held a number of elected positions in the ICCBA, and is alternate member of the disciplinary board for ICC counsel.



Kate Gibson

Kate Gibson has been representing accused before the international criminal courts and tribunals since 2005. At the ICC, Kate was the Co-Counsel of former Vice-President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jean-Pierre Bemba and the Co-Counsel of Bosco Ntaganda. At the SCSL, she was Co-Counsel of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. At the ICTY, Kate was the Associate Legal Officer of Judge Mohamed Shahabdeen, and then Co-Counsel of former President of the Republika Sprska Radovan Karadžić before the IRMCT. At the ICTR, Kate was Lead Counsel of former Minister Justin Mugenzi and Co-Counsel of Jean-Baptiste Gatete, and is currently Lead Counsel of Prosper Mugiraneza before the IRMCT. Currently, Kate is Associate Counsel to Joseph Kony before the ICC, and Legal Consultant to Maxime Mokom before the ICC. She is also part of the legal team of former Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi before the Kosovo Specialist Chamber. Kate also represents a group of Rohingya victims in the Myanmar/Bangladesh situation, and was part of a legal team representing victims in the first case before the ECCC.



Joe Holmes

Joe is a specialist in international human rights law, international criminal law, rule of law, extradition, and public and regulatory law. He practises in the UK and internationally and is dual-qualified at the Bars of England & Wales and New York.

He has acted before the ICC, ICTY, ICTR, SCSL, IRMCT and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, representing civilian and military leaders as well as victims. His recent international criminal work includes acting as counsel for the former intelligence chief of President Milošević in the first full retrial in international criminal law before the IRMCT, and involvement in contempt proceedings before the Kosovo Specialist Chambers.

Joe's broader practice includes advising in civil contempt proceedings arising from the Emiliano Sala case, advising on transnational repression matters in the UK, and acting in extradition litigation before the High Court concerning the Romanian Criminal Code and the Extradition Act 2003.

He has significant rule of law and international advisory experience, including as Criminal Justice Adviser to the British High Commission in the Maldives, and has led UK government-funded justice and accountability projects in Somaliland, Kosovo, the Maldives, Ukraine, Syria, Iraq and South Sudan.



Peter Haynes KC

Peter Haynes KC is a leading practitioner in international criminal and humanitarian law, having spent the past 17 years appearing before international courts and tribunals in The Hague. He is one of the few advocates to have led cases before the ICTY, ICC and Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

His international work includes defending General Vinko Pandurević before the ICTY in relation to the Srebrenica events; acting for Jean-Pierre Bemba at the ICC, where he secured his client's acquittal on appeal; and representing victims before the STL in the case concerning the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. He has appeared in cases involving allegations of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and terrorism, and has played a significant role in developing the practice of victim representation in international criminal proceedings. From 2019 to 2021 he served as President of the ICC Bar Association, becoming the first person to be re-elected to the position.

Domestically, Peter has acted for both prosecution and defence in serious criminal matters including murder, fraud, sexual offences, human trafficking and complex conspiracies. He has also led civil proceedings concerning allegations of torture in Cyprus, litigation against the ICC relating to asset freezing measures, and an appeal before the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission concerning the LTTE.

Peter advises governments, international organisations and NGOs on international legal issues, and works on rule of law and accountability initiatives, including projects in Iraq and anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorist-financing work in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Judge Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor

Prior to joining the ICC, Judge Althea Alexis-Windsor has served since 2013 as a judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, where she has adjudicated on complex pre-trial and trial matters including murder, sexual offences and narcotic drugs. Before that, she served as a prosecuting Trial Counsel and as Appeals Counsel at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (2004-2013), where she was part of several high-level prosecutions of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide at both trial and appellate level, including cases involving charges of sexual violence.

Previously, Judge Alexis-Windsor served as Senior State Counsel and in a number of other functions in the Office of Public Prosecutions of Trinidad and Tobago, and as Deputy Director of the Human Rights Unit in the Ministry of the Attorney General. She also has experience working in a private law firm. Judge Alexis-Windsor studied law at the University of the West Indies and the Hugh Wooding Law School, and obtained an LLM degree from the University of Utrecht. She has also participated in seminars on a wide range of topics at the Judicial Education Institute of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. She is a member of the Caribbean Association of Women Judges.



Judge Sergio Ugalde

Prior to joining the ICC, Judge Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godínez has been Associate Professor of International Law at the University for Peace in Costa Rica (2019-), and Costa Rica's Ambassador to the Netherlands (2014-2018). He served as Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute and Coordinator of the Hague Working Group of the Assembly's Bureau from 2016 to 2018.

For more than 17 years, Judge Ugalde was the coordinator of the international law commission of Costa Rica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, and in that capacity acted as the country's senior advisor for the practice and promotion of public international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and for the promotion of Costa Rica's foreign policy on human rights and conflict resolution through international law.

He has advised and represented Costa Rica in cases before the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Central American Court of Justice, the Inter-American Human Rights System including its Court, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court. He has also represented Costa Rica at the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Judge Ugalde studied law at the University of Costa Rica and the University of Oxford. He is a member of the Bar of Costa Rica, the International Law Association (London), and the American Bar Association. He has been a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration since 2005.



Sabrina Rewald

Sabrina Rewald is an international lawyer specialized in digital evidence and gender justice. While serving as Research Associate at the Kalshoven-Gieskes Forum on International Humanitarian Law ('KGF') at Leiden University, Sabrina supervised the KGF's Digitally Derived Evidence Project and advises on and disseminates the Leiden Guidelines on the Use of Digitally Derived Evidence in International Criminal Courts and Tribunals. Sabrina is additionally part of a pool of consultants for the Council of Europe regarding the collection, preservation, and use of electronic evidence related to violations in the context of armed conflict, as well as with Hala Systems Inc. in the development of the 'Hala Protocol on the Collection, Preservation and Transfer of Audio Data'. Prior to shifting to international law Sabrina worked in civil litigation and as a solicitor in Ontario, as well as in reproductive health, rights, and justice advocacy in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia. Sabrina earned her advanced LL.M. in European and International Human Rights Law cum laude from Leiden University, and her law degrees from the University of Windsor and University of Detroit Mercy Dual J.D. Program. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from the University of Toronto. Sabrina is a licensed attorney in Michigan, U.S. and Ontario, Canada.



Dr. Anna Sagana

Dr. Anna Sagana is an Assistant Professor of Legal Psychology at Maastricht University, specializing in decision-making in legal contexts and expert witness testimony. Her research directly addresses challenges faced by legal professionals: how forensic evidence is evaluated and presented in court, the reliability of eyewitness testimony, and how experts approach decision-making in legal contexts.

Her current research, funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO), examines how expert witness testimony is assessed at the International Criminal Court, building on her earlier CAT-Netias fellowship studying evidence use by the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor.

Dr. Sagana has published extensively in leading journals including Behavioural Sciences and the Law, Applied Cognitive Psychology, and Legal and Criminological Psychology. She has also edited a special issue on "The Psychology of Forensic Evidence" for the Journal of Psychology. Finally, Dr. Sagana has presented at major legal institutions including the International Criminal Court, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Academy of European Law (ERA), and international legal and criminological conferences.



Jason Antley

Jason Antley is a lawyer and international rule of law consultant, experienced at designing, leading, and implementing capacity building projects in Iraq, Somaliland, Kosovo, and Saudi Arabia. Recognized as an expert in fair trials for terrorism suspects, in case management systems for defence teams and investigations, and the analysis of telecommunications and digital (including open source) evidence. Assisted multiple defence teams at the ICTY, STL, and ICC since 2009.



Prof. Mohamed Badar

Prof Mohamed Elewa Badar holds the Chair in Comparative and International Criminal Law & Islamic Law at Northumbria Law School, Newcastle, UK.

Professor Badar previously held a position as a Senior Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Brunel Law School, London (2007-2013). He has also taught and acted as a convenor of International Law & Islamic Law module at Durham Law School (2011-2013).

Prof Badar served as Senior Prosecutor and Judge in Egypt from 1997-2006. He was a member (investigator) of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate and report on allegations of human rights violations during the civil unrest in Bahrain in February/March 2011. He has participated in the judicial reform in Afghanistan.

In May 2021, he participated in training Iraqi judges and prosecutors on substantive international criminal law as part of a UNITAD project to strengthen the Iraqi judiciary. In December 2021, he was appointed to act as the Legal Consultant of Mr Al Hassan's Defence Team before the International Criminal Court, and in July 2023, he was appointed to act as an ideology expert for UNITAD.

Prof. Badar is the Director of the Northumbria International Criminal Law and Practice LLM Programme. In February 2025, he co-led the initiative of the new legal knowledge exchange program hosted by the Office of the Attorney General of Egypt alongside Counsellor Aly Mokhtar, Chief of Egypt's Prosecution Offices and Digitalization.



Linda Osman

Linda Osman is a Syrian–Dutch international lawyer specializing in international human rights, humanitarian, and criminal law. She holds an LL.M. in Public International Law and Human Rights from Utrecht University (2022), a Bachelor of Laws from Damascus University (2016), and is completing an Advanced LL.M. in European and International Human Rights Law at Leiden University (2025).

She currently works as a Legal Officer at Syrians for Truth and Justice, focusing on documentation, UN submissions, and advocacy on war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria. Linda also monitors universal jurisdiction trials with The Nuhanovic Foundation and leads transitional justice programming at the Adalaty Centre.

Her previous experience includes work with Global Human Rights Defence, Women Win, and refugee-led initiatives in Europe and the MENA region. She is also the founder of JURISTIA, a legal empowerment series for Arabic-speaking refugees.



Benjamin Thorne

Benjamin is an interdisciplinary scholar with main themes of interest within (international) criminal law and justice, socio-legal studies, transitional justice, and critical theory. One area of focus for him is the connections between memory, transitional justice, and legal atrocity archives. Related, Benjamin is the author of the recently published monograph with Routledge, *The Figure of the Witness in International Criminal Tribunals: Memory, Atrocities and Transitional Justice* (2022). This book, which combines disciplinary approaches from international criminal law, social and cultural studies, and memory studies, investigates the way in which the pre-trial process at the ICTR set up conditions for how individual memories of human rights violations are collectively understood.

A current area of interest explores the connections between colonial historical injustices, social movements and attempts at remedy, with a particular contextual focus within Kenya. Related, this research also investigates laws silence/absence for colonial historical harm and the role that cultural restitution could play as a response to these absences.

More generally, Benjamin is interested in questions around visuals, sounds, as well as the broader sensory field, in how people experience crime, law and justice, particular in the international context. Currently, Benjamin is conducting collaborative research exploring the role visuals arts can have as a form of justice for victims of sexual violence committed during conflict. Furthermore, he is working on research through artistic expression exploring themes of memory, human senses and legal archive material and which has been published with the *Law and Humanities Journal*.



www.adc-ict.org