



BLINNE NÍ GHRÁLAIGH

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Arbitration
Constitutional Law
Corporate Social Responsibility
Crime and Regulatory Law
Environmental Law
EU Law
Human Rights and Civil Liberties
Inquests and Inquiries
Public and Private International Law
Public Law

Called to the Bar

England & Wales 2005
Belfast 2013
Ireland 2017

CONTACT:

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Paul Venables, Practice Manager
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Blinne has a broad practice in all aspects of international law. She acts and advises on behalf of individuals, States, NGOs, corporations and other national and international bodies and organisations before international and national courts and tribunals. She is the Vice Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee, the international human rights arm of the Bar Council of England and Wales.

EXPERTISE

Blinne is recommended in the legal directories as a “stellar practitioner” and a leading junior in public international law. Her practice and experience span a wide range of subjects, including:

- international claims and domestic cases regarding the use of force and other breaches of the laws of war and international humanitarian law
- international and domestic cases relating to allegations of genocide, torture and other violations of international human rights and criminal law
- international trade and investment disputes, including claims for breach of international bilateral treaty obligations
- international maritime boundary disputes
- international criminal law matters, including the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and sovereign and diplomatic immunity from prosecution
- international environmental law, including breaches of environmental treaties
- domestic prosecutions under the rules of universal jurisdiction
- claims before national courts relating to extra-territorial violations of international human rights law
- claims raising issues of corporate liability for breaches of international human rights and criminal law

She is instructed as counsel before various different international courts and tribunals, including the International Court of Justice, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, arbitral panels constituted pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and inter-State and investor-State arbitral panels, including under the rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. She is also instructed as counsel and amicus in United Kingdom and other national courts in cases raising questions of international law.

Blinne is frequently invited to speak at legal seminars and events on international law, including in the Middle East and North Africa region, in relation to which she has particular expertise. She is also experienced in conducting trial observations and participating in international fact-finding missions, including in fragile environments.

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DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

“A stellar practitioner with an eagle eye.”

Legal 500 2014

“Cares passionately about the cases she works on”

Legal 500 2013

“brings a level of legal knowledge and judgment that is far beyond her years of practice”

Legal 500 2012

EDUCATION

LLM, NYU (equiv. Distinction)

BA Hons, Cambridge (First)

BVC, Inns of Court School of Law (Outstanding)

PGDL, University of Westminster (Distinction)

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Pegasus Scholarship, Inns of Court

Phoenicia Scholarship, Bar European Group

International Scholarship, Centre for Capital Punishment Studies

Bairstow Scholarship, Inns of Court School of Law

Hardwicke Award, Lord Bowen Scholarship, St Thomas More Bursary and Buchanan Prize, Lincoln's Inn

Foundation Scholarship, Queens' College, Cambridge University

SELECT CASES

International Court of Justice

Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Croatia v. Serbia): claim for breach of the Genocide Convention

Case concerning the Interpretation of Article 11(1) of the Interim Accord of 1995 (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia v. Greece): claim for breach of treaty obligations

International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea and UNCLOS

ARA Libertad Arbitration (Argentina v. Ghana) arbitral proceedings concerning the seizure by Ghana of an Argentinian war ship

Arctic Sunrise Arbitration (Kingdom of the Netherlands v. Russian Federation): provided preliminary advice to Greenpeace in relation to possible international routes of redress, following the seizure and arrest by Russia of Greenpeace activists and their ship

Permanent Court of Arbitration

Guyana v. Suriname: international maritime boundary dispute under UNCLOS raising allegations of use of force at sea

Frontier v. Czech Republic: investor-State arbitration under the UNCITRAL rules alleging breach of the US-Czech Republic Bilateral Investment Treaty

Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

Mitcham v. The Queen (Saint Christopher & Nevis): death penalty appeal before the Privy Council raising issues relating to the right to a fair trial.

National court cases raising international law issues

R (Al Fawwaz) v. Secretary of State for the Home Department: challenge to the UK's refusal to disclose materials requested by a US criminal court, pursuant to international co-operation agreements, including the UK-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

An Taisce (The National Trust for Ireland) v. Secretary of State for the Environment: challenge before the UK Court of Appeal to the UK government's grant of permission for a new nuclear power station, 150 miles from the Irish coast, raising issues under the Espoo Convention 1991 and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969

Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum: amicus brief submitted on behalf of law practitioners practicing in England and Wales to the United States Supreme Court, regarding domestic routes of redress for extraterritorial breaches of international human rights law.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE NOTES

Panelist at Chatham House's event '**Milestones in International Criminal Justice: The ICC and Palestine**' 2 December 2014)

Co-author (with Philippe Sands QC) of 'Towards an International Rule of Law?' in Tom Bingham and the Transformation of the Law: A Liber Amicorum (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Contributor to Human Rights and Criminal Justice, Emmerson, Ashworth and Macdonald (2nd Ed., Sweet & Maxwell, 2007)

Co-author of 'Human Rights, International Justice and the Rule of Law' in Globalisation – A Liberal Response (CentreForum, 2007)