



# PROFESSOR CONOR GEARTY FBA, MRIA

**MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:**

Human Rights Law  
Public Law  
Corporate Social Responsibility

**Called to the Bar** 1995

**CONTACT:**

conorgearty@matrixlaw.co.uk  
+44 (0)20 7404 3447  
Jason Housden, Senior Practice  
Manager  
jasonhousden@matrixlaw.co.uk

Conor Gearty is Professor of Human Rights Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) where he has also been Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (2002-2009) and Director of the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA). He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a bencher of Middle Temple, an Honorary Bencher of the King's Inn, and has honorary degrees from University College Dublin, Sacred Heart University (USA), and Brunel and Roehampton Universities in London.

Professor Gearty offers his services in the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries to national and international corporations and organizations as a specialist adviser in human rights law and in the field of corporate social responsibility, and as a potential specialist independent investigator for companies and individuals. He is also available to act as an advisor on compliance programmes. He will lecture and lead discussion groups on issues within his field of expertise, which include matters related to human rights and corporate social responsibility and also terrorism and counter-terrorism (on which he is the author of many books and articles). Professor Gearty has advised governments and the senior judiciary on matters related to human rights.

Conor Gearty read law at University College Dublin, and then at Cambridge University from where he obtained his LLB and PhD. Before coming to LSE in 2002 he was a Fellow of Emmanuel College Cambridge (1983-90) and following that an academic at King's College London (1990-2002).

## PRACTICE

Conor Gearty was a barrister at Essex Court Chambers before leaving to join Matrix as a founder member in 2000.

His practice as a barrister is primarily in human rights law and in public law. He has appeared in the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. Conor has been a frequent adviser to judges, practitioners and public authorities on the implications of the UK Human Rights Act. He has also been a consultant for BP, analyzing the human rights aspects of their development of Iraq's Rumaila oilfield. In 2015-16 he worked with a Ministry of Justice team on the restructuring of the court system in England and Wales in which

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Jason Housden, Senior Practice Manager  
jasonhousden@matrixlaw.co.uk

## DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

“a leading academic authority  
on human rights”

### Chambers and Partners 2010

“one of the most  
knowledgeable and high profile  
authorities on human rights law”

### Chambers and Partners 2009

capacity he facilitated a series of day-long discussions between senior figures involved in the process, drawn from government, the law officers and the senior judiciary.

## SCHOLARLY

Professor Gearty has published many books and articles on terrorism, civil liberties and human rights. His most recent is *On Fantasy Island. Britain, Strasbourg and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, 2016). His other recent books include (edited with Costas Douzinas) *The Cambridge Companion to Human Rights Law* (Cambridge, 2012) and *The Meanings of Rights* (Cambridge, 2013); *Debating Social Rights* (with Virginia Mantouvalou); and *Liberty and Security* (Polity, 2013). In 2005, Conor Gearty gave the prestigious Hamlyn lectures, afterwards published as a book *Can Human Rights Survive?* (2006). His *Civil Liberties* book was published in 2007 and a collection of his essays on human rights and civil liberties appeared in 2008. In February 2011 he completed his serialized book on the web, *The Rights Future*.

Conor Gearty has been a frequent writer for newspapers and periodicals, including *The London Review of Books*, *The Tablet*, and *The Guardian*. He has also published in *Prospect* and made documentaries for the BBC and had a discussion programme on BBC Radio 4 during the late 1990s, *Common Ground*.

## ADVISORY WORK

During the 1990s, Conor Gearty was an adviser to Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam on terrorism law. He has given evidence on many occasions to parliamentary committees on issues related to terrorism and human rights and been a special adviser to the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee. He has also advised the Joint Committee on Human Rights on its work and provided legal opinions for the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

## LECTURES

Apart from his usual lecturing work at LSE Professor Gearty has lectured widely in the United Kingdom and abroad, in for example Kigali, Sydney, Melbourne, Singapore, New York, Toronto, Dublin, Prague, Rome, Berlin, Florence, Dublin and Brussels. He has given the Hamlyn lectures (see above) and also delivered an Oxford Amnesty lecture in Oxford, and many named lectures up and down the country. He has spoken at the World Economic Forum, and attended the International Bar Association meeting held in Washington in September 2016. He was for many years on the executive committee of the British-Irish Association whose annual meetings in Oxford or Cambridge, always off the record, were an important part of the political discourse on Northern Ireland during the years of violence in the Province.

## OTHER

Professor Gearty is a founding trustee of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice. He has sat on the Publications and Strategic Communications Committees of the British Academy. He is also Deputy Chair of Governors William Ellis School and has previously been a governor in two other schools in north London (where he lives). He sits on many editorial boards. Every September he comperes the dog show at the Lady Somerset Road Street Party.