

## **Kirsty Brimelow KC**

### **Qualifications/Positions**

- **1987-1990** LLB Hons Birmingham University
- **1990-1991** Bar Vocational Course Inns of Court School of Law London
- **1991** Admitted to the Bar of England and Wales
- **2003-2005** Elected to Management Board of 187 Fleet Street Chambers
- **2009-2014** Admitted to the Bar of Gibraltar, the Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and British Virgin Islands (individual cases)
- **1998-2008** Appointed spokesperson for the Bar Council of England and Wales and member of Bar Council Public Affairs Committee
- **2004-2010** Elected to the Criminal Bar Association Executive
- **2003 -2018** Elected to the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC)
- **2004** Founded Caribbean sub-committee and oversaw placement of barristers in Jamaica on death row appeals/resentencing hearings
- **2006** worked in Jamaica on death row cases
- **2006 & 2010** Bar Conference Organising Board (organized annual Bar Conference)
- **2009 -2012** Elected Vice Chair of BHRC. First female Vice-Chair
- **2009 -2011** Elected to Management Board of Doughty Street Chambers
- **2011 -2020** Elected to various management positions in Doughty Street Chambers
- **2011** Appointed Queen's Counsel (QC): only 8-10% of profession appointed QC. Only 10% of those appointed are between 35-45 years' old. Only 9-11% of those appointed are female.<sup>1</sup>
- **2012 -2018** Elected Chair of Bar Human Rights Committee of England Wales (first female Chair)
- **2016** Qualified as a mediator (London School of Mediation)
- **2012** Legal Advisor to the Constitutional Commission of Fiji
- **2015** Elected Master of Gray's Inn
- **2018** Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts London
- **2018** Appointed by Secretary of State as Chair of the Independent Appeals Panel regulating child interaction with the internet
- **2018** Appointed Visiting Professor in International Human Rights Law at Goldsmiths University
- **2016-2020** Qualified as and lead trainer of students at Gray's Inn in advocacy and ethics
- **2019** Appointed to the National Working Group on Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief
- **2019** Appointed as expert before Commission on Miscarriages of Justice (England and Wales)
- **2019** Selected to give evidence on counter terrorism to Australia's Independent National Security Legislation Monitor
- **2020-2023** Elected to Gray's Inn Management Committee

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/uploads/assets/1369b6b7-c330-4a9b-8796fec920857dc2/bsbbarometerreport112ppjune13.pdf>

- **2020** Selected to give the inaugural Heilbron lecture (first 100 years) **2020** Elected to management committee/director of Gray's Inn
- **2021-2024** Appointed trustee/director of WWF-UK.
- **2021- 2024** Appointed to WWF-UK audit Committee
- **2021-2024** Appointed to WWF-UK Safeguarding Committee
- **2022-23** Chair of the Criminal Bar Association
- **2021-2023** Appointed to Criminal Legal Aid Advisory Committee alongside Crown Court Improvement Group, Legal Professional Bodies Court Recovery and Bar Council.
- **2023-2026** Elected representative of Gray's Inn on Bar Council
- **2024** Elected Vice Chair of the Bar Council (January 2025 – January 2026)

### Judicial Appointments

- **2021** Appointed as Deputy High Court Judge under section 9(4) of the Senior Courts Act 1981 across all three divisions with acceptance to sit in King's Bench Division and Administrative Court.
- **2022** Appointed Recorder of the Crown Court with specialism to hear Sexual Offences Cases.

### Awards

- **1988** Winner Birmingham University Law Faculty Mooting Prize and prestigious Camm Cup (Judged by former Lord Justice of Appeal Sir Stephen Brown)
- **1990** Gray's Inn Scholar and pupillage award
- **2003 & 2005** Listed in Management Today's 35 "*most influential women under 35*"
- **2007 – 2009** Ranked one of *The Times* "Top 100 lawyers"
- **2015** Shortlisted for International Bar Association Pro Bono Committee award
- **2017** Special Commendation from the Bar Council for global pro bono human rights work
- **2011 – 2020** Entry in *Who's Who* - the "*autobiographical entries of noteworthy and influential people who impact British life*"
- **1995-2020** Ranked every year in the leading legal directories *Chambers and Partners* and *Legal 500* as one of the top lawyers in the UK in the fields of international human rights and criminal law
- **2003 and 2018** The Times "Lawyer of the Week" (one of a handful to have been selected twice)
- **2018** Winner of Advocate's International Pro Bono barrister of the year
- **2018** Winner of Barrister of the Year of the First Hundred Years Inspirational Women in Law Awards

### Recent Boards/Committees

- Head of International Human Rights team at Doughty Street Chambers
- Head of Donations Committee
- Chair of International Appeals Panel (Digital Economy Act 2017) – appeal body from BBFC (internet pornography regulation)
- Member of Doughty Street Equality and Diversity committee
- Advisory Board for GLAN Law a charity registered in the UK that that pursues innovative legal actions across borders, challenging States and other powerful actors involved with human rights violations.
- Advisory Board for Board Peace Brigades International UK
- Advisory Board for BHRC
- Advisory Board for Witchcraft and Human Rights Network

- Member of Executive Board of Alliance for Lawyers at Risk
- Member of Attorney General's Pro Bono Board
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts
- Trustee WWF-UK

### ***Languages***

English (native) Spanish and French

### **Overview of Legal Practice**

- **(1992-2000; pupillage 1992 – 1993)** Commenced practice in common sets of chambers – property, family, contract, crime, tort, employment.
- **September 1992** First Six Months' Pupillage 2 Crown Office Row (now Littleton Chambers; head Michael Burton KC).
- **March 1993** Second Six Months' Pupillage/extended six months: 10 Bolt Court.
- **March 1994** Tenancy at 10 Gray's Inn Square.
- 1996 Tenancy Francis Taylor Building (chambers of Philip Mathews/Dick Pears). Common law.
- **2000-2009** 187 Fleet Street (chambers of Andrew Trollope KC). Practice: predominantly crime and international human rights. Prosecution and defence.
- **2009 – 2023** Doughty Street Chambers (chambers of Edward Fitzgerald KC and Geoffrey Robertson KC). Practice: International human rights, criminal law, public law, inquests, and mediation.

### **Practice**

- Practices in international human rights and criminal law and public law; instructed in the most serious, complex, and prominent cases nationally and internationally.
- Expert working and advising in disparate jurisdictions and placing domestic law in international law framework.
- Experienced trial barrister and court advocate (defence and prosecution). One of a few KCs acting in high profile cases e.g., represented two Chief Justices and former President (Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives). One of few KCs to lead in both civil and criminal Court of Appeal.
- Led interventions in human rights cases around the world including in the U.S., Bahrain, Bangladesh, Malawi, China, Myanmar, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, South Sudan, Egypt, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, the Maldives, Colombia, Jamaica, Czech Republic, International Criminal Court.
- Leading practitioner in freedom of expression and assembly; defending peaceful protestors in trial and before the Courts of Appeal (*Cuadrilla v Lawrie and Walsh and Wilson* [2020] EWCA Civ 9; *R v Roberts* [2018] EWCA Crim 2739)
- Expert in child rights and developing jurisprudence (*R v L* [2019] EWCA Crim 1326)
- Expert in sexual offences laws -2020 gave evidence before Grevio in Strasbourg and expert opinion in Court of Protection London

- Experienced international human rights trainer and expert in building programmes in various countries (10 years in Nigeria), fundraising, compiling materials, from manuals to video and podcast learning, and leading teams to deliver training.
- Experienced mediator and negotiator; the only barrister from the U.K. invited to the signing of the peace accord in Colombia 2016.
- **2020-2023 Casework** includes defending in serious rape trials (including section 28 YCEA cross-examination 1999) murder and terrorism trials. Previous 15-year prosecution experience of most serious crime.
- Represented a Judge who sits at the *jurisdicción especial para la paz* in Colombia, a political prisoner in Turkey (ECtHR), a family in Yemen (IACHR), a police officer convicted of murder in Jamaica (conviction quashed *Lescene Edwards v Queen* [2022] UKPC 11), actions against the police, a rape complainant in Denmark (ECtHR), the family of a woman murdered by a stalker in the U.K (High Court London). Protest law: *Cuadrilla v Lawrie and Walsh and Wilson* [2020] EWCA Civ 9; *R v Roberts* [2018] EWCA Crim 2739. Advising High Representative on decision of Constitution court of Bosnia and Herzegovina on amendments to constitution [2023].

#### 2021- 2023 Inquests/inquiries

- **2021 Adam Stanmore Oxford** – article 2 jury inquest. Conclusion of multiple failures by paramedics, mental health service, police contributed to his death.
- **2022 Sarah Williams Reading** – article 2 jury inquest. Vulnerable mentally ill patient at Prospect Park hospital set fire to her room and burned to death. Jury found numerous failings of the hospital may have contributed to her death. Inquest also considered actions of Fire and Rescue Service and reforms to its practice since her death.
- **2022 Alex Turner Bolton** – finding that Alex Turner’s suicide probably was contributed to by neglect of Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.
- **2021 – 2023** Representing Mohamed Nasheed, former President of Maldives; advising on assassination attempt/terrorism 6 May 2021 and overview of investigation.
- **2022** Defending in terrorism case involving child rights (Manchester Crown Court).
- **2021 – 2022** Consultant for OSCE. Led a fact finding and report into Kosovo’s handling of terrorism cases. Launched report and took questions from Judges September 2022.  
<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/4/526212.pdf>
- **2018 -2021** Colombia. Trial observation report of Santiago Uribe  
[https://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021\\_Trial-Observation-Report\\_Colombia\\_Uribe\\_final\\_English-1.pdf](https://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021_Trial-Observation-Report_Colombia_Uribe_final_English-1.pdf)

#### Inquiries (Caribbean)

- **2009-2010 Appointed by Prime Minister of Antigua** as Counsel to a Commission of Inquiry into a \$61m international fraud (IHI inquiry; Chief Justice of New South Wales appointed Commissioner).

This involved tracking money over some six jurisdictions with experts and lawyers coordinated from four jurisdictions. Persons of interest included politicians and high-profile businesspeople.

- **2011 Appointed by AG of Antigua** to gather evidence for prosecution of the \$61m fraud. Directed and worked with specialized police in Antigua.

### Trainings/Teaching/Trial Observations

In depth experience training lawyers, Judges, magistrates, police, NGO workers and social workers in international human rights law, IHL, interviewing vulnerable witnesses.

Conducted trial observations in Bahrain, Colombia, Jamaica, Tanzania, Nigeria and India and led supervision of barristers deployed on trial observations. Recent Trainings:

- **2021 – 2023** Training in child rights (Unicef Myanmar – leading a team)
- **2021** Training in terrorism law and fair trial rights in Kosovo (consultant to OSCE)
- **2020** Training in international law to anti-corruption agency and NGOs (LGBTQ rights). Kazakhstan (British embassy).
- **2019** Led a course on advocacy and vulnerable witnesses at NLU New Delhi India.
- **2019** Trial observations of trial of Santiago Uribe, Medellín Colombia
- **2009 -2018** Led 15 training delegations of UNICEF's Child Protection Networks in Nigeria, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Judicial Institute and Judges, magistrates, social workers in child rights having compiled the programmes after two fact finding missions. Nigeria.
- **2018** Led two international human rights trainings on rights of IDPs and on environmental law. Delivered to around 150 barristers of the Nigerian Bar Association
- **2012** Led the team teaching the students and training the lecturers on a case management and advocacy, Law Course at Tanzania Law School. Tanzania
- **2012** Led the training of lawyers and human rights defenders in human rights and “free and fair” elections. Zimbabwe

### Mediation and Diplomacy

#### **Include:**

- **2012- 2013** Facilitated an apology from President Santos San José de Apartadó peace community; described as a “historic” moment in Colombia’s history.
- **2013- 2023** – ongoing conflict resolution work in Colombia

### Changing the Law

#### **Include:**

- **2014- 2016** Expert evidence to Parliament Select Committees; headed the proposals and then the drafting which resulted in introduction of FGM Protection Order legislation (see *Hansard*)
- **2019-2021** Advising Amnesty Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, and Switzerland on consent-based rape legislation.
  - Spoke at two conferences in Denmark and Finland

- Advised Ministry of Justice in Denmark.
- Law changed in Denmark to consent based sexual offences law.
- **2020** Led the call for review of all Covid 19 emergency laws charges by Crown Prosecution Service after highlighting wrongful prosecutions (successful).
- **2017 -2021** – UN resolution on the Elimination of Harmful Practices Related to Accusations of Witchcraft and Ritual Attacks.

<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1v/k1v09mj232>

Provided legal advice, moderated 2-day expert seminar at UN and drafted Resolution. Resolution passed. Its first report was March 2023.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5247-study-situation-violations-and-abuses-human-rights-rooted>

- **2020 -2023** Case of LG Republic of Ireland Advice and expert evidence on refusal to allow single mother foster carer to apply for adoption of child. Policy reversed.

#### **Expert evidence/Select Committees include:**

- **2020** Sexual offences laws Grevio in Strasbourg.
- **2020** Evidence on Covid emergency laws to Constitutional Committee
- **2021** Evidence on Covid emergency laws to Human Rights Committee
- **2021** – Evidence before Home Affairs Select Committee on Sexual Offences
- **2022** – Evidence to Justice Select Committee on criminal justice system
- **2022** Evidence to Justice Select Committee on legal aid
- **2023** Evidence to Home Affairs Select Committee on policing priorities

#### **Media, Speaking, Chairing**

In depth experience of media communication, having previously been appointed as a spokesperson of the Bar Council; sought after public speaker and Chair (Spanish and English). Including:

- **2020- 2023** CBA conference in Manchester. WWF/RSPB/National Trust panel chaired by Lord Carnwarth. Various recorded speeches for panels.
- **2018 -2020 Amnesty International** “Yes Means Yes” conferences –speaker in Denmark and Finland (alongside former Director General of Amnesty International)
- **2019 Panel on Refugees** – European Criminal Bar Association Athens
- **2018 Pakistan Human Rights Conference** – keynote and panel speaker Lahore
- **2018 Honduras Judicial Conference** – Independence of Judiciary December 2018 (in Spanish)
- **2018 Legal Scholars Annual Seminar: The Legal Legacies of the Iraq War 2003** SOAS London
- **2017 witchcraft stigmatization and abuse of people with albinism** -overall moderator & speaker at a 2 -day UN conference Geneva
- **2018 Colombia peace process**– Speaking with Colombian Ambassador Nester Londoño chaired by Lord McConnell House of Lords.

- **2016 Index Freedom of Expression** -Judge and presenter at prestigious awards ceremony. London
- **2015 Thomson Reuters debate on the ECtHR** – Debate with Matthew Parris vs former Foreign Minister Jack Straw and Michael Mansfield QC London
- **2015 “Does Human Rights Law mean that the days of national boundaries are numbered?”** Speaking alongside Sir Maurice Kay, Lord David Pannick QC, and former AG Dominic Grieve London
- **2015 Magna Carta conference** with former Phillips LCJ, Lord Goldsmith, and former SG of India Delhi
- **2014 Colombia San José de Apartadó** Speaker. Chair Lord Joffe. Houses of Parliament<sup>2</sup>. London
- **2013 West Africa/child soldiers** HRW Festival: interviewed by BBC Curzon cinema London
- **2012 "Women and the Media"** and Article 8 and Article 10 - International Media Conference Mauritius

### **Publications**

#### **Include:**

- A regular writer for The Times
- A criminal and human rights law commentator in legal publications Lexis Nexis and Westlaw.
- Co-author and editor of Unicef’s Nigeria manuals on Child Rights, the manuals for the Nigerian Bar Association on Protections and Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and environment law and manuals on Advocacy Training National Law University New Delhi.
- Co-author manual Child Rights for Unicef Myanmar
- Produced training videos and podcasts (including with the National FGM centre Barnardos)
- UK Supreme Court Yearbook 2015