



Speaker Bios

The International Council of Advocates presents a distinguished range of speakers for its Fourth World Bar Conference in Dublin and Belfast in June. These speakers include:



Robert Fisk, a British journalist and Middle East correspondent for the British newspaper, *The Independent*, has been described in the *New York Times* as “probably the most famous foreign correspondent in Britain”. He has over 30 years of experience in international reporting, dating from 1970s Belfast and encompassing the 1991 Persian Gulf War and 2003 invasion of Iraq. He is one of the world's most decorated foreign correspondents having received numerous awards, including the British Press Awards ‘International Journalist of the Year Award’ 7 times. He is one of the few Western journalists to have interviewed Osama bin Laden.



Dublin born **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin** studied philosophy at University College Dublin and theology at the Dublin Diocesan Seminary (Holy Cross College, Clonliffe). He was ordained priest in 1969. He later pursued higher studies in moral theology at the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. In March 2001 he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop and undertook responsibilities as Permanent Observer of the Holy See in Geneva, at the United Nations Office and Specialised Agencies and at the World Trade Organisation. He led the delegations of the Holy See to the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation, the

World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Dr Martin automatically succeeded Cardinal Desmond Connell as Archbishop of Dublin on 26 April 2004.



Justice Kate O'Regan obtained her LLB from the University of Cape Town in 1980 and an LLM degree with first class honours from the University of Sydney in 1981. She holds a PhD from the University of London and honorary doctorates including the University of Natal. From 1982 to 1985 she worked for a firm of attorneys in Johannesburg, specialising in labour law and land rights. During this time she was an executive member of the Industrial Aid Society, an advice office for the unemployed, as well as a roster lawyer for Actstop and the Black Sash. In mid-1988 she was appointed as a senior researcher in the Labour Unit at UCT. In 1992 she was promoted to associate professor at the same university. During her years at UCT, she was a founder member of the Institute of Development Law and the Law, Race and Gender Research Project. She was also a trustee of the Legal Resources Centre. In 1994 O'Regan was appointed a Judge of the Constitutional Court. She has been an honorary visiting professor at the University of South Africa and at the University of Cape Town, and holds honorary degrees from the University of Natal and the University of Cape Town.



Conor Gearty studied law at University College Dublin, qualifying also as a solicitor in the Republic of Ireland. He took a masters degree in Law at Cambridge followed by a PhD in environmental law. He became a Fellow in Law at Emmanuel College for seven years, before moving to King's College London in the early 1990s. In 2002 he moved to LSE, to a post in the law department but also to become the first Rausing Director of LSE's new Centre for the Study of Human Rights. He is still director of the centre and professor of human rights law at LSE but is also a visiting professor at a number of universities abroad. His academic research focuses primarily on civil liberties, terrorism and human rights. Conor has a large journalistic output too and writes a regular column for the Tablet. A founder member of the Matrix Chambers, he created the Matrix legal team which is defending the former prime minister of Kosovo against the international crimes with which he has been charged by the International Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia.



Colm O'Cinneide was called to the Irish Bar in 1997. After teaching constitutional law in the University of Limerick, Ireland, he became Legal Officer to Lord Lester of Herne Hill until 2001. Conor then joined the Faculty of Laws in University College London. He is currently a member of the European Committee of Social Rights, the EU Network of Legal Experts in the Non-discrimination Field and the Blackstone Chambers Academic Panel. He boasts, among his many appointments to expert bodies, being the Specialist Legal Adviser (Equalities) to the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights.



Paul Gallagher, Attorney General of Ireland, advises the Government in matters of law and legal opinion and attends cabinet meetings in that capacity. Paul was called to the Irish Bar in 1979 after completing his LLM in the University of Cambridge, and the Inner Bar in 1991. Between 1995 and 1996 he was elected as Vice Chairman of the Bar Council and took Chairmanship of the Bar Council's European Law Sub-Committee. He was appointed Attorney General in June 2007.



Dominican born **Patricia Scotland** was called to the Bar, Middle Temple, in 1977 after graduating with LLB Hons (London). She received Silk in 1991 and became a Bencher in 1997. She is also a member of the Bar of Antigua and the Commonwealth of Dominica. Her career has been varied; a founder member and head of Chambers of 1 Gray's Inn Square, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and has chaired a number of Inquiries relating to child abuse, mental health and housing. In 1992 she was voted Black Woman of the Year (Law). Baroness Scotland was created a peer as Baroness Scotland of Asthal in 1997 and was raised to the Privy Council in July 2001. She was appointed UK Attorney General in June 2007 from the Home Office where she previously had responsibility for Respect, anti-social behaviour policy, crime reduction strategy, youth crime, all legislation in the Lords, domestic violence, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and criminal law, race equality, international issues and was also the ministerial adviser on legal affairs.



Appointed Chief Commissioner for Human Rights in Northern Ireland in September 2006, **Monica McWilliams** is currently on leave from the University of Ulster where she is Professor of Women's Studies. From 1997-2005 she led the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition of which she was a co-founder. She was a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Northern Ireland from 1998 to 2003 as assembly member for South Belfast and was an elected member of the Multi-Party Peace Negotiations which led to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in 1998. In this capacity, she was involved in negotiations with the governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland as well as discussions at the presidential level with the United States of America and South Africa. Monica's writing on domestic violence, human security and the role of the political conflict on women's lives is widely published. Her work has been recognised by the John F Kennedy Leadership and Courage Award and

the Frank Cousin's Peace Award. She has received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Lesley College, Massachusetts and Mount Mary College, Milwaukee and is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and the University of Michigan.



Dame Nuala O'Loan is a qualified solicitor and from 1974 to 1992 she lectured in law at what is now the University of Ulster becoming a senior lecturer holding the Jean Monnet Chair in European Law until her appointment as the first Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland in 1999. Among many prominent investigations during her tenure as Ombudsman she was charged with looking into police handling of the Omagh bombing in 1998. In 2007 she published the results of Operation Ballast, an investigation into collusion between the RUC and the UVF in relation to the murder of Raymond McCord Jr in 1997. In late 2007 Nuala announced her intention to back the Joseph Rowntree Foundation initiative where she was invited to join a five-person panel which hopes to facilitate discussions between the Spanish government and ETA. In February 2008, the Government of the Republic of Ireland appointed her as special envoy in Timor-Leste (East Timor).



A prominent media lawyer, **Beatrice Mtetwa** has defended many detained and harassed journalists in Zimbabwe, a country with limited freedom of the press. Mtetwa has worked on behalf of Zimbabwe's only independent daily newspaper, the Daily News until it was closed by the Mugabe Government in 2003. However, many of its journalists continue to face criminal charges for their work and she continues to work on their defence. In 2007 she won acquittals for 2 British Sunday Telegraph journalists who had been charged with working without accreditation. In 2005 she received the International Press Freedom Award. She is currently the President of the Law Society in Zimbabwe, an elected post with a 2 year tenure.