temple garden chambers

Dato Shyamala Alagendra

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Dato Shyamala Alagendra is a distinguished international lawyer who is called to the Malaysian Bar in April 1998 and admitted as an Advocate & Solicitor in Malaysia.

She practises from her legal firm in Kuala Lumpur, as well as before all international criminal courts. She has prosecuted in leading cases before the Special Panel for Serious Crimes in East Timor (SPSC), before the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) and at the International Criminal Court (ICC). At the SCLS she was in the team that prosecuted former Liberian President Charles G. Taylors and at the ICC she was in the team that indicted former President Omar Bashir of Sudan and senior members of his government. She has acted as Defence Counsel before the ICC and the STL. She has represented high profile defendants including the William Ruto (Deputy President of Kenya), Saif Al Islam Gadafi of Libya and others. She also served as an adviser to the defence team representing Fatmir Limaj before the EULEX Courts in Pristina related to war crimes and corruption charges. Shyamala was served as the Assistant Director of Prosecutions of the Republic of Fiji where she led numerous prosecutions of crimes against children and secured the first life sentence for child rape. She has served as the Gender and Child Rights Advisor to the United Nations Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM) and is presently the Gender Advisor to the OHCHR Sri Lanka accountability project. Shyamala has represented victims of human rights violations in Kenya and Sierra Leone and victims of sexual abuse by clergy in Sierra Leone.

Served as an elected member of the Executive Committee and Victims Committee of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA).

In April 2014, Shyamala was awarded the title of Dato by the Sultan of Perak (both the former Lord and King of Malaysia) for services to International law.

Expertise

International Law

Notable International Law cases

Prosecutor v Gaddafi ICC-01/11-01/11

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Counsel for Dr Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi in admissibility proceedings before the ICC. Dr Gaddafi contends that his case is inadmissible before the ICC because he has already been tried in Libya for the same conduct.

Prosecutor v Al-Jadeed TV & Karma Khayat, Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)

Karim Khan QC, Rodney Dixon QC and Dato' Shyamala Alagendra represented TV station and journalist in trial at STL on allegations of witness interference. This is the first trial before an international court in which a corporate entity has faced charges. TV station and journalist has been acquitted of all counts.

Prosecutor v William Samoei Ruto et al., ICC-01/09-01/11

Karim Khan QC and Dato' Shyamala Alagendra represented H.E. Deputy President of Kenya Mr. William S. Ruto against ICC crimes against humanity allegations arising from violence following Kenya's 2007 national elections.

Prosecutor v Francis Kirimi Muthaura et al., ICC-01/09-02/11

Karim Khan QC and Dato' Shyamala Alagendra represented Ambassador Francis Kirimi Muthaura, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, against ICC crimes against humanity allegations arising from violence following Kenya's 2007 national elections.

Appointments

- Former elected member of the Executive Committee and Victims Committee of the International Criminal Court Bar Association (ICCBA)

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