



## Pierre-Olivier Sur

Call 1985

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Pierre-Olivier Sur has been working as a criminal lawyer for the last thirty years.

He specialises in all areas of criminal law, with a particular emphasis on human rights, extradition, political and white-collar cases, and has extensive international experience. In 2014 and 2015, he was President of the Paris Bar, ("Bâtonnier de Paris"), whose members total some 30,000 lawyers.

Pierre-Olivier Sur acts for States, individuals and victim groups, both in France and abroad.

### The mandate of President of the Paris Bar

During his mandate as President of the Paris Bar, he was also involved in different international criminal law cases, including the Al Faris case in Lebanon, where he defended the youngest Syrian refugee sentenced to death before the Court of Cassation, and obtained one of the first dissenting Opinions against the death penalty filed by Judge Ghada Aoun.

### French practice

His clientele in Paris is well known and high profile. He has intervened in famous cases such as the Sang contaminé (the infected blood case), Affaire ELF, Erika (an environmental case), and the case of Bernard Tapie (a white-collar crime case).

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## Expertise

### International Law

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Pierre-Olivier Sur has been involved in several cases in Africa and the Middle East.

From 1998, he has been representing President Blaise Compaoré (Burkina Faso), in particular in the Zongo case.



In 2000, he defended President Alpha Condé (Guinea) when he was a political opponent.

In 2008 and 2009, he assisted President Hissène Habré before the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

Between 2008 and 2010, he was instructed as international counsel to a large group of victims in the first case before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (Prosecutor v Kaing Guek Eav alias Duch).

From 2012 to 2014, he represented Suha Arafat in the criminal proceedings opened in France regarding the death of President Yasser Arafat.

From 2013 to 2015, he was in charge of the defence of the son of President Abdoulaye Wade (Senegal) before the Court in charge of recovering stolen assets (CREI) in Dakar.

From 2012, he has been defending, alongside Karim Khan QC, Gaddafi's former Prime Minister Baghdadi Mahmoudi in proceedings in Libya (he visited his client and assisted with some hearings in Tripoli).

Pierre-Olivier Sur also has several French clients involved in international cases, such as Maude Versini in Mexico (international child abduction case against the former Governor of Mexico), Pascal Mazurier (French diplomat accused in India) and the ALP Society in the Dropped case (helicopter crash).

## Appointments

- Member of the Bar Council (2016-2018)
- President of the Paris Bar (2014-2015)
- French representative at the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Rio (August 2015)
- Lecturer in criminal law at bar school (2006-2014)
- Co-founder of the association "Je ne parlerai qu'en présence de mon avocat" (2009)
- Administrator of the Guarantee Fund for victims of terrorist acts and other offences ("Fonds de garantie des victimes des infractions") (2002-2013)
- Member of the board of directors of the National Institute for Advanced Studies in Security and Justice(2008-2011)
- Member of the Ethics Committee of the Paris Bar (2001-2009)
- Member of the Bar Council (1998-2000)
- Judicial observer for Aboud Zaïd's trial in Le Caire (Egypt) (1996)
- Lecturer in criminal law at Tours University (France) (1995-1997)
- Judicial observer for the trial of the French hostages held by the Serbian people in Sarajevo (Bosnia) (1994)
- Contributor to Raymond Dapardon's documentary "Flagrant délit" (1994)
- Lecturer in general knowledge at IEJ (Legal Studies Institute) Paris, Lecturer at the Magistracy School (1993-1995)
- Secretary of the Paris Bar Society (Conference du stage) (1990)
- Regular Member of the jury at the French Bar School

## Education

- Sciences Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies) (1987)
- Master's degree in general private law, University Paris II (Panthéon Assas) (1984)
- Degree in Arts, University Paris IV (Sorbonne) (1983)

## Languages

- French

## Memberships

- Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)

## Publications

- **“UNE HISTOIRE DES AVOCATS EN FRANCE”**  
18th October 2016  
History of French lawyers. Co-Author: Bernard Sur. Published: 2013
- **“DANS LES YEUX DU BOURREAU”**  
18th October 2016  
Book reporting the “Khmer Rouge” trial. Published: 2010
- **“NUL N’EST CENSÉ IGNORER LA LOI”**  
18th October 2016  
Book on criminal trials. Published: 2004
- **“DROIT PÉNAL GÉNÉRAL”**  
18th October 2016  
Handbook on general criminal law. Published: 1997