



## Rodney Dixon KC

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Rodney Dixon KC has a diverse practice in the UK and globally in international law, public law, inquiries, compliance and regulation, and human rights.

He appears on behalf of Governments, serving and former Heads of State, politicians, military commanders, individual complainants and defendants, international organisations, companies and businesses, NGOs, and victim groups. He specialises in public international law, international criminal law, and human rights and civil liberties before all international, regional and national courts.

Rodney's expertise lies in cases concerning foreign relations, inter-State disputes, the armed forces, international prosecutions and defence, public inquiries, civil claims with international components, mediation and arbitration, cross-border proceedings, asset recovery, extradition and mutual assistance. His work covers all international criminal courts; UN proceedings, claims, and special procedures; actions before the International Court of Justice (ICJ); cases at the European Court of Human Rights; applications before the African Commission and African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; Privy Council cases; bilateral investment treaty matters; territorial and border disputes; public inquiries and investigations; World Bank Sanctions Board proceedings; land claims and reparations; corporate compliance and regulation; detentions abroad; Universal Jurisdiction cases in multiple countries; Interpol and international and European arrest warrants; and, private international law cases.

## Expertise

### International Law

Rodney Dixon KC is a leader in the field of PIL acting on behalf of Governments, companies and individual litigants. He regularly appears before international courts and bodies. He has represented several Governments in complex international proceedings including the Governments of the United Kingdom, Kenya, Afghanistan, Mauritius, Georgia, Ukraine, Rwanda, South Sudan, Egypt and the Comoros. He has advised on UN proceedings, border and territorial disputes, investment treaty matters, sanctions, national sovereignty and security interests, and reparation claims. Rodney has particular experience acting for Governments undertaking national investigations and restorative justice programs that comply with international standards. When, for example, Zimbabwe faced international calls for an investigation



following post-election violence in 2018 Rodney was appointed by the President of Zimbabwe to serve on the national Commission of Inquiry into post-election violence that was chaired by the former President of South Africa. He is currently representing the East Turkestan Government in Exile regarding the allegations of genocide against the Uyghurs.

Rodney is one of a handful of lawyers who has both prosecuted and defended in international criminal courts. He has secured acquittals for clients in every international court. He regularly appears before the ICC and other international criminal courts (like the ICTY and ICTR) for individual defendants, States, and victims. These include acting as Defence Counsel for the Prime Minister of Kosovo; Abdullah Al-Senussi, former Libyan Head of Intelligence; a Bosnian Army commander for operations in central Bosnia; the investigator of Charles Taylor; and a prominent TV journalist in Lebanon; as well as Counsel for Gaza Flotilla representatives; and, interveners in the Sudan ICC Situation in the case concerning President Al Bashir. He has acted and advised before all hybrid courts including the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Iraqi Special Tribunal, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the War Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda, and most recently the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC).

Rodney is the co-author of the leading textbook Archbold International on the law, procedure and practice of all international criminal courts, now in its 5th Edition (Sweet & Maxwell). It has been described by Justice Richard Goldstone, the former Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY and ICTR, as the book that “will always be open on the desks in offices” at the courts in The Hague.

## **Notable International Law cases**

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### Government of Afghanistan

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Acted for the Government of Afghanistan in all proceedings before the ICC including in hearings before the Appeals Chamber and the deferral of the investigation to the national system, and advised in respect of international law disputes.

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### Government of Kenya

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Counsel for the Government of Kenya in the cases brought against the President, Vice President and others at the ICC (including in respect of asserting national sovereignty over the cases, disclosure requests, national security issues, official immunity, and relations with international organisations) – none of the cases proceeded at the ICC.

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### Government of the United Kingdom

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Represented the UK Government before the ICC in respect of allegations against UK armed forces arising from the Iraq conflict – the ICC Prosecutor decided not to proceed on the basis of the national investigations being conducted in the UK – and advised on international law issues arising from conflict and related matters.

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### Government of East Turkestan in Exile

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Appearing for the Government in Exile on behalf of Uyghur victims of the alleged genocide and crimes against humanity. Submissions have been filed before the ICC, UN and various Governments and legal actions taken for accountability and reparation.

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#### Government of Comoros

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Counsel for the Government of Comoros in its referral to the ICC of the Gaza Flotilla case. Represented the Government in protracted judicial review proceedings before the ICC Pre-Trial Chambers and Appeals Chamber.

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#### Government of Georgia

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Acted for the Government of Georgia in proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights concerning the conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and advised the Government in respect of international law disputes.

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#### UN Sanctions

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Representing high profile persons under UN sanctions in confidential proceedings before the UN Sanctions Committee, the EU and OFAC to have the sanctions against them lifted both in respect of asset freezes and travel bans.

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#### World Bank proceedings

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Counsel for companies in proceedings concerning allegations of corruption and bribery before the World Bank, Sanctions Board. Hearings held at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC.

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#### Former Government of Egypt

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Acted for the former Government of Egypt (of President Morsi) following the coup in 2013 including before the UN, ICC, in judicial review proceedings in the UK, and UK parliamentary inquiries. Also acted before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights concerned the mass death sentences imposed by the new Government.

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#### Government of Mauritius

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Represented the Government of Mauritius in various cases before the Privy Council, including *Tyack v The State of Mauritius* concerning the application of UK sentencing guidelines in Mauritius.

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## Syria

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Acting on behalf of a large group of refugees who have been forced to flee Syria into Jordan as a result of the conflict and are living in refugee camps there. An application to the ICC Prosecutor has been filed on their behalf to open an investigation into the crimes against humanity of unlawful deportation from Syria to Jordan and related offences.

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## Government of Sudan

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Advised the Government of Sudan in respect of border and territorial disputes that were referred to the United Nations and the African Union.

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## Northern Rock investment treaties

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Advised the UK authorities in respect of investment treaty matters arising from the banking crisis in the UK and abroad.

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## International Defence cases

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Defence Counsel in several high profile international cases before international courts including for Ramush Haradinaj, former Prime Minister of Kosovo, in protracted trial, appellate and retrial proceedings (full acquittal); Amir Kubura, senior Bosnian Army Commander in the Yugoslav conflict (acquitted of all murder charges); Prince Taylor, investigator of Charles Taylor (acquitted of all charges); and, Karma Khayat, prominent Lebanese TV journalist, and Al Jadeed TV Channel (acquitted of all charges).

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## Public Law

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Rodney Dixon KC is a renowned counsel in the field of public law, civil liberties and human rights. He appears in well-known cases including for Hatice Cengiz, widow of the murdered Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Rodney regularly appears in public law and civil proceedings. He is currently acting in the High Court on behalf of Durham academic Matthew Hedges who was detained and tortured in the UAE on spying charges, and in similar proceedings for Ali Issa Ahmad who was imprisoned there during the Asian Football Cup in January 2019. He has acted in judicial review proceedings on behalf of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and other Government Departments, as well as for individual claimants. He undertakes complaints before Ofcom and privacy cases.

Rodney is widely known for his expertise in Universal Jurisdiction cases in multiple countries. He has an extensive public law and human rights practice in international and foreign courts. His cases before the European Court of Human Rights have included for the Government of Georgia concerning the conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia and for the Ukrainian Government regarding the occupation of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. He has appeared in cases and hearings before the African Court and African Commission



on Human and Peoples' Rights including in relation to mass death sentences imposed in Egypt, and the detention of Saif Gaddafi (which was heard by the African Court in Arusha, Tanzania). He has represented many persons arbitrarily detained abroad, including the former President of South Korea, prominent Moroccan journalist Taoufik Bouachrine, and women imprisoned in Saudi Arabia. He currently acts for over 100,000 Kenyan citizens in a land claim stemming from the colonial period.

## **Notable Public Law cases**

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Al Jazeera Media Network: Shireen Abu Akleh

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Acting as counsel for Al Jazeera in proceedings concerning the killing of its correspondent US national Shireen Abu Akleh while she was reporting for Al Jazeera in the West Bank in May 2022. The case has been widely publicised including that the FBI has launched an investigation

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Jamal Khashoggi

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Counsel for Hatice Cengiz, widow of Jamal Khashoggi – acting in several proceedings in multiple jurisdictions to obtain justice including regarding the take over of Newcastle Football Club by the Saudi Investment Fund.

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Matthew Hedges

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Acting for Mr Hedges in universal jurisdiction cases and civil proceedings for this detention and torture in the UAE, and for Ali Issa Ahmad in similar litigation.

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Kenya Land Claim

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Representing over 100,000 persons displaced from their lands in Kericho County, Kenya, during the colonial period and thereafter. Hearings have been held before the National Land Commission in Kenya in order to seek reparations and compensation for those dispossessed.

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Princess Latifa Al Maktoum

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Represented Princess Latifa before the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) and other UN bodies. She had not been seen in public for over 2 years following a failed attempt to escape from her family in Dubai in March 2018 when she was captured off the Indian coast while fleeing from the UAE. The Princess has since been released.

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Former President of South Korea

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Represented in international proceedings the former President of South Korea, Ms Park Geun-hye, who had been impeached and stood trial in Seoul on charges of corruption, bribery and abuse of power. Urgent proceedings were launched before the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in Geneva and other UN



bodies. The former President has now been released.

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#### Ofcom proceedings

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Counsel for complainants in Ofcom unfair broadcasting and privacy complaints due to broadcasts in the UK by a foreign news channel. Substantial fines were imposed on the news channel for the broadcasts and civil privacy proceedings are now underway.

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#### Detention cases in Saudi Arabia

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Representing persons detained in Saudi Arabia in order to secure their protection and release. Also authored widely publicised legal report on persons unlawfully detained and tortured in Saudi prisons.

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#### Dogan et al v Barak

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Represented plaintiffs from the Gaza Flotilla in civil claims in the US Federal Court for Central District of California for wrongful death under the Torture Victim Protection Act (TVPA) and the Alien Torts Statute (ATS). Counsel for other plaintiffs from the Flotilla in the US District Court for the District of Columbia in a civil suit for damages under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act arising from an attack on a US ship on the high seas.

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#### Bangladesh terror attack

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Acted as international counsel on behalf of a British national, Hasnat Karim, who was arrested following the terrorist attack on a cafe in Dhaka in 2016. Mr Karim was released from custody in 2018.

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#### Al-Jedda v Secretary of State for Home Department

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Acted for Home Office in case concerning the deprivation of UK citizenship and statelessness (which was decided in the Supreme Court).

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#### Tariq Aziz v Attorney General

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Represented the AG in a judicial review of the AG's refusal to grant permission to prosecute Tony Blair for alleged war crimes in Iraq.

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#### Harty v Sabre International Security

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Represented private security officer injured in Iraq in a civil claim in which jurisdiction to proceed in the UK before UK courts and the applicable law were central issues.



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## Inquiries

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Rodney Dixon KC is highly respected in the field of public inquiries and investigations at both the national and international levels. He has served as counsel in public inquiries in the UK and abroad.

He was appointed as a Commissioner on the National Commission of Inquiry into post election violence in Zimbabwe following the elections there in August 2018. He has been instructed in several well-known inquiries including, the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Disappeared Persons in Sri Lanka; for victims in the Jamaican Commission of Inquiry into the Tivoli Gardens killings; and, as part of the Counsel team for the UK Ministry of Defence in the Baha Mousa public inquiry.

Rodney was instructed by the Government of South Sudan as an international adviser in respect of legal and judicial reforms under the 2015 Peace Agreement following the civil war.

### Notable Inquiries cases

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#### Zimbabwe Commission of Inquiry

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Served as a Commissioner on the national Commission of Inquiry into post election violence in Zimbabwe following the August 2018 elections. Appointed by the President of Zimbabwe pursuant to the national Commissions of Inquiry Act.

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#### Sri Lanka Commission of Inquiry

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Advised on matters of international law to the Advisory Council of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry examining the final stages of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. Final report of the Commission was tabled in Parliament in October 2015.

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#### Baha Mousa Inquiry

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Part of the Counsel team for the MOD in the public inquiry into the death of an Iraqi national while in the custody of UK armed forces.

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#### Government of South Sudan

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Advised the Government of South Sudan in advancing the national criminal justice system and truth building mechanisms with a view to creating and strengthening national justice institutions, including in respect of representations before the UN in New York and Geneva.

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#### Tivoli Gardens Inquiry

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Represented residents of Tivoli Gardens, who were victims of an attack and killings in Kingston, Jamaica in 2010, before the National Commission of Inquiry and in other international actions.

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## **Extradition & Interpol**

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Rodney Dixon KC has a wide-ranging experience in extradition, international cooperation, and cross border cases.

He has acted on behalf of both requesting States and individual defendants in extradition proceedings. He has advised on extradition and mutual assistance matters and has particular expertise in international cooperation including in respect of Interpol and red notices.

He was instructed by the Government of Rwanda in proceedings before the ICTR to transfer cases from the international tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania to the national criminal justice system of Rwanda, and then in the related proceedings to extradite Rwandan suspects in the UK to Rwanda for trial.

### **Notable Extradition & Interpol cases**

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#### **Government of Kuwait -v- Ahmad Jarallah**

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Counsel for a Kuwaiti national residing in London in extradition sought by the Government of Kuwait in connection with allegations of fraud. It is one of the first cases in which an extradition request is being heard following the coming into force of the extradition treaty between the UK and Kuwait.

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#### **Ahmed Jaafar Ali v Government of Serbia**

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Representing Bahraini national Ahmed Jaafar Ali in proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) concerning his extradition to Bahrain from Serbia. The ECtHR ordered interim measures to bar his return but Mr Ali was sent to Bahrain in breach of this order. The Court is currently considering this violation as well as the merits of the case.

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#### **Government of Montenegro v Dr Dusko Knezevic**

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Acting for prominent Montenegrin politician and business person who is sought for extradition from the UK to Montenegro on fraud charges.

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#### **Government of Rwanda v Brown & Others**

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Extradition proceedings in respect of Rwandan suspects accused of genocide who had taken refuge in the UK.

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#### **Applications to Interpol concerning red notices**

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Represented leading cleric Yousef Al Qaradawi to have his Interpol red notices removed.

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Chung v FCDO

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Counsel for the Foreign Office in High Court proceedings concerning a claim for damages arising from an alleged unlawful extradition of a British national from the US to Hong Kong.

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Government of Germany v Calder

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Acted for a defendant accused of rape in Germany in extradition proceedings before the High Court.

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## Appointments

- Accredited Advocacy Trainer, Inner Temple
- Member of the Executive Council of the ICC Bar Association (ICCBA) (2017-2020)
- Visiting Senior Research Fellow, Department of War Studies, King's College London (2012-2015)
- Honorary Lecturer, International Law, University of Utrecht, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13
- Attorney-General's Panel of Civil Advocates (2006-2011) and appointed to 'A' Panel for Public International Law
- Disciplinary Committee of the Association of Defence Counsel (ADC) (2004-2005)
- Transferred from ICTY and called to the Bar (2000)
- Legal adviser (International law) and Counsel in the Office of the Prosecutor of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (1995-1999)
- Before working at the ICTY, qualified as a solicitor in South Africa

## Education

- D.Phil candidate (International Law), Oxford University, Wolfson College
- LLM (International Law & Human Rights, cum laude), Notre Dame University, USA
- BA LLB, Rhodes University, South Africa

## Memberships

- Association of Defence Counsel of the ICTY (ADC)
- List of Counsel of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- List of Counsel for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)
- List of Counsel for the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)



- List of Counsel for the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC)
- Member of South Eastern Circuit

## Recommendations

- “An exceptional barrister, highly esteemed for his wealth of knowledge” in representing international governments and political leaders and handling international criminal law matters before UK courts “who has long experience in international cases. A very good team player who provides invaluable support; an excellent practitioner who guides you through the process.” **Chambers & Partners**
- “He has an outstanding intellect, works very, very hard and is rated very highly as an advocate. He’s seen as being a real force to be reckoned with.” “Amazing. He’s really on top of all the case law and procedure, and knows exactly what he’s doing.” **Chambers & Partners**
- “Extremely knowledgeable in the international law area and has a keen appreciation of the differences – procedural and substantive – among national legal systems.” “Very approachable with a razor sharp intellect.” **Legal 500**
- “A confident, and creative approach to the protection and promotion of international human rights.” **Legal 500**