

EXPERIENCE

Systemic Justice June 2021 – present

Founder

Systemic Justice seeks to radically transform how the law works for communities fighting for racial, social, and economic justice. Centering affected communities in joint litigation, Systemic Justice will help broaden access to judicial remedies for those fighting for justice and equality.

Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom April 2020 – present

Adjunct Professor

Exploring different aspects of the right to freedom of expression in the offline and digital context from a legal and policy perspective through the options course “Freedom of Expression in the Digital Age”.

Symposium on Strength and Solidarity, New York, United States February 2019 – present

Moderator

The Symposium on Strength and Solidarity for Human Rights is a multi-year, international project to provoke new efforts and energy across the field of human rights to build organisational strength and increase mutual solidarity.

Columbia Law School, New York, United States September 2018 – 2021

Lecturer in Law

Developed and taught the seminar “The Defence of Freedom of Expression around the World: the Role of the Advocate”, which examines high-profile freedom of expression cases litigated in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, placing them in a broader context of substantive law and scholarship.

Digital Freedom Fund, Berlin, Germany March 2017 – December 2021

Director, Founder

Founded and led the Digital Freedom Fund, an organisation that supports strategic litigation to advance human rights in the digital context. Overall responsible for all aspects of strategic development, operations and activities. Developed the organisation into a widely recognised expert organisation which funds strategic litigation and builds the capacity of the European digital rights field.

Led a continuous, inclusive, and innovative field building strategy development process to enable digital rights litigators to better collaborate. Initiated a decolonising process for the digital rights field and developed a programme to address the intersection of technology and racial, social, and economic justice.

Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, United States September 2016 – present

Affiliate, previously Fellow. Created [Catalysts for Collaboration](#), a set of best practices and case studies that encourage better cross-disciplinary collaboration in strategic digital rights litigation.

Cyberlaw Clinic Advisor. Supervising students on research and litigation projects on human rights and technology.

Doughty Street Chambers, London, United Kingdom June 2016 – present

Associate Tenant

Human rights litigation and advice on international human rights, privacy and freedom of expression, public international law.

Media Legal Defence Initiative (now: Media Defence), London, United Kingdom November 2011 – June 2016

Legal Director since July 2014, previously: Legal Counsel and Senior Legal Counsel

Responsible for MLDI’s litigation in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America helping journalists, bloggers and independent media defend their rights. Represented clients or advised on cases in over 50 national jurisdictions as well as international courts and human rights tribunals, including the European Court of Human Rights, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, UN Human Rights Committee, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, ECOWAS Court of Justice, UNESCO and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Obtained the first freedom of expression judgment from the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the East African Court of Justice. Developed and delivered trainings on freedom of expression and national and international litigation strategy for lawyers in Europe, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, East and Southern Africa.

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and New York, United States July 2007 – October 2011
Associate and Senior Associate

Litigated various matters before national courts and international arbitration tribunals. Litigated before the Dutch Supreme Court on national recognition of foreign arbitral awards. Advised on European privacy regulations, outsourcing contracts and e-commerce.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.** Assisted the Commissioner's office in preparing the Recommendation "Unboxing Artificial Intelligence: 10 steps to protect Human Rights." 2019
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.** Trained lawyers from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on strategic litigation on freedom of expression; provided subsequent case support. 2018
- Hong Kong University.** Trained lawyers and journalists from Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Mongolia, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal on freedom of expression, defamation, and strategic litigation in Hong Kong. 2016
- Council of Europe.** Trained staff of Moldova's Equality Council and Ombudsman's Office on the ECHR and comparative law standards on hate speech and free expression in Chisinau, Moldova. 2016
- Central European University.** Co-developed and taught a web-based professional certificate course in media law fundamentals for journalists, civil society activists and lawyers in Central and South-eastern Europe. 2016 – 2018
- Thomson Foundation.** Delivered a series of trainings in Pristina, Kosovo for lawyers, judges and prosecutors on ECtHR standards on defamation, protection of sources, whistle-blowers and privacy. 2015 – 2016

EDUCATION

- European University Institute**, Florence, Italy July 2016
Summer course in law and logic
- European University Institute**, Florence, Italy June 2009
Summer course in human rights
- Columbia University School of Law**, New York, United States May 2006
LL.M.
Honours: Harlan Fiske Stone scholar; Amsterdam-Leiden-Columbia Program scholarship
Focus: Human rights, humanitarian law, law and development
- University of Amsterdam School of Law**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Meester in de rechten (J.D./LL.B. equivalent) International & European law March 2005
Meester in de rechten (J.D./LL.B. equivalent) Dutch civil law January 2005

SELECTED ADVISORY COMMITTEES & BOARDS

- Bureau Clara Wichmann**, Board Member 2020 – present
- World Economic Forum**, Expert Advisor technology and social justice 2020 – present
- Human Rights Watch**, Policy Committee Member 2019 – present
- Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development**, Board Member 2017 – present

HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Felipe Rodriguez Award**, which honours individuals who have done something remarkable for the right to privacy 2021
- Black Achievement Award**, shortlisted in the category science and education 2021
- Stefan A. Riesenfeld Memorial Award**, which honours one distinguished scholar or practitioner every year for their outstanding contribution to the field of international law 2021
- Harvard Law School's "Women Inspiring Change" honouree** 2020

Oxford Internet Institute Internet & Society Award , recognising extraordinary contributions towards the development, use or study of the Internet for the public good	2018
Law Society's Excellence Award for Human Rights Lawyer of the Year , shortlisted	2015
Columbia University Global Freedom of Expression Prize for Excellence in Legal Services , recognising legal work that has strengthened global understanding of international norms on freedom of expression	2015

LANGUAGES

Dutch (mother tongue), English (fluent), French and Italian (working knowledge), German (basic)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Academic and professional publications

[Can the GDPR and Freedom of Expression Coexist?](#), 114 *American Journal of International Law Unbound*, 31 (2020)
with Jonathan McCully, *The Protection of Political Speech*, chapter in *Regardless of Frontiers? Freedom of Expression and Information in the 21st Century*, Columbia University Press, publication pending 2020
with Merris Amos and Maribel Canto-Lopez, *European Court of Human Rights: Ruusunen v. Finland*, chapter in *Feminist Judgments: Rewriting International Law*, Hart Publishing, 2019
with Sègnonna Horace Adjolohoun, [Will Konaté set African journalists free? Interrogating the promises of an emerging press freedom jurisprudence in African regional courts](#), *African Human Rights Yearbook*, Volume 2, 2018
with Rosa Curling, *State Obligations in the African System: The Obligation to Investigate, Prosecute and Punish Violations of African Charter Rights*, chapter in [Judging International Human Rights. Courts of General Jurisdiction as Human Rights Courts](#), Springer, 2019
[Denying Genocide or Denying Free Speech? A Case Study of the Application of Rwanda's Genocide Denial Laws](#), 12 *Northwestern Journal of International Human Rights*, No. 2 (2014)

Online publications

[Government algorithms are out of control and ruin lives](#), openDemocracy, July 2021
[Why tech needs to focus on the needs of marginalized groups](#), World Economic Forum, July 2021
[Data collection is not the solution for Europe's racism problem](#), Al Jazeera, July 2020
[How Amazon's Moratorium on Facial Recognition Tech Is Different From IBM's and Microsoft's](#), Slate Future Tense, June 2020
[Rebuilding the master's house instead of repairing the cracks: why "diversity and inclusion" in the digital rights field is not enough](#), Digital Freedom Fund blog and Medium, September 2019
[Internet Freedom Without Imperialism](#), Knight First Amendment Institute "Emerging Threats" series, June 2018
[It Might Be Clogging Up Your Inbox, But GDPR Is One Of The Most Significant Data Laws In History](#), RightsInfo, May 2018
with David Kaye, [Digital Rights Are Human Rights](#), Slate Future Tense, December 2017
[The right to 'offend, shock or disturb,' or the importance of protecting unpleasant speech](#), [Perspectives on Harmful Speech Online](#), Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, August 2017
[A French court case against Google could threaten global speech rights](#), Washington Post, December 2016