

Personal data

Name: Hugh Adsett

Employment history

- 2008 – present Director (EX-02), Criminal, Security and Diplomatic Law (JLA), Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.
Responsible for managing a team of 13 lawyers, paralegals and support staff, providing advice, support and advocacy on international law as it relates to legal cooperation and assistance (extradition, civil assistance), transnational crime, and privileges and immunities. Budget and human resources responsibilities include managing the divisional budget; staffing rotational and non-rotational positions; and representing the branch on the Department's Human Resources Consultative Committee (2009-11).
- 2004 – 2008 Counsellor (EX-01), Legal, Economic and Social Affairs, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, New York, United States of America.
Responsible for representing Canada on the Sixth (Legal) Committee, and managing a team of five officers and support responsible for representing Canada on the Second and Third Committees.
During this posting, I was also Chair, Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (2005-08) and responsible for ensuring the Management Committee, composed of representatives of several United Nations Member States, was able to carry out its responsibility for ensuring the effective and efficient management of the Court, in particular by providing detailed review and oversight of the Court's budget, providing timely review of proposals to enhance efficiencies, leading annual visits to the Court, facilitating contact and relationships between the Court and United Nations member states in New York, and maintaining ongoing outreach to United Nations Members States on behalf of the Management Committee.
Prior to being Chair, I was a member of the Management Committee of the Special Court for Sierra Leone from 2004-2005.
- 2002-2004 Deputy Director, Environmental Law, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Responsible for managing a team of five lawyers providing advice on international environmental law.
I was also a member of the multilateral compliance committee of the Espoo Convention and, for a brief period prior to posting to New York, the Basel Convention.
- 2000-2002 Legal Officer, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.
Responsible for providing advice on a range of international human rights and humanitarian law issues, and representing Canada at negotiations on the Agreement for the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.

- 1998-2000 Third Secretary | Second Secretary, Embassy of Canada to Ethiopia, with accreditation to Eritrea, Djibouti and Sudan.
Responsible for reporting on developments and representing Canada in its relations with Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Sudan.
- 1998 Legal Officer, Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.
Responsible for providing advice on a range of international human rights and humanitarian law issues.
- 1997 Junior Advisor, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, New York, United States of America.
Responsible for participating in meetings and negotiations and reporting, as required, on developments in the Third (Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs) Committee during the United Nations General Assembly.
- 1996 – 1997 Desk Officer, Peacebuilding Division, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.
Responsible for providing advice on peacebuilding policy, particularly Canadian assistance to international election observation missions.
- 1995 Human Rights Field Officer, United Nations Human Rights Field Operation, Rwanda.
Responsible, as a member of a small team located in Cyangugu, Rwanda, for providing advice and monitoring human rights developments, including human rights education, liaison with local authorities, and visits to detention centres.
- 1993-1995 Articling student, Osler, Hoskin and Harcourt, Barristers and Solicitors, Ottawa, Ontario.

Professional memberships

- 1995 to present Barrister and Solicitor and member of the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario).

Education

- 1993 LL.B, Queen's University.
1988 M.A. (Journalism), University of Western Ontario.
1987 B.A. (Hon), History and Political Science, Mount Allison University.

Teaching and publications

- Lecturer, Advanced International Law, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Fall 2010.
- Lecturer, International Human Rights Law course, Queen's University Faculty of Law (Herstmonceux Castle, England), June 2009, June 2010, and June 2011.
- Lecturer, International Human Rights Law, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Fall 2001, 2002, and 2003.
- Lecturer, International Criminal Law, University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Winter 2004.

- Co-author, with Professor Ted McDorman, Anne Daniel and Masud Husain, "Compliance Committees and Recent Multilateral Environment Agreements: The Canadian Experience with Their Negotiation and Operation" (2004), 42 Canadian Yearbook of International Law 91-142.

Languages: English, French.

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