

Personal

Name: Wilhelmina Maria Elisabeth Thomassen
Date of birth: 8 September 1949, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Nationality: Dutch

Judicial career

2004 – present Justice of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands (Hoge Raad der Nederlanden), Member of the Criminal Division.
Ad-hoc judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg.

1998 - 2004 Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg.
Vice-President of the Court's First Section from May 2000 to November 2001.
Member of the Working Party on Rules of Court.

1997 - 1998 Justice and Vice-President of the Court of Appeal of The Hague.
Child protection and family law cases.

1994 - 1997 Vice-President of the District Court of The Hague.
Senior investigating judge in criminal cases involving organized crime.

1991 - 1994 Legislative adviser, Ministry of Justice.
Child protection and data protection.

1986 - 1991 Judge of the District Court of The Hague.
Criminal law and family law cases.

1975 - 1986 Lawyer, member of the Bar of Rotterdam and The Hague.
Criminal, private and family law.

1974 Master's Degree in Law, Leiden University.

Extracurricular posts and activities

2006 - present Professor of International Human Rights Law, Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

2006 - present Deputy Chair of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.

2006 - present Member of the Advisory Board of the *NJCM bulletin*, Dutch journal on human rights law.

2006 - present Member of the Human Rights Committee of the Dutch Advisory Council on International Affairs, an independent government advisory body.

2005 - 2007 Member of the editorial staff of *Nederlandse Jurisprudentie*, Dutch journal on national and European case law.

2004 - 2007 Deputy Chair of the Dutch Press Council.

- 1996 - 1998 Member of the Dutch Steering Committee on Strengthening Judicial and Legislative Systems in Moldova (a United Nations Development Programme project).
- 1994 - 1998 Member of the editorial staff of *Tijdschrift voor Familie- en Jeugdrecht*, Dutch journal on family and juvenile law.
- 1994 - 1997 Chair of the Dutch Association of Investigating Judges.
- 1992 - 1996 Vice-President of the Dutch Disciplinary Board for Maritime Pilots.

Training courses given and lectures held

- October 2007 The Hague (The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law/Maison Descartes): lecture on “Égalité des Armes” at a conference on “Best Practices in criminal proceedings: how to adjudicate the most serious crimes?”.
- May 2007 Salzburg (Europäisches Forum Alpach/University of St. Gallen): lecture on “The role of courts in international constitutional and human rights law” at a conference on “The role of courts in international law”.
- March 2007 San Marino (Council of Europe): lecture on “Les rapports entre la Cour européenne des droits de l’homme et les États parties à la Convention” at a conference on “The future of the European Court of Human Rights”.
- January 2007 Rotterdam (Erasmus Law School): lecture on “Legitimacy and reasoning” at a conference on “The Legitimacy of Highest Courts”.
- October 2006 Paris (Council of Europe/Court of Cassation): lecture on “Le filtrage des affaires devant les cours suprêmes d’un point de vue de la Convention européenne des droits de l’homme” at the Conference of Presidents of European Supreme Courts on “Access to the Supreme Court: trends and prospects”.
- May 2006 Utrecht (University of Utrecht): lecture on “The margin of appreciation in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in respect of the manifestation of religion” at a conference on “Religion and Human Rights”.
- June 2006 The Hague (The Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law): lecture on “The European Convention of Human Rights and the position of the national judge” at The Hague Colloquium on Fundamental Principles of Law.
- July 2005 The Hague: lecture on “Institutional challenges facing the European Court of Human Rights” at The Hague Joint Conference on Contemporary Issues of International Law.
- February 2005 The Hague Peace Palace (Club Judiciaire): “Le Hoge Raad et l’application de la Convention européenne des droits de l’homme”, lecture on the application of the European Convention of Human Rights by the Supreme Court of the Netherlands.

- October 2004 Strasbourg (Council of Europe): “L'évolution de la structure familiale” at a conference on “Le code civil et l'Europe: influences et modernité”.
- 1998 - 2004 Ankara, Cyprus, The Hague, Pristina, London, Paris, Sarajevo, Strasbourg: training courses and lectures on the European Court of Human Rights, its organization and case law for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, academics and civil servants.
- November 2003 The Hague (Council of Europe): lecture on “Living together with differences” at a seminar on “Fundamental rights in a pluralistic society”.
- May 2003 Athens: lecture on “Organised crime and human rights” at the second European Jurist Forum.
- March 2002 Brussels (European Commission): lecture on “The quality of judgments” at a seminar on “The quality of justice”.
- September 2001 Leiden University: lecture on the “Globalisation of evidence in criminal cases”.
- July 2001 St. Petersburg (World Bank): lecture on “The quality of judgments” at the Europe and Central Asia Regional Forum on legal and judicial reform.
- June 2001 Paris (École Nationale de la Magistrature): “La notion de proportionnalité dans la jurisprudence de la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme” at a seminar on “L'acte de juger”.
- April 2001 The Hague: lecture on “Evidence in cases concerning the right to life” for staff of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
- November 2000 London (Institute of Global Law, University College, London): lecture on “The Convention, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, a plethora of instruments of human rights?”.
- April 2000 London (Judicial Studies Board): training course for British judges on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights on the occasion of the entry into force of the Human Rights Act.
- 1994 - 1997 Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Ukraine: training courses and lectures for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, professors, civil servants and students on the application of the European Convention on Human Rights in the domestic legal systems of these countries.

Honours

- October 2007 Appointed *Chevalier dans l'ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur* by the French Republic for her commitment to the promotion of human rights in Europe.

Publications

- “De rol van de rechter in het internationale recht” (The role of courts in international law) in: *Liber Amicorum Bert van Delden* (The Hague, Boom, 2007).
- “Publication of judgments on the internet” (with Willibrord Davids) in: *Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Liber Amicorum Luzius Wildhaber* (Zurich/Sankt Gallen, Nomos, 2007).
- “Fundamentele waarden in het recht” (Fundamental values and the law) (Rotterdam, Boom, 2007).
- “Het geheim van de raadkamer en de dissenting opinion” (The secret of courts’ deliberations and the dissenting opinion) in: *Nederlands Juristenblad*, vol. 81. no. 12 (2006).
- “Een stage bij de Cour de cassation in Parijs” (a report of two weeks’ participation in the deliberations of the French Court of Cassation) in: *Trema* (2006, no. 7).
- “Six Years as a Judge in the European Court of Human Rights 1998/2004” in: *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*, vol. 22, no. 4 (2004).
- “Samenleven met verschillen” (Living together with differences) in: *Gelijkheid en (andere) Grondrechten* (Kluwer, Deventer 2004).
- “Pour le droit de recours individuel” (with Josep Casadevall, Marc Fischbach and Françoise Tulkens) in: *La réforme de la Cour européenne des droits de l’homme. Droit et Justice*, vol. 48 (2003).
- “Het individuele klachtrecht moet behouden blijven!” (The right of individual petition should be protected) in: *NJCM-bulletin*, vol. 28, no. 1 (2003).
- “Het Europese Hof voor de Rechten van de Mens in de 21e eeuw” (The European Court of Human Rights in the 21st century) in: *NJCM-Bulletin*, vol. 25, no. 3 (2000).
- “De bijdrage van de rechter aan de menselijke samenleving in Europa” (The contribution of the courts to a humane society in Europe) in: *Trema*, vol. 18, no.2 (1999).
- “Recht op een rechter” (Access to court) in: *Ars Aequi Libri Prinsengrachteeks* (1999).
- “Ontwikkeling van de taak en de plaats van de kinderrechter in het civiel recht en het strafrecht” (The powers of the childrens’ judge) in: *De kinderrechter, reden tot vreugde?* (Kluwer, Deventer 1998).
- “Adoptie en medegezag” (Adoption and joint custody) in: *Tijdschrift voor Familie en Jeugdrecht*, no. 4 (1996).
- “Minderjarigheid en ouderlijk gezag” (Minors and parental custody) in: *Nederlands Juristenblad*, no. 38 (1994).
- “De juridische afstammings-relatie tussen moeder en kind” (Parentage between mother and child) in: *Nemesis*, no. 3 (1994).

- “Adoptie in het licht van de mensenrechten” (Adoption and human rights) in: *Tijdschrift voor Familie en Jeugdrecht* (1994).
- “De grenzen van interventie in familierelaties” (The limits of state intervention in family life) in: *Nederlands Juristen Blad* (1993).

Language skills

Dutch: Mother tongue

French: Fluent (reading, writing and speaking)

English: Fluent (reading, writing and speaking)

German: Good (reading, writing and speaking)