Wright, Veronic (The Gambia)

[original: English]

Curriculum vitae

FAMILY NAME:	WRIGHT	
FIRST NAME:	Veronic	
MIDDLE NAME:		
GENDER:	Female	
DATE OF BIRTH:	08 October 1966	
NATIONALITY:	Gambia	
REGIONAL CRITERIA:	Africa	
SECONDARY NATIONALITY: (IF APPLICABLE)		
MARITAL STATUS:	Single	
LIST A/LIST B	List A	
LANGUAGES	**Mother tongue:** Krio	
- **ENGLISH**	(written) Advanced	(oral) Advanced
- **FRENCH**	(written) Intermediate	(oral) Intermediate
- OTHERS	Wollof : (written) Intermediate	(oral) Advanced
	: (written) Please select >>	(oral) Please select >>
	: (written) Please select >>	(oral) Please select >>
	: (written) Please select >>	(oral) Please select >>

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: *Date, institution, qualification(s) obtained (starting with most recent)*
- Please click the "+" sign in the bottom right corner to add more entries

09/1997 - 09/10/1998

- *Institution:* London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, United Kingdom
- *Qualification(s) obtained:* Master of Laws - (LL.M.)

03/1993 - 06/1993

- *Institution:* European University Centre for Peace Studies, Stadtschlaining, Austria
- *Qualification(s) obtained:* Certificate in Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies

09/1989 - 10/1990

- *Institution:* Nigerian Law School, Lagos, Nigeria
- *Qualification(s) obtained:* Barrister-at-Law (B.L.)

10/1985 - 07/1989

- *Institution:* Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone
- *Qualification(s) obtained:* Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

08/1983 - 06/1985

- *Institution:* Saint Augustine's High School, Banjul The Gambia
- *Qualification(s) obtained:* GCSE Advanced Level

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: *Date, employer, post title, other information (starting with most recent)*
- Please click the "+" sign in the bottom right corner to add more entries
- Please indicate the relevance of the experience to the candidacy under list A or list B, as appropriate

03/2023 - Present

- *Employer:* Judiciary of The Gambia
- *Post title:* Justice of Appeal, Court of Appeal of The Gambia
- *Other information:* My main responsibility is to hear and determine criminal and civil cases on appeal from the High Court, as a member of a panel of three judges. In this capacity, I review lower court's case records and legal briefs by lawyers, conduct legal research and write rulings and judgements to resolve cases on appeal. At times, I sit as a single judge to determine urgent interlocutory matters. Occasionally, I sit on the Supreme Court as Acting Judge.

  I am the Judiciary's representative on matters related to Transitional Justice and international criminal justice and a member of The Gambia-ECOWAS Joint Technical Committee on the Establishment of a Hybrid Court for The Gambia. In this capacity, I headed the sub-committee which drafted of the Statue of the Special Tribunal for The Gambia and worked closely with the experts from ECOWAS Commission and The Gambia, on drafting of the ECOWAS Decision that established the Special Tribunal. This Tribunal will try gross violations of human rights amounting to crimes against humanity committed in The Gambia between 1994 and January July 2017.

  I also carry out ad hoc tasks assigned by the Chief Justice to support the administration of the Judiciary, including the development of Human Resources Management documents and review of the Judiciary's Strategic Plan and I am the Chairperson of a Committee set up for that purpose. I am a member of the High Court Supervision and Monitoring Committee. I Chair a Committee for the Establishment of a Special Court for Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes in the Gambia. I support continuous training of judges and magistrates in areas of my expertise.

  This experience shows that I have established competence as a judge applying criminal law and procedure. It also demonstrates expertise in the field of international criminal law and procedure evidenced by the central role I played in the creation of the legal instruments for the Special Tribunal for The Gambia which will try serious violations of human rights amounting to crimes against humanity.

10/2020 - 02/2023

- *Employer:* United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT), New York, USA
- *Post title:* Senior Programme Management Officer and Head of the Human Rights and Gender Section
- *Other information:* UNOCT coordinates all the UN's counter-terrorism efforts and supports the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy by Member States and organisations. Initially, I was Head of the Pillar on Human Rights and Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism in which capacity I managed UNOCT's Human Rights Programme, Gender Programme, Victims of Terrorism Programme, the Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme and the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (PCVE) Programme. When Member States required more focus on the Human Rights and Gender in Counter-Terrorism, a special Section was created to manage the expanded Human Right and Gender Programmes and I became the Head of that Section. In this capacity, I oversaw the mainstreaming of Human Rights and Gender across all UNOCT mandated work. I liaised closely with other UN agencies working on counter-terrorism, including the OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in

Counter-Terrorism as well as governments and other partners. As a member of the Organisation's senior management team, I supported the Under Secretary General in the management of the Office.

This experience is relevant to List B to the extent that my work involved the application of human rights law and humanitarian law in the context of counter-terrorism, the mainstreaming of gender considerations in laws, policies and actions against terrorism as well as the support for victims of terrorism.

10/2019 - 10/2020

- *Employer:* United Nations Investigative Team to promote Accountability for crimes committed by Daesh/ISIS, Baghdad, Iraq
- *Post title:* Senior Legal Officer and Head of the Sexual and Gender Based Crimes and Crimes against Children Unit
- *Other information:* The mandate of UNITAD was to investigate and document the crimes of ISIS/Da'esh committed in the territory of Iraq during the period of its "Caliphate". My responsibility was to lead investigations into sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children committed by ISIS/Da'esh with a view to building cases against perpetrators including senior members of ISIS/Da'esh and collaborating with countries who instituted criminal prosecutions against ISIS/Da'esh members. I interviewed witnesses and survivors, reviewed and analyzed studies, reports and other information on the ideology and activities of ISIS/Da'esh. I also provided legal and policy advice and support to the various investigation teams within UNITAD on mainstreaming the investigation and documentation of sexual and gender-based violence and crimes against children in their work. As such, I provided advice on international standards and best practices regarding the investigation of sexual and gender-based crimes, as well as crimes against children, and contributed to the continued evolution of the same. Supported by a team of colleagues, I wrote the Policy on Gender Parity for UNITAD in implementation of the UN-wide Gender Parity Policy and supported gender parity in recruitment and promotion of staff. I also facilitated the provision of training and other capacity-building initiatives for national officials. As part of the senior management of UNITAD, I contributed to the management of the Team, including recruitment of staff, workload management and mentoring.

  This experience evidences competence in investigation of serious international crimes, particularly sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children in the context of the mass violence and building case files for possible future trials of perpetrators. It is relevant to List A.

01/2019 - 10/2019

- *Employer:* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- *Post title:* Senior Regional Legal Adviser, UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa
- *Other information:* I managed the Justice Programme for UNODC in West and Central Africa, supporting the delivery of technical assistance across the criminal justice chain including the training of investigators, prosecutors, magistrates, judges and prison officers. My work held a particular bias for strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters for more effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of serious crime among countries in West and Central Africa. I was also the Coordinator of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) whose primary objective was the strengthening of prosecutorial and judicial cooperation to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate serious crime in West Africa and beyond. In this capacity, I worked closely with other judicial networks such as EUROJUST. I also supported the development of national policies and legislation in the field of criminal law in countries within the sub-region.

  This experience illustrates established competence in criminal law and procedure in my capacity as legal adviser and trainer for prosecutors and judicial officials in that field and is relevant to List A.

09/2017 - 12/2018

- *Employer:* International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), Arusha, Tanzania
- *Post title:* Senior Legal Officer and Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Prosecutor
- *Other information:* In addition to prosecuting cases before the Mechanism, my work also included the referral of cases to national jurisdictions, the initiation of contempt proceedings, responding to applications for review of judgements by convicted persons and requests for early release filed by convicted persons. Under my tenure, we reviewed the case of The Prosecutor v. Augustin Ngirabatware and initiated contempt proceedings against Maximillan Turnabo et al. who were causing prosecution witnesses to try to change their trial testimony given at the ICTR trial of Augustin Ngirabatware. I provided assistance to several national jurisdictions requiring information and evidence to prosecute persons accused of crimes related to the Rwanda genocide of the Tutsi. I also had primary responsibility for effective functioning of the Arusha Branch of the Office of the Prosecutor, including the supervision of staff and assuring the quality of the legal filings emanating from the Office of the Prosecutor.

  This experience evidences established competence in international criminal law and procedure as a prosecutor and is relevant to List A.

08/2013 - 08/2017

- *Employer:* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Dakar, Senegal
- *Post title:* Senior Regional Legal Adviser and Head of the Justice Section
- *Other information:* As Senior Regional Legal Adviser and Head of the Justice and Integrity Section, I provided legal advisory services and technical assistance to 23 countries in West and Central Africa in all areas related to UNODC's mandate, including legal reform, strengthening of rule of law and respect for human rights, access to justice, prison reform and related issues in crime prevention and criminal justice. I was responsible for ensuring efficient programme delivery in the Section and preparation of the programmatic and financial reports of the Section's activities. As Coordinator of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP), I provided technical direction to support efficient and effective judicial cooperation in criminal matters among West African countries. This included training of prosecutors, magistrates and judges on international cooperation in criminal matters. I collaborated with ECOWAS and ECCAS Commissions, the AU and other relevant regional entities, built partnerships and liaised with counterparts, within and outside of the UN, to increase cooperation in the fight against organized crime and terrorism in West and Central Africa.

  This experience shows established competence in criminal law and procedure through training of prosecutors, judges, magistrates, investigators and competent authorities on international cooperation in criminal matters. It is relevant to List A.

08/2011 - 07/2013

- *Employer:* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, Austria
- *Post title:* Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Organised Crime Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs
- *Other information:* I supported the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC-COP) and its Working Groups and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), its preparatory meetings and sessions, including the Expert Working Group on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters. I wrote conference papers, agenda and notes, reports and draft resolutions. I also worked with States Parties to implement the UNTOC through technical assistance such as training, preparation of analytical reports and Guidelines, production of handbooks, manuals and other practical tools such as online libraries, like UNODC's SHERLOC Portal. I collaborated with experts, to produce the UN Guidelines of Trafficking in Cultural Property.

  This experience demonstrates established competence in the area of international criminal law and procedure, particularly, organised crime and crime prevention and

	criminal justice, through service to States and supporting strengthened capacity of prosecutors, judges and advocats in this area. It is of relevance to List A.
07/2010 - 07/2011	
- *Employer:*	United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Arusha Tanzania
- *Post title:*	Appeals Counsel, Office of the Prosecutor
- *Other information:*	I worked as part of a team of Appeals Counsel to prepare and draft appeal briefs for and on behalf of the Prosecutor. This included the review of ICTR and other Judgments. During this time, I also successfully prosecuted (as part of a trial team) Agustin Ngirabatware, one of the persons accused of Genocide and crimes against humanity. I supervised and mentored junior lawyers and interns and assisted in the management of the trial team.
08/2008 - 06/2009	
- *Employer:*	UN Department of Political Affairs, UN Secretariat, New York, USA
- *Post title:*	Senior Analyst, International Commission of Inquiry into the death of Benazir Bhutto, Former Prime Minister of Pakistan (The Bhutto Commission)
- *Other information:*	On Secondment from the ICTR to the Department of Political Affairs, I joined the technical staff of the Commission to support the fact-finding mission into the assassination of Ms. Bhutto. In this capacity I carried out investigations in Pakistan and other countries. I interviewed witnesses, visited sites relevant to the investigations, met with previous investigators into the incident and reviewed earlier reports on the assassination. I assisted the Commissioners on relevant aspects of the inquiry and made recommendations on next steps. I contributed substantially to writing the final Report of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Assassination of Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, that was submitted to the UN Secretary General. This experience testifies to my competence in investigations of serious crime, analysis of complex information writing detailed reports including drawing conclusions and making recommendations and is relevant to List A.
05/2005 - 07/2009	
- *Employer:*	United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Arusha, Tanzania
- *Post title:*	Trial Attorney, Office of the Prosecutor
- *Other information:*	As Trial Attorney, I prosecuted persons accused before the Tribunal, for genocide and crimes against humanity. I wrote briefs and legal opinions on legal topics relevant to the work of the Tribunal, conducted, directed and supervised further investigations as necessary, and managed the trial team in the absence of the Senior Trial Attorney. I also mentored junior colleagues and interns. As a member of a trial team, I was involved in the successful prosecution of 3 persons accused of crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity - namely Simon Bikindi, Calixte Kalimanzira and Emmanuel Rukundo. I was the team lead in the case of Emmanuel Rukundo. One of the Counts for which he was charged was sexual assault as a crime of genocide. This experience demonstrates established competence in the prosecution of the serious international crimes of Genocide and crimes against humanity and is relevant to List A.
02/1999 - 05/2005	
- *Employer:*	The Commonwealth Secretariat, London, United Kingdom
- *Post title:*	Chief Programme Officer and Legal Adviser, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division
- *Other information:*	I provided legal policy advise and technical assistance to Commonwealth countries on a variety of legal issues, facilitated interaction and networking among law officers throughout the Commonwealth through information sharing and organized meetings and conferences. In servicing Commonwealth Law Ministers' Meetings and Senior Law Officials Meetings, I wrote papers, made presentations and presented reports on the Secretariat's mandated activities. I was responsible for the

publication of two quarterly Newsletters on current criminal law matters, namely, CRIMENEWS and Commonwealth Legal Assistance News (CLAN). I was also in charge of keeping updated, various databases of international legal instruments and Commonwealth countries' legislation as a part of a reference legal library for member countries. I organised and managed (individually and collectively), major conferences and training programmes, including the Commonwealth Judicial Colloquium on Integrity and Ethics (Cyprus, June 2002). I also provided professional legal advice to the Secretary General and management on staff and human resources matters and the Contracts Review Board's Appraisal and Grievance Panels and represented the Secretariat before the Commonwealth Arbitral Tribunal.

This experience shows competence in the provision of legal advice in international criminal law and procedure and is relevant to List A.

10/1996 - 02/1999

- *Employer:* Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Justice, Banjul The Gambia
- *Post title:* Principal State Counsel
- *Other information:* As Principal State Counsel in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), I prosecuted serious crimes at the High Court and argued appeals before the Appeals Court and provided advice on all types of criminal matters to the Director of Public Prosecution and the Attorney General. I also regularly provided legal advice to the National Environment Agency. I supervised junior counsel and administrative staff and represented the government at international meetings and conferences.
  I started as a junior lawyer fresh out of Law School and worked my way up the hierarchy, progressively handling complex cases mainly in criminal prosecutions. This experience supports my competence for List A.

10/1993 - 10/1996

- *Employer:* Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Justice, Banjul, The Gambia
- *Post title:* Senior State Counsel, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- *Other information:* As Senior State Counsel, I wrote legal opinions, conducted criminal prosecutions and appeals. I also provided legal advice to the government on a range of issues including criminal matters and civil claims. I also carried out the functions of desk officer for environmental law in the Ministry of Justice and worked in the Office the Curator of Intestates Estates for a year. During this time, between 1993 to 1995, in addition to my regular duties, I worked as legal counsel before a commission of inquiry investigating allegations of corruption at the national farmers' co-operative. This experience is predominantly prosecutorial and therefore relevant to List A.

02/1991 - 09/1993

- *Employer:* Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Justice, Banjul, The Gambia
- *Post title:* State Counsel Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- *Other information:* I conducted criminal prosecutions and appeals on a variety of cases. I assisted the Director of Public Prosecutions to prepare for major criminal cases by carrying out legal research, preparing witnesses for trial, taking notes at trial and drafting summaries of evidence. I also supported other senior lawyers to prosecute complex criminal cases and provided legal advice on a range of other issues including Intellectual Property and human rights.

  This experience is predominantly prosecutorial and therefore relevant to List A.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Please click the "+" sign in the bottom right corner to add more entries

11/2025

- *Activity:* Study visit to the ICC, The Netherlands Prosecutor's Office, The Genocide Prosecutor's Network Meeting and The Paris Court of Appeal, France, as part of a team of experts from West Africa (Senegal, Guinea and The Gambia), organised by the Genocide Prosecution Network of the EUROJUST.

10/2025 - Present

- *Activity:* Chairperson of a Committee for the Establishment of a Sexual and Gender-based Crimes Court for The Gambia, October 2025-present.

02/2024

- *Activity:* Member of The Gambia-ECOWAS Joint Technical Committee on the Establishment of an International Court for the Prosecution of Perpetrators of Gross Human Rights Violations committed in The Gambia between July 1994 and January 2017.

02/2024

- *Activity:* Chairperson of The Gambia-ECOWAS sub-committee on the Drafting of the Statute of the Special Tribunal for The Gambia to try perpetrators of gross violations of human rights committed in the Gambia between July 1994 and January 2017.

09/2022

- *Activity:* Participant and Contributor to the High-level colloquium of legal experts and other stakeholders to critically look at the modalities required to establish a hybrid court in The Gambia to prosecute those named by the TRRC and the Government White Paper for international crimes – convened by The Gambia Bar Association and American Bar Association.

MOST RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

"The Right of the Gambian Child to a Clean Environment" Chapter Contribution to The Right of the Child to a Clean Environment - Edited by Agatha Fijalkowski & Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Published in 2000 by Taylor and Francis

MOST RELEVANT SEMINARS

"The Constitution Hill Principles for appointments to the Apex Court and it's relevance to the Gambian context." - Paper delivered at the Conference of Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association, held in Banjul, The Gambia (September 2025)

"Prosecuting international gender crimes: Investigations - cooperation, stakes, good practices". Presentation at a Regional Symposium on Investigating and Prosecuting International Gender Crimes, organized by the Embassy of France at the Judicial Institute of Senegal, Dakar, Senegal. (March 2025)

"Gender considerations in the provision of protective services for Victims and Witnesses" – Presentation to a Training on Victim and Witness Protection jointly organized by the American Bar Association, The Gambia National Human Rights Commission, the International Centre for Transitional Justice and The Gambia Ministry of Interior, Banjul, The Gambia. (November 2024)

"Accountability for past human rights abuses: Challenges and Opportunities for implementation of the TRRC recommendations. Perspectives from the Judiciary." – Presentation at a Stakeholder Conference on the Implementation of the TRRC Recommendations, Banjul, The Gambia. (September 2024)

"Reflections on The Gambia Model of Special Accountability Mechanism": Shared at a Forum of Stakeholders on The Gambia Post-TRRC, Banjul, The Gambia. (November 2023)

"Trying SGBV cases - Challenges and best practices." Paper presented to a SGBV Training for Investigators, Prosecutors and other Criminal Justice Actors, Banjul, The Gambia. (August 2023)

"Adjudicating Sexual and Gender-based Crimes as gross violations of human rights amounting to Crimes against Humanity in the context of the Gambia's TRRC findings." – Paper presented at a Judicial Colloquium, Banjul, The Gambia (September 2021)

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

The Gambia Judges Association

Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

PERSONAL INTERESTS
Teaching, reading, travelling and cooking.
OTHER RELEVANT FACTS
In November 2020, I delivered a talk to Students at the Canterbury Christ Church University as part of the University's Interdisciplinary Research and Criminal Justice Lecture Series, sharing my experiences as an international criminal lawyer.