

JENNIFER A. BUTTON, MA, JD
INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE CONSULTANT

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Citizenship: Canadian
British

Languages: English (native)
French (EU level B2.2)
Spanish (basic)

Admitted to the Bar of British Columbia, Canada

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

I apply my extensive legal and general skills and experience to international governance and justice consulting.

I spent more than 20 years as one of two constitutional advisers to the Government of British Columbia, Canada. In this role, I gave written and oral legal advice, on compliance with law and legal principles, to government lawyers and senior officials. I am also a trained teacher. I have extensive meeting planning, project management, presentation, policy development, and teaching experience and abilities.

In 2016 I was honoured to be featured on the “Careers Page” of the Law Society of England and Wales:
<https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/features/case-study-jennifer-button/>

My international experience includes: training in constitutional law; legal research, analysis and writing; legal assessment; events planning; and capacity building.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

IBF INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Top Expert, Law

September 2019-ongoing

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, LONDON, UK

Consultant

June-July 2018

Prepared a comprehensive report to introduce the issue of overrepresentation of vulnerable groups in criminal justice systems, both as offenders and as victims. Using data from two states in the Commonwealth of Nations, I examined the identification of vulnerable groups, steps that are taken to divert vulnerable individuals from criminal justice systems, and special measures which are available within criminal justice systems to accommodate and rehabilitate vulnerable individuals. Report prepared for the Commonwealth Secretariat, Governance and Peace Directorate - Rule of Law Section.

HARGEISA, SOMALILAND (AXIOM INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING, OXFORD, UK) January, February, 2017
Consultant

- Provided constitutional law training to the Justices of the Supreme Court of Somaliland. I created two courses (General Principles of Constitutional Law and Constitutional Interpretation) for presentation to the Justices and to senior Court administration personnel. The second course focused largely on the human rights provisions of the Somaliland Constitution. I led the week-long seminars, which incorporated lectures, discussion, writing exercises and role play. I organized all activities and the materials needed for these. Participation and attendance by all, including the Chief Justice, were excellent, as evidenced by very positive feedback, both oral and written. I coordinated with employees of the consulting company in the United Kingdom who required detailed timetables, ongoing observations and follow-up reports.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, LONDON, UK September-November 2016
Consultant

Completed a project dealing with institutional judicial independence in the Commonwealth of Nations. With the input of Commonwealth Secretariat legal counsel in London, I chose representative Commonwealth countries to be surveyed. I designed and conducted a survey, after having investigated and established appropriate contacts in the legal systems of each of the identified countries. I used the information gathered from this survey, together with my extensive research, in a 35-page report, entitled "Constitutional Judicial Independence – A Comparative Study: Towards Good Practice" (A Report prepared for the Commonwealth Secretariat Rule of Law Division).

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE, ST. JOHN'S, CANADA July-August 2016
Volunteer instructor

- Worked as a volunteer English language assistant in a government language institution for immigrants. Also worked one-on-one with an English language student from Jordan.

SANTE, LONDON, UK February 2016 – June 2016
Befriender

- Worked with vulnerable asylum seekers in the UK. I worked specifically with an asylum seeker from Angola, assessing and helping with his medical and legal requirements.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAGNA CARTA Fall 2014 – July 2015
Lead organizer of official British Columbia events

- Brought international speakers together with local legal and community citizens for two major and very successful events which took place in July 2015. I was the lead organizer for events held at Government House in Victoria and the Court House in Vancouver, British Columbia. I invited and organized trip itineraries for the guest speakers, who were a senior archivist at the British Library in London and Justice Thomas Cromwell of the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. Consulting with others, I established the extensive guest lists. Special guests for both events included the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, the Chief Justice of British Columbia, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, the Chief Judge of British Columbia, and the Attorney General of British Columbia. The Premier of the Province, the Leader of the Opposition, Law Deans from the three university law faculties and Legislative Officers (such as the Auditor General) were also invited, as were lawyers in government and private practice, law students, prominent

Curriculum Vitae of Jennifer A. Button

members of local Indigenous groups, city mayors, selected high school teachers and students, and representatives from such organizations as the Salvation Army Pro Bono Program, BC Social Studies Teachers Association, and PLEA Community Services. In addition to coordinating the guests and speakers for this event, I oversaw both events in their entirety, including the event itineraries, refreshments and the event budgets.

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, 2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

January – August 2014

Organizer

- Developed and organized workshop session on the International Crime of Human Trafficking for the 2014 National Conference. I proposed the idea to the International Law subsection of the CBA and was asked to carry it forward. I subsequently secured its approval from the Conference organizers and was given a budget and asked to organize the session. I developed the session format (covering both legal and social, national and international aspects of the issue) and recruited subject matter experts, including a law professor and an official from the International Labour Organization in New York, to attend and participate as members of the panel. I oversaw all travel itineraries and the event budget.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, BELARUS

June, 2013

International Gender Expert

- Retained, with two members of the American judiciary, by UNDP/Belarus, for a project relating to a concept paper on court organization in Belarus. I was the gender expert for this project. I researched all applicable UN and other conventions, and wrote a gender review of the project, identifying the knowledge required for the project to be successful from a gender perspective. I travelled to Minsk, Belarus, where, with my American colleagues, I presented this review document at a Round Table of judges, UN officials and others. I also attended various meetings in Minsk to talk about international standards of gender equality, including the UN *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*.

UKRAINE ELECTION 2012, MISSION CANADA, OBSERVATION MISSION

October – November, 2012

Election Observer

- Selected to be a member of CANADEM (Canada's Civilian Reserve) Official Election Observation Mission for the 2012 Ukraine parliamentary election. I was posted to the cities of Kiev and Kherson to observe and report on activities (pre-election, during election and post-election) in polling stations and at city returning offices. In addition to the professional responsibilities, I met the required empathy for, and ability to interact in, a foreign culture, both through translators and independently.

ABA-UNDP INTERNATIONAL LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER (ILRC), Washington DC, USA

Fall, 2011

Researcher

- Prepared materials for consideration by UNDP India with respect to proposed Anti-Corruption Legislation in India

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC), DEN HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

July – August 2008

Trust Fund for Victims (TFV)

Visiting Professional

- Invited by the Registrar to join the Court as a Visiting Professional.

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I studied the *Rome Statute* and all other international instruments which dealt with the mandate of the Fund, which is an arm of the ICC that supports activities to address the harm caused to affected citizens resulting from crimes under the jurisdiction of the ICC and which helps to ensure that victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes have a substantive role in the search for international justice.

My work included:

- A proposed conceptual framework and a practical approach for the best operation of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV);
- Research and preparation of a document discussing relevant legal provisions, to ensure TFV's compliance with its legal mandate;
- Preparation of a major document outlining the role of the TFV in context of International Criminal Court reparation orders;
- Assistance in the drafting of Directors by-laws, which clarify policy for making the Fund operational.

I was recognized by Executive Director for delivering results described as “an unqualified success.”

POSITIVELY AFRICA

2009 – 2011

Board of Directors & Kenya Coordinator

- Participated in board governance and decision making for this British Columbia-based charity, which funds grassroots support projects for HIV-infected children, women and their families in various African countries.

CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BRITISH COLUMBIA BRANCH, INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION EXECUTIVE

2009 – 2015

Co-Chair 2012 – 2015; Executive Member, 2009 – 2011

- As Co-Chair, organized and chaired meetings. These meetings were held in Victoria or Vancouver and made available to both cities and throughout British Columbia by means of webinar. I researched and secured speakers for the meetings, which included presentations by experts on such matters as terrorism, international boundaries in the Arctic, pirate activities in Somalia, the UN involvement in Libya, and the “Arab Spring.” I oversaw all technical and logistic matters for the meetings. I organized the Section's meetings over a 4-year period, always in coordination with my Co-Chair in Vancouver and with other members of the Executive.

LAWYERS RIGHTS WATCH CANADA (LRWC)

2008 – 2011

Member (2008-2011)

UN Monitor, (2010-2011)

- Prepared summaries of global human rights-related materials. These materials outlined how LRWC, which has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, could actively participate in UN events and meetings.

RWANDA EDUCATION FUND - LEGAL SERVICES BRANCH

2003 – 2013

Co-Founder and Organizer

- Founded and managed a work-based group which cooperated with the Stephen Lewis Foundation (Canada) to pay annual school fees for approximately 10 AIDS orphans in Kigali, Rwanda. I was one of two co-founders of this Fund and I managed it for 10 years.

PERSONAL TRAVEL IN: Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, many Caribbean countries, western Europe, Ukraine, Belarus, India, Peru, Tanzania, Morocco, Turkey, Somaliland, Mongolia, and extensive travel in North America.

RELEVANT COURSES:

- **SDG Academy** (the online education platform of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network), *Human Rights, Human Wrongs: Challenging Poverty, Vulnerability and Social Exclusion*
- **Provincial Health Services Authority of British Columbia**, *Gender-Based Violence*
- **Status of Women Canada**, *Introduction to Gender-based Analysis+*
- **Centre de Langues, Bruxelles, Belgium**, 2018 French Language course; assessed at EU Level B2.2
- **Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)**, *International Perspectives in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation*
- **Project Management Institute**, *Introduction to Project Management*
- **Human Rights Education Associates**, *Rights of the Child
Monitoring and Evaluation in the NGO Sector*
- **Royal Roads University**, *Evaluation - Essential Skills
Training Workshop for International Tribunals & the International Criminal Court*
- **City of Vancouver**, *Protocol Training*
- **Toastmasters International**, *Competent Toastmaster Designation*
- **St. John Ambulance** – *Standard First Aid – with CPR-C-AED*

PUBLICATIONS

- Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court: <http://ezinearticles.com/?The-International-Criminal-Court-Trust-Fund-For-Victims&id=2698573>
- Child Soldiers – A Brief Legal Survey: <http://ezinearticles.com/?Child-Soldiers---A-Brief-Legal-Survey&id=4055746>
- The Rights Not to be Trafficked: a legal overview: (page 6): <http://a4id.org/sites/default/files/user/Spring%202013.pdf>

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Goss Gilroy Management

Associate

January 2019 - ongoing

Assisting with evaluation projects, including report editing and performing literature review

The British Institute of International and comparative Law

January – May 2016

Visiting Fellow, London, UK

- Research in intellectual property law. I examined the protections which are available for industrial design and produced a paper entitled: “Copyright Protection for Industrial Design – Exploratory Research: A Survey of the International Legal Landscape and of some differing National Approaches”
- Presentation of paper summarizing research results

British Columbia Ministry of Justice

June 1987 – April 2016

Legal Counsel, Province of British Columbia, Canada

Key legal advisor to government on constitutional and related issues

- Researched and recommended to senior government bureaucrats and Ministry legal counsel practical implications of court decisions, specifically those related to constitutional law principles, human rights, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, privacy issues and division of powers in a federal state;
- Provided legal opinions on fundamental principles of constitutional law and its impact on government policies and actions;

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- Advised on significant litigation matters; drafted government arguments for Supreme Court of Canada and British Columbia Court of Appeal;
- Built in-house capacity around constitutional law, human rights, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and significant international issues, having identified the knowledge and skills required by government legal counsel in order for them to properly advise their government ministries.

Key Accomplishments

- Lead organizer – Commemoration events in British Columbia to celebrate the anniversary of the *Magna Carta*;
- Judicial reform – Provided oral and written advice to senior government officials and Ministry legal counsel relating to judicial system reform;
- Extensive expertise on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which incorporates human rights into the Canadian Constitution
- Environmental law – Acted on behalf of the Province of British Columbia, supervising American legal counsel on major environmental litigation. Established a precedent in which quantification of environmental damage became an issue;
- Intellectual property – Proactive leadership in developing government legal services' approach to emerging intellectual property matters, such as policy on government-owned trade-marks and official marks.

Areas of Significant Expertise

- Governance – Guiding senior government officials on significant matters of government;
- Judicial independence – Ministry expert in judicial independence; advised senior officials and Ministry counsel on developing law and resulting practical implications for government;
- Human rights – Advised Ministry legal counsel on human rights matters in many different contexts
- Search and Seizure – Recognized as an expert in search and seizure law, in both regulatory and criminal law settings;
- Investigation of the implications of United Nations conventions and protocols for government policy;
- Research and drafting arguments for Supreme Court of Canada and Court of Appeal constitutional cases

Capacity Building

- Prepared and presented a background paper on judicial independence to senior government officials;
- Organized and chaired meetings of the International Law section of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association;
- Facilitated and organized seminars for government on emerging constitutional issues, having first identified training needs;
- Translated French language legal decisions and correspondence;
- Co-organized a cross-Canada conference on *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* jurisprudence;
- Designed, created and managed a legal computer Infobase as a comprehensive research tool for Ministry legal counsel;
- Created and managed workshop on 'International Crime of Human Trafficking' for the Canadian Bar Association.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor (J.D.) *with awards for high academic standing*
University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Permanent Teaching Certificate *Trained at the University of British Columbia*
BC College of Teachers, British Columbia, Canada

Master of Arts (French Literature)
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Bar Association, Member International Law Section - BC Branch, <i>Co-Chair 2012 – 2015</i> Public Sector Lawyers Section – BC Branch, <i>Co-Chair 2010-2012</i>	1987 – 2015
Law Society of British Columbia, British Columbia, Canada, Member	1987 – present
International Bar Association, Member,	2009 – present
American Women Lawyers in London, Member,	2016
Canadian Association of International Development Professionals, Member,	2012 – present
Canadian International Council	2017- present
Lexis-Nexis Martindale-Hubbell, Peer Review Rating, BV Distinguished, Very High Rating	2002 – present

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Celebrating the Origins of the Rule of Law: 800 Years of Magna Carta.” The Advocate, Vol 73, Part 3, May 2015, p. 341
- “On the Front Cover: George Herbert Copley, Q.C.” The Advocate, Vol 71, Par 4, July 2013, p. 495.