



BIOGRAPHIES – PLENARY SESSION 2

Plenary Session 2: Victims and witnesses within the criminal justice system

CHAIR:

Anton Du Plessis, Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions, National Prosecuting Authority, South Africa

- Advocate Anton du Plessis is the Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions in the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) of South Africa. He heads the Strategy, Operations and Compliance portfolio at the NPA.
- Anton has three law degrees (B-Iuris, LLB, LLM) as well as Executive Leadership Courses from Harvard and Oxford universities.
- As a globally recognised criminal justice, organised crime, and rule of law legal expert, he has over 25 years of management and operational experience in the field.
- Before returning as the deputy head of the NPA, Anton was the Legal and Criminal Justice Coordinator in the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), based at the United Nations in New York. As a senior UN expert, he led CTED's work on the legal and criminal justice elements of the UN Security Council's response to terrorism.
- Anton has served as the Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) - Africa's largest and preeminent think tank. He has worked on criminal justice and security sector reform in more than 20 African countries.
- Anton also served as an expert criminal law assessor in complex murder and rape trials in the High Court. He serves on numerous expert groups and editorial boards and has presented to several parliamentary committees and is widely published.

- Anton was selected as a World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Leader, an honour bestowed by the WEF each year to recognise the most distinguished young leaders nominated from around the world. Anton has chaired and spoken during public and private sessions at the World Economic Forum, including a public session at the Forum's annual meeting in Davos in 2015 and several high-level panels at WEF Regional Summits. He served as a member of the WEF's Global Agenda Council on Fragility, Violence and Conflict; and the WEF Meta Council on the Illicit Economy. These Councils are the world's foremost intellectual network that helps inform the Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos as well as set the direction for global, regional and industry agendas. Anton is a recipient of a Dangote Fellowship awarded by the WEF for young Africans selected each year for their outstanding leadership, professional accomplishments and commitment to society.
- Anton is a competitive cyclist and marathon runner. He is married with two kids and lives in Pretoria.

SPEAKERS:

Stephen Parkinson, Director of Public Prosecutions, England and Wales

Stephen Parkinson is the Director of Public Prosecutions for England & Wales. He was appointed by the Attorney General and took up post on 1 November 2023.

Stephen studied law at University College London, before qualifying as a Barrister in 1980 and as a Solicitor in 2005.

He began his legal career in 1984 as a junior prosecutor at the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions, which became the CPS in 1986. He progressed through a number of prosecutor roles at the CPS and then roles across the UK Government, including positions where he was responsible for most of the Government's regulatory litigation, and, where he headed a team providing legal advice in live company investigations. For four years from 1999, Stephen was Deputy Head of the Attorney General's Office.

Prior to being appointed to DPP, Stephen was a defence lawyer for 20 years. He became Head of Criminal Practice at the law firm Kingsley Napley in 2006, going on to become Senior Partner at the firm in 2018. Representing a range of clients, Stephen developed an extensive practice advising on, or undertaking, investigations for organisations, companies, and individuals.

Dr. Ali Bin Fadhul Al Buainain, Attorney General of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Worked in public prosecution in the Kingdom of Bahrain since the beginning of his career in 1985, until the amendments were made to the prosecution system. He was appointed as an Advocate General at

the Public Prosecution and then, on 24th December 2005, he was appointed as the Attorney General, and since then he has become member of the Supreme Judicial Council which is concerned with the affairs of the judiciary members.

Earned a PhD in Criminal Law, entitled Guarantees of the Defendant during the trial stage.

Participated in the development of many of national legislations

Secretary General of the Arab Public Prosecutor's Association

Member of the IAP Senate Committee

Ex-Member of the Executive Committee of IAP

Ex-Vice President of the Executive Committee of IAP

Since the time of his appointment as Attorney General, he has put a sustainable, systematic and technical development plan for the Public Prosecution in the Kingdom of Bahrain, by paying attention to the prosecutors' investigative expertise on serious offences which undermine society's elements, in particular, terrorism, corruption, money laundering, human and drugs trafficking, and organized crimes across national boundaries in general. In parallel with the aforementioned, he has paid special attention towards the education on human rights and guarantees of the defendant. In order to reach an effective investigation, he has worked on areas of specialization by establishing specialized prosecutions. Furthermore, he has created physical and legal tools and ensure the protection of victims and witnesses.

Gina Cabrejo, Senior Counsel, NAAG, United States of America

Gina Cabrejo is a Senior Counsel at the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). She is an attorney licensed in the United States and Colombia, South America. Gina is assisting NAAG in providing legal skills training, developing, enhancing skills courses, and engaging in faculty recruitment and development.

Given her expertise in inquisitorial and adversarial legal systems, she coordinates domestic and international trainings and facilitates cooperation between the attorney general community and international partners, including government and non-governmental organizations. Gina is the liaison of the NAAG Human Trafficking Committee and leads training efforts on this area and domestic violence. Efforts on these trainings include working with women, children and youth with a victim centered approach.

Prior to joining NAAG, Gina held national positions applying the rule of law and fighting corruption in Colombia. As a government attorney working with the Office of the Attorney General in Colombia, Gina prosecuted complex corruption, tax evasion, financial crimes, fraud cases and juvenile delinquency cases.

She is an exchange alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program.

Gina was born and raised in Colombia, South America. She possesses a master's degree in international law, LL.M. from Stetson University in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

Juan Bautista Mahiques, Attorney General of the Public Prosecution Service of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (MPF CABA), Argentina (since October 2019) and President of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP)(since September 2022).

Attorney-at-law (graduated from the *Universidad de Buenos Aires*) and M.A. in Justice Administration (*Unitelma Sapienza Università Degli Studi Di Roma*). Mr. Mahiques holds the position of Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedural Law at the *Universidad Católica Argentina* (UCA) and the *Universidad de Buenos Aires* (UBA).

He has broad experience within the National Judiciary, where he has held various positions since 2000: He served as Advisor Representative of the National Executive Branch with the National Council of Justices and Magistrates and as Under-Secretary of “Penitentiary Affairs and Relations with the Judiciary and the Academic Community” within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina (2015 and 2019).

He also served as representative of the Council of Justices and Magistrates before the Bicameral Commission of Monitoring and Implementation of the Federal Procedural Criminal Code of the Honorable National Congress.

He was appointed Ordinary Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) in September 2020. He became **IAP Vice-President for the Latin-American Region** in October 2021, and since September 2022 he holds office as **IAP President**, until September 2025.

Karola van Nie, Senior Public Prosecutor, Public Prosecution Service, The Netherlands

Mrs Karola van Nie is a senior public prosecutor currently working at the National Prosecutor’s Office in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Her expertise is criminal intelligence and witness protection. Mrs van Nie obtained her Master’s degree in Law at the University of Maastricht. She has been working as a prosecutor since 2007 and is experienced in handling all types of criminal cases.