

## Dr Tomas Hamilton

Called: 2011

Qualified to accept Public Access instructions

Licensed to Conduct Litigation

Tomas ('Tom') Hamilton is a British barrister specialising in international law, extradition and crime with substantial experience of proceedings before international tribunals and human rights investigations. His practice includes international law, extradition, crime, sanctions and export control, business and human rights, and professional discipline.

Called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2011, Tom worked for over 13 years in UN mechanisms and international tribunals, developing expertise in drafting compelling legal arguments and managing complex, evidence-heavy cases. His skillset is invaluable for clients facing intricate cross-border challenges.

Recognised as an expert on the arms trade, Tom's book 'The Arms Trade and International Criminal Law' was published by Oxford University Press in 2025. He has a regional specialism in Southeast Asia from his work on Cambodia and Myanmar.

### International Criminal Law

Tom regularly advises on procedural and substantive aspects of international criminal law.

Prior to practising at the Bar, Tom worked at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague from 2013 to 2016. As a legal advisor to the Court's judiciary, he worked on decisions in the Situations in the Ivory Coast, Libya, Darfur (Sudan), and Central African Republic.

From 2016 to 2021, Tom worked for the UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT) in the Case 004 investigations before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). Tom led the defence team for Counsel to Mr Yim Tith, who faced charges of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.



In his academic career, Tom has published in leading journals and taught international criminal law at the University of Amsterdam from 2021 to 2024, holding a tenured position as Assistant Professor of International Criminal Law. His policy-oriented research continues to focus on aiding and abetting, the emerging crime of ecocide, and arms export regulation.

### International Human Rights

Tom's international practice focuses on serious rights violations, corporate accountability, and environmental rights. He provides advice to states, NGOs and individuals in relation to cases before domestic and international courts, as well as those involving UN Human Rights Council Special Procedures.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Tom served as a Human Rights Officer within the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In this capacity, he worked on the investigations of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela (FFMV) and the presentation of its findings to the Human Rights Council in 2023.

Tom actively engages in pro bono work and has provided legal advisory services to organisations such as Amnesty International, Global Witness, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### Crime & Extradition

In extradition proceedings, Tom is regularly instructed in High Court appellate matters and in Westminster Magistrates' Court where he has advised Requested Persons on matters ranging from

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prison assurances to extraneous considerations based on persecution. He recently represented a high-profile political dissident in complex Part 2 proceedings.

As part of his growing criminal practice, Tom appears in the Crown Court and the Magistrates' Court acting for both the defence and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Adept at working with vulnerable Defendants, he seeks to prepare thoroughly and give careful consideration to every case. Prior to the Bar, he spent a year at Bark & Co Solicitors working on business crime and serious prison offences.

## Professional Discipline

Tom accepts instructions from individuals facing the most serious allegations of regulatory breach in their profession. He appears regularly in substantive and interim matters before the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA), the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA), and before UK university and college disciplinary boards. Due to his academic background in university professorial roles that involved student disciplinary functions, he has a particular expertise in educational disciplinary matters.

Instructed on behalf of the regulator in fitness to practice and professional disciplinary cases, he works meticulously and diligently to ensure the regulator is afforded the highest standards of representation. He has acted in complex substantive hearings of several weeks in length involving the highest sanction of strike off and removal from the professional register, as well as cases where complex health matters arise.

## Education

PhD in Law, King's College London  
LLM, University of Cambridge  
Bar Vocational Course, College of Law, London  
GDL, College of Law, London  
BA (Hons), University of Oxford

## Memberships

Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC)  
Defence Extradition Lawyers' Forum (DELF)  
The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (since 2009)

International Criminal Court's list of Approved Assistants to Counsel

Appointed to the Attorney General's C Panel for Public International Law

List of Experts, Forum on the Arms Trade

## Selected Publications

- The Arms Trade and International Criminal Law (Oxford University Press) monograph book (forthcoming February 2025).
- Co-Editor, Business and Human Rights Journal (Cambridge University Press) Special Issue on Corporate Accountability and the Arms Trade, October 2024.
- Managing Editor, Rethinking Secondary Liability for International Crimes (SLIC\*) (Oxford University Press) (forthcoming 2025).
- Principles of Reparations at the International Criminal Court: Assessing Alternative Approaches, Max Planck UN Yearbook of International Law, with Sluiter, G. 15, Dec 2023.
- Invited speaker on the IBA War Crimes Committee for the International Bar Association (IBA) in Miami (November 2022).
- Corporate accountability and Iranian drones in the Ukraine war: Could sanctions lead to prosecutions for international crimes? 23 Nov 2022, EJIL: Talk!
- Why the ICC's termination of proceedings against deceased Kenyan defendant Paul Gicheru should not be the end of the matter, Sluiter, G. K. & Hamilton, T. F. B., 17 Oct 2022, EJIL: Talk!
- Defending Ukraine with EU weapons, Hamilton, T., Sep 2022, European Law Open. 1, 3, Cambridge University Press
- Articulating Arms Control Law in the EU's Lethal Military Assistance to Ukraine (Just Security blog)
- Corporate Accountability for Atrocity Crimes in Myanmar: Business Complicity in the Investigations of the UN Fact-Finding Mission, with Caon G., Vol 40 (2023)
- China Would Violate the Arms Trade Treaty If It Sends Weapons to Russia for Use in Ukraine: Part I (Opinio Juris)
- China Would Violate the Arms Trade Treaty if it Sends Weapons to Russia for Use in Ukraine: Part II (Opinio Juris)
- An arms trade case at the International Criminal Court: Would the Article 25(3)(c) 'purpose' requirement really matter? Hamilton, T. F. B., 23 Sep 2021, Rethinking SLIC.
- Arms Transfers under Article 25(3)(d)(ii) of the Rome Statute, in Jørgensen, N. H. B. (ed.), 1 Sep 2020, Cambridge Uni-

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versity Press

- **Uniting Against Impunity: Using the UN General Assembly as a Catalyst for Action at the ICC**, Ramsden, M. P. & Hamilton, T. F. B., 11 Sep 2017, 66, 4, p. 893-921

## Appointments

Guest Lecturer, Law Faculty, University of Cambridge

Visiting Scholar, TMC Asser Institute, The Hague

Visiting Researcher, Grotius Center for International Law

Fellow, Centre for Rights and Justice, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Research Fellow, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford

## Significant Awards

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 3-year doctoral Scholarship

Major Bar Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

Hardwicke Award, Lincoln's Inn

Royal Geographical Society, Research Award

Michael Aris Memorial Trust, Research Award

Oxford University Society Grant

## Experience

International Criminal Law

International Human Rights Law

International Humanitarian Law

Public International Law

Extradition

General Crime

## Languages

English

Spanish

French



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