

## Introduction of Her Honour Judge Joanna Korner CMG KC

### Keynote Address 15:45 to 16:30pm

Our next keynote speaker has a truly extraordinary resumé. For over 45 years Her Honour Judge Joanna Korner CMG KC has been in the vanguard of criminal justice both in this country and internationally. As Queen's Counsel in England and Wales, Judge Korner appeared in some of the most serious and complex cases in the jurisdiction, often appearing on behalf of the Serious Fraud Office. In 1999, Judge Korner became a senior prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia based in the Hague. The war criminals Judge Korner prosecuted there included:

*Stanišić & Župljanin*, who were convicted of crimes including murder, torture, and extermination, with the objective of removing non-Serbs from the territory of a planned Serbian state in Bosnia, and sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment each.

*Radoslav Brdanin*, who was convicted of acts of persecution, the wanton destruction of towns, and the killing of at least 300 Bosnian Muslim and Croat men in the village of Biscani on 20 July 1992 – he was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment; and also

*Milomir Stakić*, who was convicted of the ordered deportation of around 20,000 non-Serbs from Prijedor in Bosnia, and of the murder of more than 1,500 people, including the killing of 120 men in a detention camp on 5 August 1992 and the execution of 200 people at Mount Vlašić on 21 August 1992 – he was sentenced to 40 years' imprisonment.

Despite the very grave burden upon her shoulders in those cases, Judge Korner found time to continue to prosecute cases domestically, her path crossing with a certain Welsh QC and related junior in one case which took us all on a trip, shortly before Christmas 2006, to the House of Lords Appellate Committee.

In 2012, Judge Korner moved to the Circuit Bench sitting at Southwark Crown Court where she sat until her appointment to the International Criminal Court in 2021. She presently sits as the Presiding Judge of Trial Chamber I. Her energy is both outstanding and infectious. Yesterday, I understand that she was celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Southwark Crown Court at the RCJ; today she is here in Cardiff to help us celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Legal Wales Conference. Tomorrow she is running an advocacy teacher training course over two days with the Inner Temple. I can personally attest to the hospitality and kindness she offers to those who find themselves in the Hague and looking to be pointed in the right direction.

Conference, please help me offer a taste of Welsh hospitality in return and give a warm welcome to Her Honour Judge Joanna Korner.