

#### The Internationalisation of Criminal Evidence

Beyond the Common Law and Civil Law Traditions

Although there are many texts on the law of evidence, surprisingly few are devoted specifically to the comparative and international aspects of the subject. The traditional view that the law of evidence belongs within the common law tradition has obscured the reality that a genuinely cosmopolitan law of evidence is being developed in criminal cases across the common law and civil law traditions.

By considering the extent to which a coherent body of common evidentiary standards is being developed in both domestic and international jurisprudence, John Jackson and Sarah Summers chart this development with particular reference to the jurisprudence on the right to a fair trial that has emerged from the European Court of Human Rights and to the attempts in the new international criminal tribunals to fashion agreed approaches towards the regulation of evidence.

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For my mother and father, Kathy, Jane and Alex (John Jackson)

For my family and for Sararard Arquint (Sarah Summers)



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### Foreword

Prior to the middle of the twentieth century, criminal procedure was essentially a branch of national law. It had developed into two systems regarded as fundamentally different: the 'sport-match model' of the common law which was party-driven and where the judge's role was akin to that of an umpire; and the 'drill model' of the civil law whereby the judge was responsible for finding the true facts. As far as evidence was concerned, the common law was characterised by detailed regulations and exclusionary rules, whereas the continental system adhered more strongly to the principle of free proof. These systems appeared to be irreconcilably opposed to each other, which is one of the reasons why it proved extremely difficult to pass treaties on mutual assistance in criminal matters between the United States and European states – Switzerland managed to conclude such a treaty in 1975, while it took until 2003 for Germany to achieve the same result.

Two developments in particular led to this branch of the law assuming importance at an international level: the emergence of international criminal proceedings, starting with the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials and culminating in the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court on the one hand, and the development of a regional and international case law on the basis of human rights' instruments on the other. Regarding international criminal tribunals, it was necessary to find solutions which would be truly international and could find acceptance both in countries adhering to the common law system and those following the European continental tradition. In the area of human rights, it was initially the European Commission and Court of Human Rights which were faced with the challenge of applying fair trial standards in a way that would make sense in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Malta, as well as in France, Germany and Italy.

This book dares to take up the formidable task of providing a theoretical foundation for this development, focusing on the law of evidence. John Jackson and Sarah Summers approach the task with awe-inspiring thoroughness and profound depth. They begin by analysing the current state of criminal proceedings in a historical and comparative perspective and go on to analyse the possibilities of an international law of evidence which exists between the two poles: 'a new framework is being built across the different legal cultures [which]



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#### Foreword

is not rooted in one more than the other'. Rather than sticking to traditional concepts they find the solution in the respect for fairness, that is, the active participation of the defence in the proceedings as a whole. While this approach is generally shared by the European Court of Human Rights, they uncover a surprising amount of inherent contradictions and other shortcomings in its case law.

This book provides a rare insight into the workings of criminal proceedings, the interests and values involved and their interplay. It will set a foundation for further studies both in the area of criminal procedure, international as well as domestic, but also in the field of internationally binding rules of fundamental rights. No scholar undertaking research in these matters can ignore this monumental work.

**Judge Stefan Trechsel** The Hague, January 2011



# Preface and acknowledgements

Although the law of evidence has traditionally been treated as a common law subject confined to national borders, there has been a growing awareness across the common law and civil law world about the need for different systems to adopt common approaches towards criminal evidence as national systems cooperate with each other to combat transnational crime. The subject is also attracting growing recognition in international human rights law as bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) have begun to develop common evidentiary standards to be applied across national boundaries. At the same time, the conflicts that led to grave crimes against humanity in the Balkans, Rwanda and other conflict zones have compelled the international community to bring those responsible to justice by developing systems of procedure and evidence that are acceptable across different legal traditions.

This book examines these attempts to find common approaches towards issues of criminal evidence across different national boundaries and legal traditions. Each of us has been following these developments for some time. As a teacher of the law of evidence at Queen's University Belfast John Jackson became interested in them as he witnessed the impact that the ECtHR was having on common law systems of evidence. Sarah Summers began to become interested in criminal evidence when she was working on her published doctoral thesis on the development of fair trials rights in Europe. Although originally from Scotland, she presently teaches criminal law and procedure at the University of Zurich. We decided to bring our experience of common law and civil law jurisdictions together to examine the evolution of common evidentiary standards in Europe and in the international criminal tribunals. We have tried to reflect case law and other legal developments up to the end of December 2010.

John would like to thank the British Academy for the award of a two-year research leave fellowship from 2006 to 2008 which enabled much of the work to be carried out and to thank the School of Law at University College Dublin for enabling him to continue the work through to its final stages. He would also like to thank Laura McMahon for research assistance, Jill Hunter and her



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#### Preface and acknowledgements

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University College Dublin
Sarah J. Summers
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# **Abbreviations**

AC Appeal Cases

ACHR American Convention on Human Rights
ACtHR American Court of Human Rights
AJ Alberta Judgments (Canada)
All ER All England Law Reports

BCLR Butterworths Constitutional Law Reports (South Africa)

BGE Decisions of the Federal Court (Switzerland)

BGH Federal Court (Germany)

BGHSt Federal Criminal Court (Germany)
BHRC Butterworths Human Rights Cases
BVerfG Federal Constitutional Court (Germany)

CC Criminal Code

CCC Canadian Criminal Cases CCP Code of Criminal Procedure

CD Collection of Decisions of the European Commission of

**Human Rights** 

Ch Chapter
CJ Chief Justice

CLR Commonwealth Law Reports

Cox CC Cox's Criminal Cases
CR Criminal Reports (Canada)
Cr App R Criminal Appeal Reports
Crim LR Criminal Law Review

dec. decision

DLR Dominion Law Reports (Canada)
DPP Director of Public Prosecutions

DR Decisions and Reports of the European Commission of

Human Rights

ECHR European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and

Fundamental Freedoms

ECommHR European Commission of Human Rights

ECR European Case Reports



**xx** Abbreviations

ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EHRR	European Human Rights Reports
EIO	European Investigation Order
EU	European Union
EUI	European University Institute
EWCA	Court of Appeal of England and Wales
EWHC	High Court of England and Wales Decisions
GC	Grand Chamber, ECtHR
HCJAC	High Court of Justiciary, Appeal Court (Scotland)
HM	Advocate Her Majesty's Advocate, His Majesty's Advocate
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
HRC	Human Rights Committee, United Nations
IACtHR	Inter-American Court of Human Rights
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
ILRM	Irish Law Reports Monthly
IR	Irish Reports
LJ	Lord Justice
NICC	Northern Ireland Crown Court
NStZ	Neue Zeitschriftfür Strafrecht
OJ	Official Journal of the European Union
OTP	Office of the Prosecutor, ICTY
PACE	Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
QB	Queen's Bench Division, Law Reports
R	Regina
RPE	Rules of Procedure and Evidence, ICTY
SCC	Supreme Court of Canada
SCCR	Scottish Criminal Case Reports
SCR	Supreme Court Reports (Canada)
SCSL	Special Court for Sierra Leone
SCt	Supreme Court Reporter
SLT	Scots Law Times
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UK	United Kingdom
UKHL	House of Lords, United Kingdom
UKPC	UK Privy Council Decisions
UKSC	UK Supreme Court
UN	United Nations
UNCAT	UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or
	Degrading Treatment
US	United States



xxi	Abbreviations		
	USA	United States of America	
	USSC	US Supreme Court	
	WLR	Weekly Law Reports	
	YB	Yearbook of the European Convention on Human Rights	



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