

Martin is an experienced Criminal Barrister who joined Lincoln House as a tenant in January 2007. He is currently working for the European Union Rule of Law Mission in the Special Prosecution Office for the Republic of Kosovo as an International Prosecutor and Head of the War Crimes Unit.

Seconded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in November 2013, he is practising as a Continental Civil Law Prosecutor with overall responsibility for more than 800 war crimes cases. His duties range from dialogue with the Serbian authorities for the development of joint investigations and disclosure in war crimes cases, to appearing as a Prosecution Advocate before international Judges in War Crimes trials. Martin has also advised the FCO, the Kosovo Government and the International Commission for Missing Persons regarding war crimes, corruption and organised crime.

Prior to taking up his secondment, Martin spent more than 18 years practicing Criminal Law and has considerable experience in handling sensitive sexual cases, complex fraud allegations, cases involving serious violence and clients with severe mental health problems. He is an accredited rape and sexual offences Prosecutor.

Prosecutor and Head of the War Crimes Unit EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) November 2013 – Present:

Martin has responsibility for developments in joint investigations in War Crimes, to appearing as Prosecution Advocate in Court before International Judges. As Unit Head he is responsible for over 800 war crime matters including old UNMIK cases, allocating these to other prosecutors, liaising closely with the Police War Crimes Investigation Unit regarding the priority and running a very active high profile team of Prosecutors and Legal Officers.

Martin manages the Unit's caseload and strategy and is accountable to the Head of Mission. His additional duties include interviewing witnesses, directing the whole investigation process, drafting documents and indictments for the court based upon International Humanitarian law concerning cases of war crimes.

Martin provides representation to the Chief Prosecutor for the Republic of Kosovo about politically sensitive cases. He liaises with Serbian Prosecutors and Ministers to establish a protocol concerning international legal co-operation and disclosure of evidence plus he liaises over the repatriation of the bodies of victims.

When required Martin takes over as Acting Head of the Special Prosecution Office. A main part of his role is to research, organise and manage evidence, conduct legal research and advice on specific cases, including substantive and procedural aspects of Kosovo's domestic criminal law and international criminal and human rights law within the framework of the ICTY.

He works to strengthen the domestic capacity of Kosovan Prosecutors, in this transitional phase of the mission, to ensure a lasting legacy regarding war crimes prosecutions.



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal Law

International Criminal Law

Terrorism Offences

War Crimes

EDUCATION

University of Wales LLB (Hons)

Other areas Martin covers are:

- Trial advocacy : opening and closing speeches, examination-in-chief and cross examination of witnesses, make submissions on motions when required during the trial process.
- Liaise with NGO's especially in the area of sexual violence during conflict
- Supervise exhumation sites liaising with both the police and forensic teams.
- Meeting and advising Kosovan government think tank upon corruption.
- Meeting and advising UK Officials upon corruption and war crimes.
- Advising the International Commission for Missing Persons about Kosovan criminal procedure and how it currently impacts upon ongoing missing persons cases.
- Advising on The Mission Implementation Plan.
- Advising on possible changes in Kosovo law to assist the transition process to full local Kosovo control over all war crimes matter.
- Attendance at the International War Crimes Conference regarding Balkan co-operation.
- Drafting Memorandum of Understanding between Kosovo and Serbia about the exchange of information in war crimes cases.

He is currently prosecuting two of the Mission's most high profile cases:

- The Drenica Group trial. It involves the prosecution of high ranking KLA members for war crimes committed in 1998. The allegations involve murder and torture. Martin is lead prosecutor in this ten defendant trial which has been running since May 2014.
- The Rezella/Raska case. This involves large scale cross border investigation and dialogue with Serbia and relates to a massacre during the war where the bodies of the many victims have been concealed in Serbia.

Work in Chambers prior to secondment has included

Prosecuting cases of manslaughter, drugs conspiracy, serious violence, racially aggravated offences and matters of fraud and dishonesty.

Martin is an accredited specialist sex crime and rape Prosecutor and was briefed in the most serious of cases of this type before the Crown Courts. This involved cases of a most sensitive and traumatic nature and often involved allegations of serious child sexual abuse. Often the allegations were of a historic nature dating back many years. He also Specialised in cases where Defendants or witnesses had serious mental health and/or learning difficulties.



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Examples of Prosecution cases include

A Defendant, who had sexually abused and raped his daughter over a six year period leaving her with significant mental health difficulties.

A Defendant broke into an elderly woman's home who had schizophrenia and subjected her to a horrific sexual attack involving rape, imprisonment and torture.

A Defendant who subjected his niece to years of serious sexual abuse within the family environment.

A Defendant who subjected his sister to beating and imprisonment in an 'honour type' case committed within the context of the Asian community.

A Defendant who was charged with gross negligence manslaughter where his girlfriend's young child consumed ecstasy tablets which belonged to the Defendant and as a result she died.

Examples of Prosecution cases include

A Defendant who had raped both of his step children over a five year period. One of the girls had significant learning difficulties and had to give evidence in court via an intermediary.

A Defendant who had raped three of his daughters over many years. One daughter was the mother of three of the Defendant's children whilst she was still under 16 years of age.

A Defendant with serious mental health problems who was almost unfit to stand trial and had been in a secure mental institution for many years, was charged with sexually abusing the young children in his extended family.

The mother of an 18 month old child was charged with manslaughter and child neglect over the child's death.

A fifteen year old Defendant charged with murder of a young woman in a vicious and unprovoked attack by him and a gang of his associates.

An attempted murder case, where the Defendant, over a number of hours, tortured and tried to kill the victim with a knife, in the victim's own home.



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