



**Doc. 16233**

19 August 2025

## Election of judges to the European Court of Human Rights

### List and curricula vitae of candidates submitted by the Government of Cyprus

#### Communication

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly

#### 1. List and curricula vitae of candidates submitted by the Government of Cyprus<sup>1</sup>

*Letter from Mr George S. Yiangou, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the Council of Europe, to Ms Despina Chatzivassiliou, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, dated 4 July 2025.*

[...]

Dear Secretary General,

I have the honor to submit here below, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, the names in alphabetical order of the 3 (three) candidates for the election of the Cypriot judge to the European Court of Human Rights, for your further actions:

- Ms Elena EFREM
- Ms Natasa MAVRONICOLA
- Ms Margarita PAPANTONIOU

The curricula vitae of the said candidates are enclosed.

[...]

#### 2. Information on the national selection procedure for the list of candidates for election as judge to the European Court of Human Rights in respect of Cyprus

With regard to the national procedures followed for the selection of these candidates, I would like to inform you that the nomination of candidates was based on a pre-determined procedure. The latter had been established by a decision of the Council of Ministers in 2015. This decision sets the fundamental guidelines of the procedure and establishes a Selection Body. The mandate of the Selection Body is to assess the applications and make recommendations to the President of the Republic of Cyprus, who is constitutionally competent to take the final decision concerning the list of candidates to be transmitted to the relevant bodies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In 2023, the aforementioned decision was amended, as regards the composition of the Selection Body, taking into consideration a recent change in the national administration of justice, with the establishment of the Supreme Constitutional Court of the Republic of Cyprus.

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1. The curriculum vitae were submitted by the Government of Cyprus in English and French.



As per recent guidelines of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Selection Body was comprised of members whose technical knowledge, integrity, impartiality, reasonableness and respectability, as well as their freedom from any influence, are well-founded.

More specifically, the Selection Body was comprised of:

- the Minister of Foreign Affairs (President)
- the Attorney-General of the Republic
- the President of the Supreme Constitutional Court
- the Minister of Justice and Public Order
- the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman – Head of the Cyprus NHRI)
- the President of the Cyprus Bar Association
- two academics, one from the University of Cyprus (Professor in Law – Vice-Rector) and the other from the University of Central Lancashire in Cyprus (Associate Professor in Law).

The announcement of the nomination procedure was initiated via official channels, i.e. the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus published on 27 December 2024. It was also published and reproduced by the daily Press, on websites of Ministries, Courts, Legal Service, the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights, as well as other relevant fora.

For the submission of applications, an adequate timeframe exceeding two months (until 28 February 2025) had been given. In total, 12 (twelve) applications were received.

At a meeting of the Selection Body on 4 March 2025, where an initial examination of the applications took place, one of the members of the Selection Body decided not to participate in the selection process, due to conflict of professional interest with at least one of the applicants. The rest of the members of the Selection Body accepted the above decision and decided to continue the selection process without that member, since the Selection Body had already been established since 19 December 2024. To that end, the legal opinion of the President of the Supreme Constitutional Court and of the Attorney General of the Republic of Cyprus was endorsed unanimously.

All the applicants were invited for an interview before the Selection Body. Prior to the interviews, 2 (two) of the applicants informed about their decision to withdraw their application for personal reasons. On 4 April 2025, the Selection Body interviewed the remaining 10 (ten) applicants. One of the applicants did not appear for the interview, despite confirming receipt of the invitation for the interview.

In order to apply a structured, pre-determined and standardised procedure for the facilitation and evaluation of the interviews, the Selection Body asked similar questions to all candidates and assessed candidates' suitability on the basis of elements through the information provided in sections III (relevant professional activities), V (other activities), VIII (other relevant information) of the model of the curriculum vitae used.

The candidates' responses to the relevant questions posed during the interviews was also assessed. Questions were also raised to assess candidates' past and actual experience, activities and acquaintance with human rights, the functioning of the European Court of Human Rights, the challenges the Court is confronted with and the applicability of the European Convention of Human Rights on domestic legal orders.

The applicants' linguistic abilities were likewise assessed on the basis of the certificates provided, as well as during the interviews with questions and answers in both official languages of the Court.

The Selection Body decided to recommend 5 (five) applicants – in order of preference and after a secret voting had taken place – to the President of the Republic of Cyprus for consideration and final decision.

The President of the Republic of Cyprus made the final decision by nominating 3 (three) applicants, with no deviation from the order of recommendation set out by the Selection Body.

All 3 (three) candidates satisfied the requirements of Article 21 of the European Convention on Human Rights either as regards being appointable to high judicial office or be jurisconsults of recognized competence. One of the candidates was unanimously assessed to be a jurisconsult of recognized competence.

It is also necessary to underline that – as mentioned beforehand – the national Selection Body included in its composition the President of the Supreme Constitutional Court, the Attorney General of the Republic of Cyprus and the President of the Cyprus Bar Association, with all of them being members of the selection panel for appointments to the Supreme Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court.

It has, therefore, been the clear and unanimous conclusion of the Selection Body, including the above-named officials, that in accordance to national law and selection criteria, that two candidates are clearly appointable to perform the highest of judicial functions in Cyprus.

[...]

## **Appendix 1 – Curriculum vitae of Elena EFREM**

### **I. Personal details**

Name: EFREM, Elena

Gender: female

Date and place of birth: 20 February 1969 in Nicosia, Cyprus

Nationality: Cypriot

### **II. Education and academic, and other qualifications**

- 1986 Acropolis Gymnasium/Lyceum (Nicosia) – School Leaving Certificate (awarded for second place)
- 1989 LLB with Honours – University of East Anglia, Norwich (UK)
- 1990 Barrister-at-Law, Gray's Inn (UK)
- 1991 LLM – King's College, University of London (UK)
- 1992 Called to the Cyprus Bar – Cyprus Bar Exams (awarded for first place)
- 2012 Course Diploma – Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters in Europe (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) – European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) (Madrid, Spain)
- 2014 Course Diploma – The Judge in the European Judicial Area in Civil and Commercial Matters – European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) (Barcelona, Spain)
- 2015 Certified as a HELP Trainer – Training of HELP Trainers, The European Program on Human Rights for Legal Professionals (HELP) (Council of Europe) (Strasbourg, France)

### **III. Relevant professional activities**

#### **a. Description of judicial activities**

- Since 1/7/2023 Supreme Court – Judge
- 2022 District Court of Limassol – Administrative President (District Court)
- 2021 District Court of Larnaca and Famagusta – Administrative President (District Court)
- 2020 District Court of Nicosia – President (District Court)
- 2018 District Court of Limassol – President (District Court)
- 2016 Assize Court of Nicosia – President
- 2015 District Court of Nicosia – President (District Court)
- 2013 Assize Court of Nicosia – Senior District Judge
- 2010 District Court of Limassol – Senior District Judge
- 2009 District Court of Larnaca – District Judge
- 2006 Assize Court of Nicosia – District Judge
- 2000 District Court of Nicosia – District Judge
- 1997 District Court of Larnaca – District Judge

#### **b. Description of non-judicial legal activities**

- 1994 Chryssafinis and Polyviou Law Firm – Lawyer
- 1992 Panayiotou and Pelekanos Law Firm – Lawyer
- 1991 Panayiotou and Pelekanos Law Firm – Pupillage

**c. Description of non-legal professional activities**

Not applicable

**IV. Activities and experience in the field of human rights**

Not applicable

**V. Public activities**

**a. Public office**

Judicial Service, Supreme Court – Republic of Cyprus (1997 until present)

**b. Elected posts**

Junior and Senior School Board of Governors – Member (2009 –2011)

During that time, I served as the Chairperson on the Senior School Committee and the Teachers' Provident Fund Committee. This invaluable experience granted me an insider's view on the establishment and development of a school to the highest academic standards. It has also enhanced my leading, organisational and communication skills.

**c. Posts held in a political party or movement**

Not applicable

**VI. Other activities (field, duration, functions)**

- a. Joint EU-Council of Europe project "Support the implementation of the Barnahus project in Ireland", 29 October 2024, Trainer at Workshop for Irish Judges on the Functioning of the Barnahus Model
- b. Consultative Council of European Judges, 2023 – ongoing, Representative for Cyprus, appointed by the Cyprus Supreme Court
- c. Cyprus Judicial Training School, 2018 – ongoing, Trainer, Facilitator and Organiser of training seminars on judgecraft, new civil procedure rules and children as vulnerable witnesses
- d. Cyprus Police Academy, 2018 – 2022, Guest Trainer on video recorded statements and their presentation in court
- e. Cyprus-based project "Strengthening National Policies to Stop Sexual Violence Against Children", Training for prosecutors, judges and defence lawyers on "Understanding and Handling Child Victims of Sexual Violence", organised by The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 2015 – ongoing, Representative of the Cyprus Judiciary, appointed by the Cyprus Supreme Court (responsible to help organise a series of training seminars for various professionals in this field)
- f. Network to stop sexual violence against children, organised by The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, May 2014, Panellist of the round table of the Network meeting
- g. Workshops, Participated in a number of Judicial Workshops of The Children's House on children as vulnerable witnesses
- h. Public Speaking, Delivered speeches and presentations at universities and other academic institutions on children within the judicial system
- i. Other participations, Attended various seminars in Cyprus and abroad organised by the European Judicial Training Network

**VII. Publications and other works**

Not applicable

**VIII. Languages**

- a. Greek – native
- b. English – proficient (CEFR equivalent C2)
- c. French – independent user (CEFR equivalent B1)

Language	Greek	English	French
Reading	Fluent	Fluent	Good
Writing	Fluent	Fluent	Good
Speaking	Fluent	Fluent	Good
How acquired?	Native language	School and higher education	Private tuition (ongoing)

**IX. Other relevant information**

In my 27-year tenure as a Judge, upholding fundamental human rights has been paramount. I've presided over diverse cases where human rights issues emerged, often influencing the case's outcome. Addressing these issues entails a comprehensive analysis of international and European human rights instruments and caselaw. Some cases even necessitate the establishment of new legal principles within national caselaw. As a Supreme Court Judge, considerations of human rights, particularly in Prerogative Orders applications, remain prominent. Given the dynamic nature of human rights, the courts must continually adapt to society's evolving values, ensuring that caselaw progresses to safeguard human rights across all aspects of life for all, especially vulnerable groups. This commitment reflects my enduring dedication to the ever-evolving landscape of human rights jurisprudence.

**X. In the event that you do not meet the level of language proficiency required for the post of judge in an official language, please confirm your intention to follow intensive language classes of the language concerned prior to, and if need be also at the beginning of, your term of duty if elected a judge on the Court**

**XI. Please confirm that you will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court**

Yes, I confirm

## Appendix 2 – Curriculum vitae of Natasa MAVRONICOLA

### I. Personal details

Name: MAVRONICOLA, Natasa

Gender: female

Date and place of birth: 21 September 1985 in Nicosia, Cyprus

Nationality: Cypriot

### II. Education and academic, and other qualifications

- 2014: PhD in Law, University of Cambridge: *Thesis title*: “Delimiting the Absolute: The Nature and Scope of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights”. *Supervisor*: Professor David Feldman KC FBA. *Examiners*: Professors Liora Lazarus (University of Oxford) and Mark Elliott (University of Cambridge).
- 2010: Passed the Cyprus Bar Examinations: Distinction (Άριστα), First Place in National Examinations. *Courses completed*: Article 146 (Administrative Law); Civil Litigation; Civil Wrongs; Company Law; Constitutional Law; Contract Law; Courts/Lawyers/Ethics; Criminal Law; Criminal Litigation; Evidence.
- 2009: College of Law's Linklaters Legal Practice Course (solicitors' qualification): Distinction.
- 2008:BCL (Masters in Law), University of Oxford: Distinction, recipient of Bruce Reynolds Prize for Worcester College's highest performance on the BCL and Worcester College Prize for Distinction on the BCL.
- 2007:LLB (Hons), University College London: First Class, Dean's List and recipient of Faculty of Laws Andrews Medal and Prize for the highest performance on the LLB degree and the Agha Abdur-Rashid Prize for high standard of overall performance in undergraduate study.
- 2004: Graduate of The English School, Nicosia. *A Levels*: Classical Greek; English Literature; French; History; Mathematics; Modern Greek (all As). *AS Level*: Economics (A).

### III. Relevant professional activities

#### a. Description of judicial activities

Not applicable

#### b. Description of non-judicial legal activities

##### *Activities as Legal Academic*

##### Education & Research Posts (permanent and full-time)

- August 2022 – present: Full Professor of Human Rights Law, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham. I lecture in subjects including Decolonising Legal Concepts; European Human Rights Law; Human Rights and Criminal Justice; and International Human Rights Law. I have supervised 5 PhDs to completion.
- August 2019 – July 2022: Reader in Law, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham.
- September 2016 – August 2019: Senior Lecturer in Law, Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham.
- July 2013 – September 2016: Lecturer in Law, Queen's University Belfast School of Law.

##### Education & Research Posts (Part-Time or Visiting)

- October 2016 – 2024: Guest Lecturer, University of Oxford.
- July 2023: Lecturer, Koufa Summer Courses on *International Law and Human Rights*, Kalliopi Koufa Foundation, Thessaloniki.
- October – November 2021 and 2022: Diaspora Faculty, University of Cyprus.

- June 2013 – June 2015: Visiting Lecturer in *English Administrative Law*, University of Osnabrück.
- August 2012 – October 2012: Doctoral visitor at Harvard Law School.
- October 2011 – January 2013: Graduate Teaching Assistant in *Civil Liberties and Human Rights* (LLM), University of Cambridge.
- October 2010 – December 2012: College Tutor in *Constitutional Law and Administrative Law*, University of Cambridge.
- September 2008 – August 2012: Teaching Fellow in *Public Law and Human Rights*, UCL Faculty of Laws.

#### Research Community Activities

- Editorial Board, *Europe of Rights & Liberties* (2023–present); *Human Rights Law Review* (2021–present); *Cyprus Human Rights Law Review* (2014–2015).
- External Examiner in *Human Rights* courses (undergraduate and postgraduate), University of Galway (2021–present) and University of Nottingham (2022–present).
- Member, UK Prohibition of Torture Network; Society of Legal Scholars.
- Associate, Oxford Human Rights Hub.

#### Activities as Legal Practitioner

- 2010–2012: Trainee Lawyer at Chryssafinis & Polyviou LLC (criminal law and public law): practising in criminal law and public law; junior advocate for the defence in negligent manslaughter case.

#### c. Description of non-legal professional activities

Not applicable

#### d. Other professional activities

##### Knowledge Exchange – Selected activities

- Invited speaker, 'Dialogue entre la Cour Européenne des Droits de l'Homme et la Doctrine', University of Strasbourg, 25 April 2025.
- Keynote speaker, 'Human Rights and Coercion', LaW Network Conference, University of Nantes, 6-7 May 2024.
- Invited speaker, 'Writing Articles/Books in the Law of the ECHR', Academy for European Human Rights Protection, University of Cologne, 26 February 2024.
- Invited speaker, 'Strip Searches through the Lens of the Prohibition of Inhuman and Degrading Treatment', European Society of Criminology Conference, 7 September 2023.
- Organiser and speaker, 'Minimalism vs. Maximalism? Challenges and Future Directions in the Interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights', webinar, 8 June 2022.
- Book launch and discussion, '(Re)Interpreting Article 3 ECHR: Whither the Absolute Right against Ill-Treatment?', University of Strasbourg, 10 March 2022.
- Keynote speaker, 'The Future is a Foreign Country: Climate Change and (Real Risk of) Ill-Treatment under Article 3 ECHR', Society of Legal Scholars conference, Human Rights Section, 31 August 2021.
- Invited speaker, 'Positive Obligations in Crisis', webinar on *Human Rights in the Time of Coronavirus*, 7 April 2020.
- Invited speaker, 'The Unpopular (and) Article 3 ECHR', *What has the ECHR Ever Done for the UK?*, British Academy, 27 November 2018.
- Invited speaker, 'Policing of Assemblies: Use of Force and Accountability': conference with UN stakeholders, Geneva Academy, 1-2 May 2017.
- Invited contributor on the prohibition of torture in Cyprus, *Meeting of European experts on law and practice on prohibition of torture*, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, 25-27 November 2011.

#### **IV. Activities and experience in the field of human rights**

Not applicable

#### **V. Public activities**

##### **a. Public office**

Not applicable

##### **b. Elected posts**

Not applicable

##### **c. Posts held in a political party or movement**

Not applicable

#### **VI. Other activities (field, duration, functions)**

##### **a. Field**

Consultancy work for the United Nations and the Council of Europe on the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and its application in various contexts, specifically:

- as Special Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Nils Melzer.
- in work relating to preparation of, and reporting on, a roundtable facilitated by Greece and the Council of Europe on 'Professional Policing: Roles and Responsibilities of National Actors in relation to the (Ill-)Treatment of Apprehended Persons in Greece', involving a range of key stakeholders, including senior prosecutors, police officers, government representatives, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and Council of Europe officials.

##### **b. Duration**

- I worked as Special Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment from March 2017 until July 2019, and from January 2021 until June 2021.
- I undertook consultancy work for the Council of Europe in November 2017 – January 2018 and again in January 2019 – April 2019 in preparing for, participating in and reporting on a roundtable on professional policing and the (ill-)treatment of apprehended persons in Greece.

##### **c. Functions**

- Thematic work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer: As Special Advisor to the Rapporteur, my functions consisted of engaging in bilateral and multilateral consultations and supporting the Rapporteur in drafting the following six thematic reports (submitted to the United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Human Rights Council):
  1. thematic report on the extra-custodial use of force (UN doc. A/72/178);
  2. thematic report on migration-related torture (UN doc. A/HRC/37/50);
  3. thematic report on achievements of and challenges to the absolute prohibition of torture 70 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN doc. A/73/207);
  4. thematic report on the relationship between torture and corruption (UN doc. A/HRC/40/59);
  5. thematic report on domestic violence (UN doc. A/74/148);
  6. thematic report on accountability for torture and other ill-treatment (UN doc. A/76/168).

- Consultancy on police ill-treatment and human rights for Council of Europe (2017-2019): Under contract with the Council of Europe, I prepared a concept note and follow-up report on the (ill-)treatment of apprehended persons in Greece and on pathways to eradicating patterns of torture and ill-treatment, and participated in a stakeholder roundtable on these issues in Athens in January 2019.

## VII. Publications and other works

[Total publications: 2 books, 24 articles and book chapters, 10 blog posts, 15 reports]

### Books

- Torture, Inhumanity and Degradation under Article 3 of the ECHR: Absolute Rights and Absolute Wrongs (Hart Publishing 2021).
- Edited with Laurens Lavrysen, *Coercive Human Rights: Positive Duties to Mobilise the Criminal Law under the ECHR* (Hart Publishing 2020).

### Articles/book chapters

- ‘The Case Against Human Rights Penalty’ (2024) 44(3) *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 535-562.
- ‘Human Rights and the Righting of “Historical” Wrongs’ (2023) 74(1) *Northern Ireland Legal Quarterly* 192–208.
- (with Elaine Webster) ‘Strip Searches Through the Lens of the Prohibition of Inhuman and Degrading Treatment in European Human Rights Law’ in Tom Daems (ed), *Body Searches and Imprisonment* (Palgrave Macmillan 2023).
- ‘The Future is a Foreign Country: State (In)Action on Climate Change and the Right against Torture and Ill-Treatment’ (2022) 6(2) *Europe of Rights & Liberties* 211-237.
- ‘*Bouyid v Belgium*: The “Minimum Level of Severity” and Human Dignity’s Role in Article 3 ECHR’ (2020) 1(1) *The European Convention on Human Rights Law Review* 105-124.
- ‘Taking Life and Liberty Seriously: Reconsidering Criminal Liability under Article 2 of the ECHR’ (2017) 80(6) *Modern Law Review* 1026–1051.
- ‘Is the Prohibition against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment Absolute in International Human Rights Law? A Reply to Steven Greer’ (2017) 17(3) *Human Rights Law Review* 479–498.
- (with Kanstantsin Dzehtsiarou) ‘Relationship between Constitutional/Supreme Courts and the ECtHR’ in *Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law* (OUP 2017).
- ‘Crime, Punishment and Article 3 ECHR: Puzzles and Prospects of Applying an Absolute Right in a Penal Context’ (2015) 15(4) *Human Rights Law Review* 721-743.
- (with Francesco Messineo) ‘Relatively Absolute? The Undermining of Article 3 ECHR in *Ahmad v UK*’ (2013) 76(3) *Modern Law Review* 589-603.
- ‘*Hirsi Jamaa v Italy*: Human Rights and Expulsion on the High Seas’ (2012) 1(2) *Cyprus Human Rights Law Review* 198-212.
- ‘What is an “absolute right”? Deciphering Absoluteness in the Context of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights’ (2012) 12(4) *Human Rights Law Review* 723-758.

## VIII. Languages

Language	Reading	Writing	Speaking	How acquired?
<b>Greek</b>	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent	Mother tongue
<b>English</b>	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent	Education and work (teaching and research)
<b>French</b>	Advanced	Confident	Confident	Education (A Level) and usage
<b>Spanish</b>	Basic	Basic	Basic	Education
<b>German</b>	Basic	Basic	Basic	Education
<b>Italian</b>	Basic	Basic	Basic	Education

**IX. Other relevant information**

**a. Research awards**

- 2022 ‘Constantinos Emilianides’ Award for Law, awarded by the Cyprus Review for monograph *Torture, Inhumanity and Degradation under Article 3 ECHR: Absolute Rights and Absolute Wrongs*.
- 2022 Society of Legal Scholars Peter Birks Book Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship for monograph *Torture, Inhumanity and Degradation under Article 3 ECHR: Absolute Rights and Absolute Wrongs*.
- 2019 University of Birmingham Award for Outstanding International Impact, for informing UN policy on the prohibition of torture.

**b. Research reach**

- My academic work has been cited in 462 academic sources, and in Separate Opinions issued by judges of the European Court of Human Rights in *Svinarenko and Slyadnev v Russia*[GC] (Nos. 32541/08 and 43441/08, 17 July 2014), *Savran v Denmark*[GC] (No. 57467/15, 7 December 2021), *YP v Russia* (No. 43399/13, 20 September 2022), and *Semenya v Switzerland* (No. 10934/21, 11 July 2023).

**X. In the event that you do not meet the level of language proficiency required for the post of judge in an official language, please confirm your intention to follow intensive language classes of the language concerned prior to, and if need be also at the beginning of, your term of duty if elected a judge on the Court**

Yes, I confirm

**XI. Please confirm that you will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court**

Yes, I confirm

## **Appendix 3 – Curriculum vitae of Margarita PAPANTONIOU**

### **I. Personal details**

Name: PAPANTONIOU, Margarita

Gender: female

Date and place of birth: 23 May 1984 in Nicosia, Cyprus

Nationality: Cypriot

### **II. Education and academic, and other qualifications**

- October 2014 – December 2023 Doctorate in Professional Studies (Law) Middlesex University, London, U.K. Doctoral thesis topic “Cyber fraud: Investigating substantive, procedural and evidentiary legal issues in Cyprus”
- December 2013 – Mediation Training Program (40 hours)
- September 2009 – European Certificate on Cybercrime and Electronic Evidence – Basic Level for judges, lawyers and prosecutors
- September 2006 – July 2007 Master 2 “European Union Law, Direction: Human Rights” University of Strasbourg, France
- September 2005 – June 2006 Bar Vocational Course BPP Law School, London, U.K.
- September 2002 – June 2005 L.LB (Hons) University of Bristol, U.K.

### **III. Relevant professional activities**

#### **a. Description of judicial activities**

Since June 2019, I have been serving as a judge at the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC) of Cyprus, and since September 2022, I have had the honor of serving as the administrative president of the Court, overseeing its judicial and administrative functions. My journey at the Court, from its very establishment – as one of the first three judges appointed – has been marked by significant challenges. Spearheading the organisation of a newly founded court, navigating the limited domestic case law on international protection, and addressing the sharp increase in asylum applications in Cyprus have been among the most pressing ones.

This pioneering role presented significant challenges, including drafting ground breaking decisions, establishing the Court’s jurisdiction, and interpreting relevant instruments and provisions of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) without prior guidance from higher courts. In this regard, the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) provided valuable interpretative insights.

During this period, I have handled over 4 300 cases, of which I completed over 3 600 (2 049 revocations, 1 660 issued decisions) primarily in the fields of International Protection and Immigration law. Several of these rulings, have played a pivotal role in shaping domestic jurisprudence and setting key legal precedents. To address the volume of cases, I applied accelerated procedures for manifestly unfounded applications and collaborated with research experts to gather and assess country of origin information related to the applicants’ allegations. I issued decisions on sensitive and complex matters, particularly in cases involving vulnerable applicants and minors, while addressing novel legal questions related to the interpretation of EU Directives and the Court’s jurisdiction.

In a significant development, I referred the first preliminary ruling request to the CJEU, seeking clarification on critical points of EU law (C-454/23). I was also the first judge to grant refugee status to a Palestinian applicant residing in the Gaza Strip, following a thorough legal analysis under the Geneva Convention’s exclusion clauses. Additionally, I awarded refugee status to applicants from non-safe countries based on the grounds outlined in national legislation.

I adopted a proactive judicial approach by conducting in-person interviews with applicants in the courtroom to assess their credibility and conduct an ex nunc evaluation of their applications for international protection. My judicial duties further encompassed assessing new evidence submitted by applicants, determining its admissibility, and evaluating its probative value under the rules of evidence law.

Throughout the judicial proceedings, I remain steadfast in safeguarding applicants' human rights, ensuring a safe environment where access to justice is upheld, and procedural rights are rigorously protected. My adjudicatory responsibilities span all aspects of international protection, including reviewing decisions issued by the Asylum Service and other administrative bodies, adjudicating recourses against detention orders, and evaluating legal aid applications.

In addition to my judicial duties, I actively participate in ongoing judicial training and legal conferences to stay abreast of evolving jurisprudence and best practices in international protection law and human rights.

#### **b. Description of non-judicial legal activities**

From 2008 to 2019, I practiced law in Cyprus, where my responsibilities encompassed advising clients on civil and criminal law matters and representing them before the courts. I drafted court pleadings and other legal documents, and provided legal opinions on administrative and corporate law issues in Cyprus. During this period, I was a member of the Cyprus Bar Association. Concurrently, I served as a part-time Legal Consultant at Tipik ([www.tipik.eu](http://www.tipik.eu)), specializing in EU-related matters. In this capacity, I conducted conformity assessments of national legislation transposing EU Directives on behalf of various Directorates-General of the European Commission. Notably, I evaluated the transposition of Directive 2010/64/EU (right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings), Directive 2009/52/EC (sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals), and Directive 2013/36/EU (Capital Requirements Directive IV) for Cyprus.

Between 2012 and 2019, I held the position of Scientific Collaborator and Instructor at European University Cyprus, where I was responsible for designing course syllabi and teaching undergraduate courses on criminal law, evidence law, criminal procedure, juvenile delinquency and prisons/corrections law. Additionally, I lectured on Economic Crimes at the postgraduate level. I also served as an external legal advisor to the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (2018–2019), providing counsel on administrative law matters and overseeing the recording of meeting minutes.

Since 2019, in my capacity as a judge, I have also acted as a trainer and presenter on various legal topics. In February 2023, I delivered a presentation on international protection law to lawyers at a conference organised by the Cyprus Bar Association. In March 2023, I participated as a Judicial Expert in a European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) workshop in Cairo, Egypt. I also gave a lecture to law students at European University Cyprus in November 2023, titled "Methodology of Law: A Judge's Perspective".

Moreover, I contributed as a trainer in the CHILDFront project, co-funded by the European Union, where I developed materials on child-friendly procedures in administrative justice for cases involving children or where their interests were involved. This included comprehensive texts, source materials and presentations, which were uploaded to a specialised platform and delivered to judges through online sessions and in-person training in Greece.

#### **c. Description of non-legal professional activities**

I am currently serving as the administrative president of IPAC, therefore combining my judicial duties with administrative duties and the overall management of the Court. In this capacity, I am also charged with the responsibility of engaging with representatives from the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

I have been appointed the national contact point (NCP) of Cyprus to the EUAA by the Supreme Court of Cyprus. This position entails participating in information sharing, consultation, and knowledge exchange, as well as attending the annual meetings of the EUAA Courts and Tribunals Section.

In my dual roles as Administrative President and NCP, I have actively contributed to the organisation of Judicial Conferences in Cyprus, collaborating with the EUAA and the Association of European Administrative Judges (AEAJ), and facilitating the participation of numerous judges from the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and various member States.

#### **IV. Activities and experience in the field of human rights**

I pursued my postgraduate studies in Human Rights at the University of Strasbourg in France. During this time, I had the privilege of completing a three-month traineeship at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), where I became acquainted with the Court's environment, its procedures, and had the opportunity to attend several significant hearings. Throughout my professional career, human rights have been central to the cases I have handled, influencing both the substance of the matters and the procedural aspects of hearings.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to present and analyse human rights issues through teaching various undergraduate courses at European University Cyprus, particularly in the areas of criminal law and evidence law. Furthermore, as a judge at the International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC), I ensure that the human rights of applicants are upheld throughout all stages of the proceedings, from court hearings to the assessment of applications for international protection. In cases where applications are rejected, I diligently safeguard compliance with the principle of non-refoulement, ensuring that individuals are not returned to their home countries in violation of their fundamental rights.

#### **V. Public activities**

##### **a. Public office**

Not applicable

##### **b. Elected posts**

Not applicable

##### **c. Posts held in a political party or movement**

Not applicable

#### **VI. Other activities (field, duration, functions)**

Not applicable

#### **VII. Publications and other works**

- Chapter: «Economic Fraud Crimes on the Internet: Development of New 'Weapons' and Strategies to Annihilate the Danger» in EU Internet Law (Synodinou T et al (eds)), Springer Nature, 2017 (under publication)
- Chapter: «Prosecution of juvenile offenders in Cyprus: legislative gaps, practice and challenges» in Law and Criminology: Essays in honour of Professor James Farsedakis, Nomiki Vivliothiki, 2017 (in Greek)
- Journal article: «Criminalisation of Immigration and detention of third-country nationals: Legalisation through Directive 2008/115/EC?» Entha EUC Publications, <http://entha.euc.ac.cy/index.php/entha/article/view/20>, (in Greek), 2015
- Chapter: «Protection of religion and freedom of expression in Criminal law», in the book: T. Synodinou/ Ph. Jogleux/I. Aktipis (ed), Freedom of expression of Journalists and caricaturists, Sakkoulas, (in Greek), 2016.

##### Conferences and presentations

- Asylum at the Frontiers of Europe: Realities and Legal Challenges, organised by Lund University, Sweden, 11-12 May 2017. Title of the presentation: "The formation of asylum law in Cyprus".
- Erasmus Teaching Mobility Programme – Presentations at undergraduate and postgraduate level at the University of Lund in Sweden (2015) and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2017).
- European University of Cyprus, 2 May 2017, 'Legislation, Policies and Practices for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children'. Title of presentation: "Legal aspects in cases of sexual violence against children: Recent developments".

- Conference on Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure, organised by European University of Cyprus, 25 March 2017, Title of presentation: The powers of investigators for search and arrest and the rights of the arrested persons under Cyprus law.
- Research associate on pharmaceutical crime in Cyprus – University of Osnabruck in Germany (2016)
- Conference organised by University of Cyprus and European University Cyprus 'Freedom of expression: after the attacks on the Journal Charlie Hebdo' – Title of presentation "Protection of religion and freedom of expression in Criminal law"
- Participated in the Annual Conference on Psychology and Law 2012, subject presented "A Defendant's Ethnicity and Sentencing Severity in District Courts in Cyprus" (Dr Andreas Kapardis, Dr Nicola Padfield, Margarita Papantoniou)
- Participated in the Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology September 2012 and presented "Measuring Sentencing Decisions – A case study from Cyprus" (Dr Andreas Kapardis, Dr Nicola Padfield, Margarita Papantoniou).

### VIII. Languages

Language	Reading			Writing			Speaking		
	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair	very good	good	fair
<b>a. First language:</b>									
Greek (Please specify)	YES			YES			YES		
<b>b. Official languages:</b>									
– English	YES			YES			YES		
– French	YES			YES			YES		

### IX. Other relevant information

Not applicable

### X. In the event that you do not meet the level of language proficiency required for the post of judge in an official language, please confirm your intention to follow intensive language classes of the language concerned prior to, and if need be also at the beginning of, your term of duty if elected a judge on the Court

I believe I meet the level of language proficiency required for the post in both English and French, but I confirm my intention to follow intensive language classes prior to my term of duty if elected judge of the Court.

### XI. Please confirm that you will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court

I confirm I will take up permanent residence in Strasbourg if elected a judge on the Court.