



Prof. Dr. Julia Laffranque

Nationality: Estonian



Date of birth: 25/07/1974

Gender: Female

Email address:



Twitter : <https://twitter.com/JuliaLaffranque>

Address:



ABOUT ME

A true European with an international education and professional experience as European and national judge, professor, high civil servant, manager at Academy of European Law.

• WORK EXPERIENCE

Justice, Supreme Court of Estonia [01/03/2004 – Current], Tartu, Estonia

As a youngest judge appointed to the Supreme Court of Estonia back in 2004, I have been continuously a judge for 17 years (2011-2020 I was judge at the European Court of Human Rights). At the Supreme Court I am justice of the administrative law chamber, responsible for public and administrative law, including public procurement, tax, financial and customs law, law on European Union (EU) subsidies and competition, law on civil servants and public officials, police law, law on local governments and municipalities, pensions, health and social security law, law on education and science, culture and sports, traffic law, migration and asylum law, planning and construction law, environmental, energy land agricultural law, law of property reform. I am also dealing with complaints of prisoners, data protection law, election law and administrative procedure law. I have dealt extensively with EU administrative law and international law. I was the first Estonian judge to draft and make together with my colleagues a reference for a preliminary ruling from the Court of Justice of the EU in 2006 after Estonia had joined the EU. I developed the system and methodology - how to apply EU law in national law and how to solve issues of potential conflicts and interpret national law in harmony with EU law. As a member of Constitutional Law Chamber (based on rotation) I was responsible for drafting and solving cases concerning constitutionality and developing the system of constitutional review. I have been representative of Estonia in the ACA-Europe – Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the EU, as well as Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE) of Council of Europe, which I presided 2008-2010. Since 2020 I am a member of disciplinary chamber of Estonian judges. At the moment I am temporarily on sabbatical leave in order to support ERA in developing EU law training projects.

Director of Programmes, Deputy Director, Academy of European Law (ERA) [01/02/2021 – Current], Trier, Germany

As a Director of Programmes and deputy director of ERA I am part of the Management team and formally representing ERA. As head of programme department, I am responsible for four sections: European private law, European business law, European criminal law, and European public law and in charge of a team consisting of 30 people, mostly lawyers, but also assistants who work under my supervision and to which I provide strategic direction in terms of development and implementation of ERA's annual programme and new programme concepts. My work is about training in European, in particular EU, law of all legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers in private practice, EU and national civil servants, notaries, court and prison staff, mediators and also ombudspersons, etc.) from all over Europe. I am responsible for training structures and education tools such as e-learning and hybrid events. My

activities include creation of training programs, preparing applications and participation of continuous training projects at European and national level, as well as developing contacts with different training institutions around Europe and EU institutions and agencies, as well as Court of Justice of the EU and European Court of Human Rights; it is about establishing networks, sharing experiences and best practices, creating a forum for legal professionals in Europe and enhancing the rule of law and debates on topics such as artificial intelligence. My working languages are mainly German and English, to some extent French. I am also member of Editing Board of the Journal "ERA Forum."

Judge, European Court of Human Rights [03/01/2011 – 03/01/2020], Strasbourg, France

As a judge, at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), elected by the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe, I was responsible for deciding cases concerning all different aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights, including criminal law, also issues of corruption, transparency, fair trial, as well as private law: family law, property law, inheritance issues, of course issues of European public law and human rights. I was judge of two different sections which included countries with heavy case load - Russia and Turkey. For many cases concerning rule of law, democracy, and fundamental rights of both countries I served as rapporteur besides the cases concerning my country-of-origin Estonia, but I was also rapporteur in complaints against many other countries. I drafted important Grand Chamber judgments which developed precedents, e.g., on child abduction, equality issues, anti-discrimination, freedom of religion, fair trial, freedom of expression, etc. I was national judge in a Grand Chamber leading case concerning freedom of expression and hate speech on Internet. In the chamber of seven judges, I was responsible for drafting judgments also e.g., in terrorist cases, cases about lustration, property rights, criminal law and defence rights, corruption, presumption of innocence, prisoner rights, fair trial, health, right to life and prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment, deprivation of liberty, no punishment without law, right to private life. I was in the working group of the Committee on Working Methods that developed a wider use of well-established case law committees at the ECtHR and of the working group that increased the reasoning of the single judge decisions, all to enhance the rights of individual application and to make the ECtHR more operational. I was also member of the working group of ECtHR reforms and of the EU law working group which was responsible for the dialogue between the ECtHR and the Court of Justice of the EU. In addition, I oversaw the relations between the ECtHR and the CCBE (Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe). From 2012 until 2016 I chaired the organizing Committee of the annual seminar of the ECtHR which was responsible for the dialogue between national judges and judges of the ECtHR and prepared high-ranking seminars for more than 200 participants from the Supreme and Constitutional courts of Council of Europe Member States as well as Court of Justice of the EU and international courts. From 2015 until 2018 I was Vice-President of the Second Section of the ECtHR presiding many cases. I was also a member of the working group on Grand Chamber that developed the working methods of the Grand Chamber. In addition, I was many years duty judge on Rule 39 (interim measures) issues and single judge for several countries. My working languages were French and English.

Professor of European Law, University of Tartu [01/09/2011 – Current], Tartu, Estonia

I was elected as a professor of European law at the University of Tartu in 2011. Since autumn 2016 I am visiting professor at the same university my main activities being within the judiciary. My responsibilities have included to teach EU law - obligatory course both institutional and material law including fundamental rights, conduct specific seminars for master students, including in English, arrange, and correct exams both oral and written, direct research, master and doctoral theses and also be opponent of scientific theses. In addition, I have developed study materials including one of the first EU law book in Estonian and a monography about the ECtHR Rights case law concerning Estonia. At the University I have been a member of different juries including competitions on scientific papers and member of juries of different moot courts on national constitutional and European law (also on international level), as well as of the Council of Europe award of Christal Scales of Justice. In 2021 I was Chairperson of the 2020 René Cassin Thesis Prize, international human rights law (English section). In 2020 I was also member of the Working Group which developed the HELP (Council of Europe Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals Programme) course on Judicial Ethics.

Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Justice [01/10/2002 – 29/02/2004], Tallinn, Estonia

As a Deputy Secretary General, I was part of the Management Board of the Ministry and involved in taking most important decisions concerning legal policy, legislative drafting, and approximation of Estonian legislation to the law of the EU. I oversaw department of public law, department of private law, department of criminal law and department of legislative drafting and methodology. There was a staff, mainly lawyers of slightly more than 30 people working under my directions. I was also in charge of the magazine about Estonian Legal Language. In addition, I was member of board of Magazine Juridica and Publishing House Juura. I drafted together with three other authors the amendments of the Estonian Constitution - for Estonia to join the EU, this act: The Constitution of the Republic of Estonia Amendment Act was adopted by a large majority by referendum held on 14 September 2003. I was a member of the Committee of Highest Civil Servants of Estonia who prepared also Estonia's accession to the EU and participated in the accession negotiations.

Head of European Union Law and Foreign Relations Division, Ministry of Justice [01/08/1999 – 30/09/2002], Tallinn, Estonia

As a Head of EU Law and Foreign Relations Division I was manager of the division and responsible for its personnel, I also oversaw all Estonian legislation initiated by the executive as to its accordance with EU law. I organized round-table meetings for lawyers from different ministries about approximation of Estonian law to the law of the EU, I was teaching Estonian civil servants EU and constitutional law, organizing events on relations about EU law and Estonian constitution involving experts from e.g., Germany and France and international seminars on European fundamental rights. I developed a normative methodology how to approximate Estonian law to the EU law. Since July 2001 I was also in charge of all foreign relations of the Ministry of Justice, representing the Ministry in various working groups on EU and Council of Europe level, preparing the state visits of ministers of justice of other countries and *vice versa* visits of Estonian minister of justice to other countries.

Senior expert of European Union Law, Ministry of Justice [01/02/1996 – 31/07/1999], Tallinn, Estonia

Associated Professor of European Law, University of Tartu [01/09/2006 – 31/08/2011], Tartu, Estonia

Lecturer of European Law, Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, Institute of Law, University of Tartu [01/09/1999 – 31/08/2006], Tallinn/Tartu, Estonia

I worked as lecturer and researcher in EU law at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, which prepares civil servants in following specialities: police and border guard, rescue, correction, taxation, and customs, I also wrote my first EU law book there. Later on, I was lecturing at the Institute of Law in Tallinn and continued after it was merged with the University of Tartu. At times I also had some lectures in English on European law for foreign master students at various universities in Tallinn.

Student Assistant, Hochschulamt Hamburg [01/04/1995 – 10/07/1995], Hamburg, Germany

I was responsible for receiving the applicants outside the EU who wished their university and other higher education diplomas to be recognized in Germany, as I spoke Russian and many of them were from Russia and Ukraine. I checked whether they had brought all relevant documents and I prepared drafts for decision about the recognition/non-recognition which was to be approved by my superiors. It was at the time I studied law at the University of Hamburg. I worked in German and Russian.

• OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIP

Member of the Article 255 Panel of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, [21/01/2021 – Current]

As a member proposed by the European Parliament of this distinguished committee, my responsibility is together with six other members to give an opinion about the candidates' suitability to perform the

duties of judge and advocate general of the Court of Justice of the EU and the judge of the General Court before the Governments of the Member States make their final decision.

Member of the Scientific Committee of European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), [04/06/2018 – Current]

As a member of Scientific Committee of FRA, I am responsible for the quality of the opinions published by FRA on different legal and fundamental rights issues in particular concerning fair trial, criminal law and administrative law, issues of access to court and lawyer and legal aid, protection of victims, but also equality, domestic violence, COVID and family law related issues within the EU. I am participating in making suggestions to the future scientific and research work of FRA and commenting its annual Fundamental Rights Reports, in particular the chapter about the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

Member of Board of Trustees of ERA [18/11/2019 – 01/02/2021]

Member of Permanent Court of Arbitration [24/11/2010 – 24/11/2016]

President of the Consultative Council of European Judges of the Council of Europe (CCJE) [01/02/2008 – 01/02/2010]

I was presiding an independent body of 47 judges from all Council of Europe Member States, I chaired meetings, drafted opinions and declarations, organised conferences, communicated with judges all over the world, defended the independence and impartiality of judges, I also published several articles and gave interviews about this topic. During my presidency the CCJE received a prestigious award called Justice in the World for its work in the field of judicial independence, we also succeeded with the CCJE to unite 47 judges and 47 prosecutors and pass a common Bordeaux declaration about among other issues the importance of a fair trial. As president of the CCJE I managed the staff of the secretariat and also communicated with different European institutions.

President of International Federation of European Law/Fédération internationale pour le droit européen (FIDE) [06/11/2010 – 02/06/2012]

As a president of FIDE, I was responsible for the organisation and managed staff who prepared the XXV FIDE Congress in Tallinn, Estonia. I also directed the committee of directors (FIDE board). It was the first time a FIDE Congress was organized in an Eastern European country. I created the FIDE slogan: „Uniting great minds of European law, “ as well as the idea of capital of European law. On my initiative a youth congress of FIDE for young lawyers was introduced which has now become a FIDE tradition. FIDE is uniting legal professionals who work with EU law. At the Congress in Tallinn on my invitation the President of Estonia, Estonian Minister of Justice, European Commissioner, Presidents of Court of Justice of the EU, Supreme Court of Estonia, and German Federal Constitutional Court, as well as vice-president of the ECtHR and European ombudsman spoke. I also edited the IV volumes of congress publications.

Founding President (2004-2013) since 2013 Honorary President of Estonian Association for European Law [13/11/2004 – Current]

***Ad hoc* judge at the European Court of Human Rights [2006]**

Member of the Board of Policy think tank PRAXIS as independent expert [2000 – 2004]

Member of the Estonia Lawyers Union (Board Member 2005-2011) [1992 – Current]

Member of Estonian Academic Law Society (Board Member 2004-2012) [1999 – Current]

Member of the Estonian Judges Association [2004 – Current]

Member of Student organisation Filiae Patriae (since 1997 alumni) [1992 – Current]

- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

PhD (doctor iuris), University of Tartu, [04.09.2000 – 3.10.2003], Tartu, Estonia

Thesis on “The possibility and necessity of judicial dissent (dissenting opinion) in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Estonia and in the European Court of Justice”.

Postgraduate studies, Christian Albrecht University of Kiel (City of Kiel scholarship), [04.2002– 07.2002], Kiel, Germany

Postgraduate research, European University-Institute (EUSSIRF scholarship), [01.09.2002– 30.09.2002], Fiesole, Italy

Magistra Legum (LL.M.) (master in law) summa cum laude, Westfälische Wilhelms-University of Münster (DAAD scholarship), [01.10.1997– 16.12.1998], Münster, Germany

Bachelor of arts (*baccalaureus artium*) (B.A. in law), University of Tartu, [01.09.1992 – 18.06.1997], Tartu, Estonia (Studies in European and international law also at the law faculty of University of Hamburg [1994–1995], Hamburg, Germany (Copernicus scholarship))

High school diploma, Golden medal, Tallinna Õismäe Humanitaarakeskkool [01.09.1981 – 18.06.1992], Tallinn, Estonia

High school diploma outstanding honours, Litchfield High School, [1990-1991], Litchfield, Connecticut

- **TRAINEESHIP AND SECONDMENTS**

Secondment to the French Council of State (Conseil d'État), [2007], Paris, France

Secondment to the German Federal Administrative Court (*Bundesverwaltungsgericht*), [2005], Leipzig, Germany

Secondment to the Swedish Ministry of Justice, [2000], Stockholm, Sweden

Secondment to the French Ministry of Justice, [2000], Paris, France

Study session on France and the integration of the European Union, École Nationale d'administration (ENA), [1999], Paris, France

Secondment to the Legal Service of the European Commission, [1997], Brussels, Belgium

Traineeship at Legal Department of Commerzbank, [1995], Hamburg, Germany

Traineeship at Dr. Detlef Prömse Notary Office, [1994], Bad Münstereifel, Germany

Traineeship at Dr. Jürgen Lukanow and Tönnemann Law office, [1994], Euskirchen, Germany

Telders International Moot Court Competition, [1994], Leiden, The Netherlands

Washington Workshops on Diplomacy and Global Affairs, [1991], Washington DC, USA

- **PUBLICATIONS**

Selection of Publications and books from more than 100 publications on European law in Estonian, English, French, German and translated to some other European languages, published in the EU and USA:

2021 - The European Court of Human Rights: In Service of the People? // The Future of Legal Europe: Will We Trust in It? Liber Amicorum in Honour of Wolfgang Heusel, Springer, 2021 pp. 449 – 482, Author

2020 - The Ombudsman in the Eyes of the European Court of Human Rights //Juridica International, 29, 2020, pp. 95-107, Author

2020 - Commentary of Estonian Constitution, Tallinn: Juura, Author

2018 - (Just) Give Me a Reason ... // Juridica International 27, 2018, pp. 12-35, Author

2017 - Euroopa Inimõiguste Kohus ja Eesti õigus (European Court of Human Rights and Estonian law) Tallinn: Juura, book, Author

2016 - La Cour Européenne des droits de l'Homme Conscience de l'Europe // La Protection des droits de l'Homme par les cours supranationales Actes du colloque des 8 et 9 octobre 2015, Paris: Editions A. Pedone, 2016 pp 231-238, Co-Author

2016 - Europäische Identität und Ethik. Überlegungen zu ethischen Grundlagen der europäischen Rechtsprechung // Juridica International 24, 2016 // pp. 3-13, Author

2016 - Estonia. Impact of the European Court of Human Rights' (case law) on democracy and rule of law: Some reflections from Estonian perspective// Motoc, Iulia, Ziemele, Ineta (eds.) The Impact of the ECHR on Democratic Change in Central and Eastern Europe. Judicial Perspectives, Cambridge: University Press, 2016, pp. 153-175, Author of the chapter

2015 - Together with Michal Kucera, Dawn raids, surprises and promises on competition and human rights // Essays in Honour of Dean Spielmann, Wolf Legal Publishers, 2015, pp. 307-317, Co-Author

2014 - Can't Get Just Satisfaction // Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights – Effects and Implementation, Prof. Dr. Anja Seibert-Fohr and Prof. Dr. Mark Villiger (eds.) Nomos, 2014, pp.75-114, Author

2012 - Proceedings of FIDE XXV Congress of Tallinn 2012, Editor

2006 - Euroopa Liidu õigussüsteem ja Eesti õiguse koht selles (The Legal System of the European Union and Estonian Law), Tallinn: Juura, book

2005 - Õppematerjal kohtunikele: eelotsuse küsimine Euroopa Kohtult (Textbook for judges: guidance how to ask for preliminary rulings), Eesti Õiguskeskus, book, Author

2003 - Kohtuniku eriarvamus. Selle võimalikkus ja vajalikkus Eesti Vabariigi Riigikohtus ja Euroopa Kohtus (dissertation: The possibility and necessity of judicial dissent (dissenting opinion) in the Supreme Court of the Republic of Estonia and in the European Court of Justice), Author

2002 - Together with Rodolphe Laffranque, French-Estonian-French Legal Dictionary, Tallinn: Juura, book, Co-Author

1999 - Euroopa Liit ja Euroopa Ühendus: institutsioonid ja õigus (European Union and European Communities: Institutions and Law), Sisekaitseakadeemia, book

- **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Best trainer of judges (Estonia), 2016

European of the Year, European Movement of Estonia, 2013

Justice in the World award with CCJE (Spain), 2009

Order of the White Star, fourth class (Estonia), 2005

Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite (France), 2004

- **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue: ESTONIAN

Other languages:

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING	WRITING	
	Listening	Reading	Spoken Production	Spoken Interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
GERMAN	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
FRENCH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C1
FINNISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	B2
RUSSIAN	C2	C1	B2	B2	B1

- **DIGITAL SKILLS**

Microsoft Office | Microsoft Word | Outlook | PowerPoint | Excel | social media | Facebook | Twitter |

LinkedIn | YouTube | Skype | Zoom | MS Teams | BBB

- **HOBBIES AND INTERESTS**

Theatre, acting, choral singing, literature, community work and children, Nordic walking

- **PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Independent, impartial, ethical, honest, fair. Excellent at analytical, strategic, and critical thinking, experienced in solving problems and complaints in fixed deadlines. Very good communication, including inter-personal, skills. Team player, ability to inspire the team; strong commitment to create positive work environment and good working relations inhouse as well as with external interlocutors. Empathic, good listener, reliable, hardworking, committed, engaged, motivated, devoted.

I will put all my knowledge, experience and dedication at my service as Controller of procedural guarantees in the context of investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

Trier, 6.09.2021

Prof. Dr. Julia Laffranque