

Joanna Harrington, B.A. (U. Brit. Col.), J.D. (U. Victoria), Ph.D. (Cantab)

Joanna Harrington was born in London, England, but spent much of her early childhood in a small village in South Devon (in the west of England) before moving to Canada.

She began her university studies with a President's Entrance Scholarship at the University of British Columbia, graduating with a B.A. in History and Political Science. After graduation, she served as a Legislative Intern with the British Columbia Legislative Assembly and then studied law on a Law Foundation Entrance Scholarship at the University of Victoria. She articulated with one of the largest law firms in Vancouver and was called to the Bar of British Columbia in 1995 (and later the Bar of Ontario in 2002).

She pursued graduate studies at the University of Cambridge, fully-funded by a WM Tapp studentship from Gonville and Caius College, one of the oldest of the Cambridge colleges. She was also a Pegasus Scholar with the Inns of Court in London and attended the Academy of European Law at the European University Institute in Italy on a Cambridge European Trust scholarship, earning the Academy's diploma in human rights law by way of a competitive exam. She graduated from Cambridge with a Ph.D. in law. Her dissertation examined the role for human rights in matters of extradition, taking into account the desire for cross-border co-operation in criminal law enforcement and counter-terrorism activities.

From January 1998 to mid-1999, Professor Harrington served as the legal officer to a prominent member of Britain's House of Lords, focussing on matters of constitutional reform during the first term of the Blair Administration, including the enactment of Britain's first modern bill of rights, the Human Rights Act 1998; devolution and the creation of a Scottish Parliament; and the implementation of the Northern Ireland peace agreement.

Professor Harrington began her career as a legal academic in 1999 as a Lecturer at the University of Nottingham. She was then appointed an Assistant Professor at the University of Western Ontario, before joining the University of Alberta in 2004 as an Associate Professor. She was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2009 and became an Associate Dean with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in 2010. She specializes in constitutional law and international law, including human rights and international crime, and she has also held visiting appointments at universities in Australia, Japan, Puerto Rico, and Suriname. She has also been a guest lecturer for training programs offered by the Canadian Foreign Service Institute and the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Canadian Forces.

From 2006-2008, Professor Harrington was on secondment to the Government of Canada, serving as the Scholar-in-Residence with the Legal Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In this role, she provided advice on matters of international criminal law and practice, corporate social responsibility, and international human rights law, including the rights of peoples. She also participated in the negotiation of new human rights instruments at both the United Nations and the Organization of American States and was a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, focussing on the work of the Legal Committee, and to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, focussing on the crime of aggression. In 2010, she was an accredited NGO delegate to the first Review Conference for the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala, Uganda.

Her consultancy experience includes work with the British Council in Ukraine, the United Nations Development Programme in Viet Nam, and the Judicial Studies Board of England and Wales, as well as assistance to counsel acting before domestic courts and international human rights treaty monitoring bodies. She is also active within the local community, currently serving as the Chair of the Alberta Press Council, a voluntary body established to hear complaints against member newspapers and to promote freedom of expression.