

Mathilda Twomey-Woods

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EDUCATION

PhD, University of Galway, Ireland, 2015

Master of Public Law, University of Galway, Ireland, 2011

Certificate in Disability Law, University of Galway, Ireland, 2005

Diploma in Community Development, University of Galway, Ireland, 2001

Barrister-at-law, Middle Temple, Inns of Court, London, United Kingdom, 1987

Bachelor of Arts in English and French Law, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, 1986

Diplôme de Droit Français, Université de Paris Sud, Faculté de Droit à Sceaux, France, 1985

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025 - Commissioner, Inquiry into the lease and sublease of Assumption Island, Seychelles
- 2022 - Executive Secretary, African Network of Judicial Trainers
- 2021 - Member, Red Lion Consulting (Red Lion Chambers, London), Legal Consultant
- 2020 - Academic Director, Judicial Institute For Africa (JIFA), Public Law Department, University of Cape Town - Creating and developing short courses on substantive and procedural law for judicial officers across Africa, training judicial officers across the African continent
- 2020 - Adjunct Professor, Public Law, University of Cape Town, Lead lecturer for the Postgraduate Diploma in Judicial Studies at the University of Cape Town
- 2020 - Adjunct Professor, University of Galway, Ireland
- 2015 - 2020 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Seychelles
- 2011 - Justice, Supreme Court of Appeal, Seychelles
- 2017 - 2025 Professor and Council Member, University of Seychelles
- 2011 - 2015 Lecturer, National University of Ireland, Galway
- 1996 - 2011 Regional Coordinator, MS Ireland, Western Regional Office, Galway, Ireland - Lobbyist and draftsman of position papers and briefs on Equality Act, Disability Act, Freedom of Information Act, Rights for People with Disabilities
- 1995 - 1996 Legal Officer, Citizens Information Centre, Augustine Street, Galway, Ireland

- 1992 -1995 Pardiwalla and Twomey, Premier Building, Victoria, Seychelles, Attorneys-at-law and Notary Public, Conducted criminal and civil litigation in all courts and tribunals. Conducted conveyancing of property and drafted and executed leases and agreements
- 1992 -1993 Member of the Constitutional Commission charged with drafting the Third Constitution of Seychelles
- 1990 - 1993 Senior State Counsel and Official Notary, Attorney General's Office Chambers. Undertook the prosecution of serious criminal cases, defended the Seychelles Government in civil suits, represented the Seychelles Government at international conferences, trained and assisted state counsel, prosecutors and the police department in assembling evidence and undertook prosecutions in all courts and tribunals, conducted the conveyancing of state land and leases, drafted and advised on contracts at national and international level
- 1987 -1990 Barrister-at-Law and Attorney-at-Law, Ocean Gate Law Centre Undertook criminal and civil litigation.

COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

- 2022- Adviser, Reform of the Seychelles Pension Fund Scheme
- 2020 - 2021 Chair, Child Law Reform Committee, Seychelles.
- 2019 - Advisory Board Member of the Global Judicial Integrity Network (UNODC)
- 2019 - Advisory Board Member, Judicial Integrity Group (drafters of the Bangalore Principles and Commentary)
- 2019 - 2022 Executive Council Member, Council of Constitutional Jurisdictions in Africa
- 2018 - 2020 Member of the Governing Council, Southern African Chief Justices' Forum
- 2018 - Member of the Governing Council of University of Seychelles
- 2015 - 2020 Chairperson, Archbishop Makarios Foundation (Philanthropy), Seychelles
- 2014 -2022 Chair, Seychelles Legal Information Institute (www.seylii.org)
- 2013 -2018 Chair, Seychelles Civil Code Review Committee
- 2006-2011 Director, Kinvara Town Council, Galway, Ireland
- 2004 -2006 Member of Steering Committee, Galway City Community Forum, Ireland

AWARDS

- 30 July 2021 Franco-German Human Rights Prize

8 July 2020	Bench, Middle Temple Society, Inns of Court, London, England
2017	Alumni Award for Law, Public Policy and Government, National University of Ireland, Galway
2014-2015	Irish Research Council Scholar, Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme
2012-2014	James Hardiman Scholar, Applied Social Sciences and Public Policy, National University of Ireland, Galway
1982-1987	British Council Scholar

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Rule of Law, Governance, Constitutionalism, Judicial Integrity, Judicial Training and Continued Development, Judicial Ethics, Comparative Law, Mixed Legal Systems, Legal Hybridity, Legal Plurality, Legal History and Legal Anthropology, Crimes of Universal Jurisdiction (maritime piracy).

Research projects have included the formation of the Seychellois legal system, the constitution of Seychelles, the role of comparative law in Africa, the feasibility of mixed jurisdictions, the law of maritime piracy with an emphasis on the Somali piracy crisis and its impact on Seychelles, the antecedents of the Seychelles Penal Code, the constitutional law of Seychelles and comparative jurisdictions, judicial integrity in Africa, the use of foreign judges in domestic courts.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- Mathilda Twomey, *Judicial Ethics: A Training Manual for African Jurisdictions* (JIFA, University of Cape Town, 2024)
- Mathilda Twomey, Joelle Barnes, Jocelyn Hackett and Michelle Ebrahim (eds) *A Practical Approach To Evidence For Judicial Officers: Common Law Sources and African Applications* (JIFA, University of Cape Town 2023)
- Mathilda Twomey, *Legal Métissage: The Mixing of Common Law and Civil Law in Seychelles* (Journal de Droit Comparé du Pacifique 2017)

Book chapters

- M. Twomey, 'Impartial adjudicators? The role of foreign judges in Seychelles' in Anna Dziedzic and Simon N. M. Young (eds) *The Cambridge Handbook of Foreign Judges on Domestic Courts* (Cambridge University Press 2023)
- Mathilda Twomey and Joelle Barnes, 'Through a Glass Darkly: Reflections on 25 years of Constitutional Litigation in Seychelles' in Jacques Colom, Stephanie Rohlfing-Dijoux and Götz Schulze (eds), *The 50th Anniversary of Mauritius: Constitutional Development* (Nomos 2019)

- Seán Patrick Donlan and Mathilda Twomey, 'Island, Intersection, or In-Between? Legal Hybridity and Diffusion in the Seychellois Legal Tradition, c1715-1950', in Sean Patrick Donlan, Jane Mair (eds) *Mixes, Movements, and Metaphors* (Routledge 2019)
- 'S.P Donlan, D Marrani, M Twomey, and D Zammit, 'Inside-Out/Outside-In: Education, Training, and the Legal Profession in Three Mixed/Micro Jurisdictions', in C Morris and P Butler (eds), *Small States in a Legal World* (Springer 2016)
- 'The Republic of Seychelles' in Gerhard Robbers (ed) *Encyclopedia of Law and Religion* (Brill Online 2016)
- Mathilda Twomey, 'Legal Salmon: Comparative Law and its Role in Africa' in Salvatore Mancuso, Charles M. Fombad (eds) *Comparative Law in Africa - Methodologies and Concepts* (Juta 2015)
- Mathilda Twomey, 'Things fall apart? - The mixing of fate, free will and imposition in the laws of Seychelles' in Sue Farran, Esin Örüçü and Seán Patrick Donlan (eds), *A Study of Mixed Legal Systems: Endangered, Entrenched or Blended* (Ashgate 2014)
- Mathilda Twomey, 'The parts that make a whole? - the mixity of the laws of Seychelles' in Vernon Valentin Palmer (ed), *Mixed Legal Systems, East and West: Newest Trends and Developments* (Ashgate, 2014)
- Mathilda Twomey, 'The Republic of Seychelles: Introductory Note' in Rüdiger Wolfrum, Rainer Grote, Erika de Wet (eds) *Constitutions of the World* (Oxford University Press 2013)

Journals

- Mathilda Twomey, 'Muddying the Waters of Maritime Piracy or Developing the Customary Law of Piracy? Somali Piracy and Seychelles' (2014) 20 Comparative Law Journal of the Pacific 137
- Mathilda Twomey, 'Model Code or Mongrel Laws: The Strange Antecedents of the Seychelles Penal Code' (2015) 2(2) Journal of Comparative Law 40

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Fluent in English, French and Creole

REFERENCES

Available on request

PERSONAL INFORMATION (SELECTED)

Helvetia, La Misere, Mahé, Seychelles/
68 Cuchulainn Heights, The Liberties, Carlingford, Co. Louth, Ireland
Seychellois citizen (born 3 June 1963 in Victoria, Mahé, Seychelles)
Postnuptial Irish citizenship granted 1992

Married to Steve Woods

Children: One son and three daughters (Seán (2 July 1990), Dominique (24 October 1991), Camille (20 October 1994), Aoibhín (15 April 2003)).