



Series 1: Safeguarding the Rule of Law in Challenging Times

Episode 2: Maintaining Access to Justice - Part 1: Criminal Courts

EPISODE SUMMARY: It is vital that courts are kept open and that access to justice is maintained but protecting the health of the community has challenged the usual order of business. This episode explores how the wheels of justice can continue to operate during the current global health crisis, particularly in the context of criminal trials. What are the core functions that the judiciary needs to deliver to deal with urgent issues despite the pandemic? What critical decisions and urgent matters must be addressed? We talk to the Right Honourable Justice Bernard McCloskey of Northern Ireland about his view of these matters, including the limitations of videoconferencing to replace in-person trials during pandemic restrictions. Ilze Tralmaka of Fair Trials also provides an overview of her organization's concerns surrounding access to justice during the pandemic, and our spotlight series looks at the bi-weekly Webinar Roundtable Discussion Series CEELI is presenting with the Central & Eastern European Judicial Exchange Network.

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SEGMENTS

[1:14] Interview with The Right Honourable Justice Bernard McCloskey



The Right Honourable Lord Justice McCloskey has served as a High Court Judge in Northern Ireland since 2008, and currently serves as the Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland and Privy Councillor since August 2019. He has also served as the President of the Northern Ireland Judicial Review Court (Sept. 2017 - Sept. 2019), President of the UK Upper Tribunal, Immigration and Asylum Chamber (Oct. 2013 - Oct. 2017), Chairman of The Northern Ireland Law Commission (2009 - 2012), Judge-In-Residence at Queen's University (Belfast 2010 - 2013), Former Deputy Chairman of the Boundary Commission of Northern Ireland, and Judge of the UK Competition Appeals Tribunal. Judge McCloskey is a member of numerous organizations and has penned several publications. He has written over 800 judgments in the High Court, Court of Appeal, English High Court and UK Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) spanning a broad range of subjects.

[17:15] Interview with Ilze Tralmaka, Fair Trials about defense rights during the pandemic.



Ilze Tralmaka is a Legal and Policy Officer at Fair Trials specializing in the right to a fair trial, specifically defense rights in criminal proceedings. She is currently working on defense rights in remote justice procedures, evidentiary standards, and strategic litigation on EU criminal law. Before joining Fair Trials she worked as a Senior Legal Adviser to the Latvian Parliament representing the Parliament before the Constitutional Court of Latvia. She has previously worked for the national human rights institution (Ombudsman) in Latvia specializing in civil and political rights.

[26:40] Spotlight on the Central & Eastern European Judicial Exchange Network Webinar Roundtable Discussion Series.

RESOURCES:

- [Discussion Paper for Webinar Roundtable Discussion Series: Videoconferencing in Support of Remote Access to Courts](#) by Rt. Honourable Justice B McCloskey.
- [Interim Practice Direction on Remote Hearings](#) Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland.
- [Overview of Mock Remote Jury Trials in England and Wales](#) by Justice.

- [Covid-19 Justice Project](#) by Fair Trials.
- [Safeguarding the Right to a Fair Trial during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) by Fair Trials.
- Central & Eastern European Judicial Exchange Network [Webinar Roundtable Discussion Series](#) (Part 1: Videoconferencing in Support of Remote Access to Courts; and Part 2: Access to Justice During and After the Pandemic).

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For further information on the work of the CEE Judicial Network including our series of Podcasts and Webinars please contact Freda Grealy at Freda.grealy@ceeli.eu

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