

Appointment of Honorary Recorder

Her Honour Judge Patricia Lees

Her Honour Judge Patricia Lees is assigned to the South Eastern Circuit of England & Wales. Prior to her appointment to the circuit Bench in 2009, she practiced at the Bar for 19 years. Her specialism in criminal litigation included extensive experience of both prosecuting and defending in the most serious criminal offences, including homicide, serious sexual violence, drugs offences and fraud. Her particular expertise in cases involving sexual allegations has continued and developed within her judicial career. As a barrister, she was heavily involved in education for the criminal Bar including the rolling out of training in respect of the introduction of intermediaries. She is a judicial lead for the pre-trial cross examination of children and other vulnerable witnesses.

HHJ Lees trains the judiciary and practitioners both nationally and internationally, particularly in relation to sexual offences and the treatment of vulnerable witnesses.

In the UK, she has been a tutor for the Judicial College of England & Wales since 2012 and is the Director of its Serious Sexual Offences Course, which provides the mandatory training for all judges qualified to try cases involving sexual offending and vulnerable witnesses.

HHJ Lees is regularly invited to train the judiciary outside the UK in all matters relating to the trial of sexual offences and the treatment of vulnerable witnesses. She has been instrumental in assisting jurisdictions outside the UK to adapt their approach to trying these difficult and sensitive cases and is currently involved in an overhaul of the approach in Malaysia. In addition, HHJ Lees has recently been appointed to train the Ukrainian judiciary at all levels in preparation for trying war crimes. HHJ Lees provides annual judicial training in criminal law for the judiciaries of both France and Jersey.

Patricia Lees is the co-author of *The Sexual Offences Referencer*, the authoritative text book for practitioners and the judiciary on sexual offences and sentencing in this challenging area. HHJ Lees is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Blackstone's Criminal Practice* (Oxford University Press).