Melina Antoniadis

Member

Called: England and Wales (2024)
Called: Ontario, Canada (2020)
Languages: English, French, Greek



Professional Practice

Melina specialises in public international law. Her practice covers the full range of public international law, including State responsibility, human rights, law of the sea, international humanitarian law, law of treaties, international criminal law, with a specialisation in arts and cultural heritage, and climate change and the environment.

Melina has advised and appeared in proceedings before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the European Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Melina is a member of the Bar of England and Wales, and the Law Society of Ontario. In 2025, she was appointed to the **Attorney General's Public International Law C Panel of Counsel to the United Kingdom Government** (2026-2030). **She is a Visiting Fellow at the Athens Public International Law Center** (2026) and an **Associate Editor of the European Human Rights Reports.** Previously, Melina was a **Researcher at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies** at Leiden University (2021).

Melina is also developing a commercial and international arbitration practice. In 2025, she was selected as a **Pegasus Scholar of The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple** to undertake the Paris Bar Exchange. As part of this programme, she completed a stage at Gide Loyrette Nouel LLP, a leading international arbitration firm, where she worked on commercial and investment arbitration matters.

Melina is the Founder of **NOSTOS Strategies**, the world's first strategic consultancy solely dedicated to the return of cultural heritage. NOSTOS offers strategic advice to governments, organisations, communities, and private individuals to facilitate the repatriation of cultural artefacts.

OUTLINE
CHAMBERS

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Expertise & Exprience

Melina's areas of expertise include:

- Arts and cultural heritage
- Climate change and the environment
- International arbitration
- International criminal law
- International human rights law
- International humanitarian law
- Law of the sea
- Public international law

Prior to being called to the Bar, Melina held positions at Wilmer Hale LLP in London, the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General in Toronto, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in Phnom Penh, and the Permanent Representation of Greece at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal.

Born and raised in Montreal, Melina is of Greek and Cambodian heritage. She is fluent in English, French and Greek, and has a working knowledge of Spanish and Russian.

Notable Cases

- Instructed as counsel for the Kingdom of Cambodia in ***Gulf of Thailand Conciliation (Cambodia/Thailand)*** **(PCA Case No. 2026-35)**
- Instructed as counsel for an African State in ***Request by the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) for an Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States with respect to the Climate Change Crisis*** **(ACtHPR)**
- Instructed by a company in a substantial investment claim brought pursuant to the Energy Charter Treaty (SCC Rules)
- Instructed by a private art collector against an art gallery in a claim under an investment and consignment agreement governed by English law (LCIA Rules)
- Appeared as counsel for the African Union (led by Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue) in ***Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*** **(ICJ)**
- Instructed by the applicant in ***A.M. v. Bulgaria*** concerning an entry ban on alleged grounds of national security (ECtHR)
- Appeared as assistant counsel for the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (led by Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue) in ***Request for an Advisory Opinion submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law*** **(ITLOS)**
- Appeared as assistant counsel for the Republic of Maldives (led by Professor Payam Akhavan and Amy Sander KC) in ***Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean (Mauritius/Maldives)*** **(ITLOS)**
- Appeared as assistant counsel for the Plurinational State of Bolivia (led by Professor Payam Akhavan) in ***Obligation to Negotiate Access to the Pacific Ocean (Bolivia v. Chile)*** **(ICJ)**

Advisory Work

- Instructed as special legal counsel for an Asian State to advise on all public international law matters arising from an ongoing conflict
- Advised a West African State in an LCIA arbitration concerning alleged non-payment of promissory notes subject to English law
- Advising the Kingdom of Cambodia on the recovery and repatriation of its antiquities looted during the 1970s
- Advised an African State in a potential dispute concerning violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and attribution of State responsibility in the context of an ongoing armed conflict
- Advised the applicant in ***Ngoma v. France*** concerning a refusal to allow medically assisted reproduction following the death of the applicant's partner (ECtHR)
- Advised an African State on accountability for piracy and armed robbery at sea drawing on the ongoing work of the International Law Commission

Advisory Work Continued

- Advised a group of individuals on their rights under the ECHR relating to recognition of nationality and access to personal records following the mass transfer of children for intercountry adoption in the 1950-60s
- Advised the Republic of Vanuatu (led by Professor Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh) in its request for the Advisory Opinion on ***Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*** (ICJ)
- Advised the applicants in ***Duarte Agostinho v Portugal and Others*** concerning the failure of 33 States to take sufficient action on climate change (ECtHR)
- Advised as legal assistant the Office of the International Co-Prosecutor (led by Prosecutor Nicholas Koumjian and Andrew Boyle) in Case ***004 (Investigation of Yim Tith)*** (ECCC)

Education

2024: Bar Transfer Test (Distinction), BPP University
2019: LL.M in Public International Law (Master of Laws) (Cum laude), Leiden University
2017: LL.B/J.D (Bachelor of Laws/Juris Doctor) and B.C.L (Bachelor of Civil Law) (Recipient of the J.W. McConnell Entrance Scholarship), McGill University

- Exchange Programme, Aix-Marseille Université, Aix-en-Provence, France

Bar & Other Memberships

2024: Bar of England and Wales
2020: Law Society of Ontario
2023: International Law Association, Canadian Branch (ILA-Canada)
2020: Hellenic Canadian Lawyers' Association

Certificates

2026: CIL-ANCORS Workshop on Maritime Boundary Delimitation, National University of Singapore
2024: Certificat de participation, Cycle 3 - Les classiques de la littérature française, Université d'été en Sorbonne, Faculté de Lettres de Sorbonne Université

Appointments & Awards

2025 – Present: Attorney General's Public International Law C Panel of Counsel to the United Kingdom Government
2025: Pegasus Scholar, The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, Paris Bar Exchange
2019: Telders International Law Moot Competition, 42nd Edition

- Leiden University Finalist Team Award
- Max Huber Award for Best Overall Score
- Carnegie Foundation Award for Best
- Memorial on behalf of the Respondent
- Award for Best Oral Argumentation on behalf of the Applicant (news release here)

Publications & Speaking Engagements

March 2026: Bradley J. Gordon, Melina Antoniadis and Sokunthyda Long, 'Cambodia's Campaign to Recover Its National Treasures: A Unique Model of Collaborative Restitution', 94 Fordham L. Rev. 38

November 2025: M Wewerinke-Singh and M Antoniadis, 'Human rights, climate change and remedies' in K Henrard and M Duin (eds), Research Handbook on Accountability for Human Rights Violations (Edward Elgar Publishing)

November 2025: Panellist, African Union 'Post-Advisory Opinion Workshop on the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change' (African Union HQ, Addis Ababa)

October 2025: Guest Lecturer, "Climate Change and Human Rights" Course, NYU Center for Global Affairs

March 2025: Panellist, American Society of International Law (ASIL) Asia-Pacific Interest Group, 'New Moves for the Repatriation of Historically Displaced Cultural Property in Asia'

Publications & Speaking Engagements Continued

March 2022: Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh and Melina Antoniadis, 'Vessel for Drowning Persons? The Standard-Setting Potential of International Human Rights Litigation in Addressing Climate Displacement', Yearbook of International Disaster Law Vol. III (Brill)

January 2022: Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh and Melina Antoniadis, 'Climate Displacement and the Right to Mental Health' in Simon Behrman and Avidan Kent (eds),Climate Refugees: Global, Local and Critical Approaches (Cambridge University Press)