

# Conor Gearty

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**matrix**  
chambers

Registered name on the Bar Standards Board Register: Professor Conor Anthony Gearty  
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Called 1995



## Main Areas of Practice

Human Rights  
Public law

Conor is a founder member of Matrix and was one of the set's first academic members. His practice as a barrister is primarily in human rights law and in public law, in addition to which he has developed a specialism in the law and practice of war pensions, representing many ex-servicemen in litigation against the Ministry of Defence. Conor has also been a frequent adviser to judges, practitioners and public authorities on the implications of the Human Rights Act. He has also recently been a consultant for BP, analyzing the human rights aspects of their development of Iraq's Rumaila oilfield.

Apart from his work at the Bar, Conor is Professor of Human Rights Law at the London School of Economics. He was named as one of The Observer's Top 300 Intellectuals in 2011.

## Background

Born in Ireland, Conor studied law at University College Dublin and then qualified as a solicitor in Ireland. He went to Cambridge in 1980 to study for a Master's Degree, then stayed on to complete a PhD on the role of the courts in the development of pollution law in England and Wales.

In 1983 he became a fellow of Emmanuel College and was later appointed to a lectureship at the University of Cambridge. In 1990 Conor moved to the school of law in King's College, where he developed human rights law into one of the most popular options in the undergraduate law course well before the subject became central to UK jurisprudence. He moved to the LSE in 2002 to take up his position as the inaugural Rausing Director of LSE's then newly established Centre for the Study of Human Rights. In 2009 he moved across from the centre to LSE's law department.

## Publications

Conor has published many books and articles on terrorism, civil liberties and human rights, some with Keith Ewing (his former colleague at Kings) eg. *Freedom under Thatcher* (1990); *The Struggle for Civil Liberties* (2000), and others as sole author eg. *Terror* (1991). Conor has also given specialist evidence before various parliamentary committees. He is currently writing a serialized book on the web, accessible at <http://www.therightsfuture.com>.

## His books include:

*Debating Social Rights* (with Virginia Mantouvalou) (Hart Publishing 2011)

*The Rights Future* ([www.therightsfuture.com](http://www.therightsfuture.com)) (web book, serialized October 2010-February 2011)

*Essays on Human Rights and Terrorism*, Conor Gearty (May 2008)

*Civil Liberties*, Conor Gearty (Oxford University Press, 2007, 214pp)

*Can Human Rights Survive?*, Conor Gearty (CUP, 2006, 169pp)

*Principles of Human Rights Adjudication*, C A Gearty (Oxford University Press, 2004)

*Insolvency Practice and the Human Rights Act 1998*, C A Gearty and S Davies (Jordans, 2000, 105pp)

*The Struggle for Civil Liberties: Political Freedom and the Rule of Law 1914-45*, K D Ewing and C A Gearty (Oxford University Press, 2000, 418pp)

*A New Life for Health The Commission on the NHS*, W Hutton, K Binmore, C Gearty, S Parsons, A Pollock, J Struthers, S Weir and S Thornton (Vintage original, 2000, 104pp)

*The Future of Terrorism*, C A Gearty (Phoenix, 1997, circa 40pp)

*Terrorism and the Rule of Law*, C A Gearty and J A Kimbell (CLRJ, 1995, 75pp)

*Terror*, C A Gearty (Faber and Faber, 1991, 188pp)

*Freedom Under Thatcher: Civil Liberties in Modern Britain*, K D Ewing and C A Gearty (Clarendon Press, 1990, 305pp)

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## Edited Books & Notable Cases

### Edited Books

[Crime, Social Control and Human Rights. From Moral Panics to States of Denial. Essays in honour of Stanley Cohen](#), David Downes, P Rock, C Chinkin and C Gearty (eds) (Willan Publishing, 2007, 472pp)

[European Civil Liberties and the European Convention on Human Rights: A Comparative Study](#), C A Gearty (ed) (Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, 1997, 391pp) also ch.2 on the United Kingdom

[Terrorism](#), C A Gearty (ed) (International Library of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Penology, Dartmouth 1996, 574pp) with 24pp introduction by the editor

[Understanding Human Rights](#), C A Gearty and A Tomkins (eds) (Pinter, 1996 and 1999(pb) 643pp)

[Human Rights and Labour Law: Essays for Paul O'Higgins](#), K D Ewing, C A Gearty and B A Hepple (eds) (Mansell, 1994) also ch.8 'Democracy and a Bill of Rights: Some Lessons from Ireland'

### Notable Cases

[R \(Webster\) v Swindon LCSB \[2009\] EWHC 2755 \(Admin\)](#) The need for a proper serious case review into a criminal assault in a school

[R \(Murphy\) v Salford Primary Care Trust \[2008\] EWHC 1908 \(Admin\)](#) Provision of life-prolonging cancer treatment drugs

[R \(Hodder\) v Pensions Appeal Tribunal \[2008\] EWHC 1892 \(Admin\)](#) Fairness of proceedings with regard to war pensions

[R \(Scanlon\) v Pensions Appeal Tribunal \[2007\] EWHC 471 \(Admin\)](#) Legal requirements with regard to the setting of pensions under the war pensions legislative scheme

[Secretary of State for Defence v Pensions Appeal Tribunal \[2007\] EWHC 1177 \(Admin\)](#) Interpretation of the war pensions procedures under relevant legislation

[Secretary of State for Defence v Carver \[2004\] EWHC 1272 \(Admin\)](#) War pensions matter

[Secretary of State for Defence v Reid \[2004\] EWHC 1271 \(Admin\)](#) Application of time-sensitive provisions of the war pensions legislation

### Professional involvements

Society of Public Teachers of Law

Council member of JUSTICE

Advisor to the LSE / Doughty Street Human Rights Act Research Project

### Directories' recommendations

Chambers and Partners 2010 recommend Conor Gearty as a Leading Junior in Civil Liberties; "*a leading academic authority on human rights*".

Chambers and Partners 2009 recommend Conor Gearty as a Leading Junior in Civil Liberties. He is respected as "*one of the most knowledgeable and high profile authorities on human rights law*".

### Speeches

Conor has spoken to a very wide range of organisations, including: the Administrative Bar Association; the Government Legal Services; the senior judiciary in England and Wales; the senior judiciary (Ireland); the British army; the Metropolitan Police Service; and various other government departments, international organisations and many non-governmental organisations.

Conor has spoken at many conferences on human rights around the world and has been a visiting professor at law schools in the United States and Australia.