

Alison Tilley

I am a human rights lawyer and policy specialist in the protection of personal information, transparency, whistleblowing and freedom of expression issues.

Experience

Member of the Information Regulator (part time) 2020 to date

I have been a member of the Information Regulator for South Africa for 5 years, after being appointed by the National Assembly of Parliament in a unanimous vote, and confirmed by the President, in 2020. The Regulator's mandate includes enforcing the right to access to information, and the right to privacy, more specifically data protection.

Co ordinator Judges Matter (part time) 2014 to date

Judges Matter is an advocacy group who support more involvement of civil society in the conduct and appointment of judges. This involves working with stakeholders from across the organized legal profession and civil society.

Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust, Advocacy advisor (consultant) 2014 to date

Rape Crisis is an organisation based in Cape Town which provides support to over 5000 people a year who are the survivors of rape. I work with a team of volunteers and staff from the organisation in order to assist them to realise their vision of a fully implemented sexual offences support system.

Researcher UNESCO/Free Press Unlimited research 2019

I produced a research report in June 2019 for a UNESCO/Free Press Unlimited, providing research and recommendations on SDG 16 for inclusion in the South African report in the Voluntary National Review to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, which recommendations were adopted.

Director, Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC)	2001 - 2013
Head of Advocacy and Special Projects ODAC (part time)	2013 - 2018

I was director of the Open Democracy Advice Centre, a specialist niche NGO working on access to information and whistleblowing advocacy. The organisation supported the effective implementation and protection of rights and laws which enable access to, and disclosure of, information.

In its 17 years ODAC succeeded in establishing itself as in the forefront of access to information and whistleblowing issues in South Africa and on the continent.

I was responsible for fundraising, reporting, financial and people management, as well as implementation of projects of the organization. I managed the litigation in the organization, where we brought cases successfully at High Court, Supreme Court of Appeal, and Constitutional Court level. ODAC's litigation work has resulted in a number of judgements in the High Court, SCA and Constitutional Court. We were amicus in the C212 v Auditor General, Biowatch v the Registrar of GMOs, and attorneys for applicant in IDASA v ANC, Brummer v DSD, Hlatswayo v Mittal Steel, and Earthlife v Eskom, amongst others. (see below)

Our work in Africa was extensive. I was a member of Steering Committee of the Africa Freedom of Information Centre, supporting organisations working at national and Pan African level on access to information issues.

Under my leadership, ODAC produced several *whistle-blowing guides* aimed at both individuals and public-sector managers. These were practical toolkits explaining the **Protected Disclosures Act** and how to both implement policy and support whistle-blowers in practice.

- For example, a **Public Service Commission "Whistle-blowing" booklet**
- Another **Whistleblowers Guide** aimed at South African organisations

Research: Privacy International Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill **2017**

I completed a project in 2017 for Privacy International, with ODAC, reviewing the Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill, and producing a policy brief with recommendations. The Bill has been significantly amended in line with these recommendations.

Technical committee advising the Department of Justice on the Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill

I was a member of the Technical committee advising the Department of Justice on the Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill.

South African Law Reform Commission Project Committee Data Protection**2003 – 2012**

I was appointed to the South African Law Reform Commission Project Committee Data Protection from 2003 – 2012, under the leadership of Judge Howie. We developed the Protection of Personal Information Bill, which became law in 2014.

POPIA creates the Information Regulator, which is able to issue enforcement notices, and deal with access to information requests.

Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security**Special campaigns co ordinator (part time)****2008 - 2010**

ACCESS was an alliance of 123 organizations working to advance children's right to social security. The coalition was made up of small rural CBOs, large urban NGOs, and academic and policy institutions. I led a team for ACCESS from 2008 to 2010 working on policy and campaigns for extending the child support grant to 18.

Black Sash Head of Advocacy**1996 - 2001**

The Black Sash is an independent non profit organisation which was established in 1955. The role of the organisation was originally to fight for all human rights, which mandate it carried into the newly elected Parliament. I established the office of National Advocacy Co-ordinator in the Black Sash in the new democratic Parliament.

Columnist for the Daily Maverick <http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/>

Founding trustee Spes Bona Educational Trust 2025

Attorney Miller Gruss Katz and Traub 1991 - 1994

Education

Bachelor of Arts (Law) University of Cape Town 1988

Bachelor of Laws University of Cape Town 1990

Attorney of the High Court of South Africa 1993

Advocacy Institute Fellow 1996

Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights in Africa presented from 21 to 25 October 2024

by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Selected publications

Tilley, A. [The Right to Social Security in Socio-Economic Rights in South Africa: A Resource Book](#), in Liebenberg, S. and Pillay, K. (eds) December 2000

Klaaren, J. and Tilley, A.(eds [The Promotion of Access to Information Act No 2 of 2000 A resource](#)

manual: Prepared by the Open Democracy Advice Centre and the Research Unit for Law and Administration for the South African Human Rights Commission, November 2001.

- Calland, R. and Tilley, A. (eds) The Right to Know, the Right to Live: Access to Information & Socio Economic Justice. ODAC publication, 2002.
- Tilley, A. and Stober, L. South Africa: Open Democracy Advice Centre in Whistleblowing around the World: Law, Culture and Practice Calland, R. and Dehn, G.(eds) ODAC 2004
- Hutchings, N, Dimba, M, Tilley, A
Assessing South Africa's APRM: An NGO perspective 2008 South African Institute of International Affairs
- Dey, K. Thorpe, J. Tilley, A. Williams, J.
The Road to Justice: Victim Empowerment Legislation in South Africa Road Map Report August 2011 UNODC report
- Brobbeey, V Excell, C Kakuru, K Tilley, A
Active and Passive Resistance to Openness: The Transparency Model for Freedom of Information Acts in Africa – Three Case Studies. 1st Global Conference on Transparency Research Rutgers University 2011 (unpublished)
- Tilley, A. A new NPO act for South Africa: the implications of the proposed new policy framework for South African civil society Inyathelo 2014
- Tilley, A Masengu, T Is the appointment of acting judges transparent? De Rebus June 1st, 2015
- Tilley, A. Housing & Gender: The Sharp Edge of the Housing Crisis for Victims of Violence against Women in Challenging Patriarchy: conversations on violence on women Lopes, C & Mapker, S (eds) Heinrich Böll Foundation Southern Africa 2016
- Tilley, A Why Judges Matter The Advocate Vol 1 April 2017 <https://gcbsa.co.za/law-journals/2017/april/2017-april-vol030-no1-pp41-48.pdf>Tilley
- Karth V, Benjamin M, Oxtoby C, Tilley A & Ndlebe, Z
The coalface of justice: An analysis of misconduct proceedings against magistrates in South Africa DGRU working paper series 2020
- Tilley, A, Ndlebe, Z Judicial Appointments in South Africa B. J. Am Leg Studies 10(3)(2021)
- Karth, V, Benjamin M, & Ndlebe, Z
Under Pressure: The magistracy after COVID 19 DGRU working paper series 2022
- Karth, V, Benjamin, M & Ndlebe, Z
Isidima: South African Magistrates Courts: A court user perspective DGRU

working paper series 2023

Tilley, A, Ndzishe V, Benjamin, M & Ndlebe, Z

Judicial financial independence in South Africa – a judiciary-based
administration versus the executive control of the judiciary

Judicial Financial Independence in Africa A study of eleven
sub-Saharan countries Bosire, C 2024

Selected cases

Trustees of the time being of the Biowatch Trust v Registrar Genetic Resources and Others (Open Democracy Advice Centre as Amicus Curiae) (A831/2005) [2008] ZAGPHC 135 (13 May 2008)

Institute for Democracy in South Africa and Others v African National Congress and Others 2005 (5) SA 39 (C) Open Democracy Advice Centre attorney.

Mittalsteel South Africa Ltd. v Hlatshwayo 2007 (1) SA 66 (SCA) Open Democracy Advice Centre attorney.

Earthlife Africa v Eskom 4/27514 Open Democracy Advice Centre attorney.

Brummer v Minister of Social Development and Others 2009 (6) SA 323 (CC) Open Democracy Advice Centre attorney.

Theron v Minister of Correctional Services and Another [2007] ZALC 95; [2008] 5 BLLR 458 (LC); (2008) 29 ILJ 1275 (LC) Open Democracy Advice Centre attorney.

Fakie NO v CCII Systems (Pty) Ltd (Open Democracy Advice Centre et al as Amicus Curiae) 2006 (4) SA 326 (SCA) (31 March 2006)

Van Wyk v Unitas Hospital and another (Open Democratic Advice Centre as Amicus Curiae) 2008(2) SA 472 (CC)

City of Cape Town v South African National Roads Authority Limited and Others (Open Democracy Advice Centre et al as Amicus Curiae) 2015 (3) SA 386 (SCA)