

Alison Tilley

Identifies as female.

email:

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

Experience

Co ordinator Judges Matter (part time)

2014 to date

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

Rape Crisis Cape Town Trust, Media and 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 court 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 C2I2 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.

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. I have conducted study tours and visits in Jordan, Pakistan and a number of African countries, including Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, Ghana and Malawi. I would regard myself as having extensive experience in advocacy and social justice campaigns in South Africa and the continent.

ODAC led a number of peer learning activities, taking members of the Justice and Constitutional Development Portfolio Committee to the UK to meet the Information Commissioner and staff during the drafting of the POPI legislation, and hosting the Information Commissioner for Western Australia in South Africa. I attended the first International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) as a speaker in Berlin in 2003 where Information Commissioners and Ombudsmen met to adopt a declaration for further cooperation and experience sharing among regulatory authorities, and subsequently attended and spoke at the ICIC Cancun conference in 2005, the ICIC Manchester conference in 2018, and the ICIC Johannesburg conference in 2019.

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. I then worked as a member of the technical committee advising the Department of Justice on the Bill. The Bill has been significantly amended in line with these recommendations.

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.

POPI creates the Information Regulator, which will be able to issue enforcement notices, and deal with access to information requests, once the law comes into operation.

Alliance for Children's Entitlement to Social Security

Special campaigns co ordinator (part time) 2008 - 2010

ACCESS was an alliance of 1223 organizations working to advance children's right to social security. The coalition was made of up 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/>

Elected Member, National Working Group, Right 2 Know campaign, 2010 to 2016, 2018 to 2019

Member of Board, Goedgedacht Forum 2009 to 2017

Founding trustee Women's Legal Centre 1998 to 2014

National Association of Democratic Lawyers (Nadel) Gender Desk 1992 - 1995

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

Publications

Liebenberg, S. and Tilley, A. Poverty and Inequality Hearings Social Security Theme, Background Paper for the SANGOCO, the SAHRC and the CGE Poverty Hearings, May 1998

Tilley, A. Social security: a necessary cost Budget Watch Vol 4 Issue 3 September 1998

Tilley, A. and Robinson, S. The impact of socio-political and economic transformation on children's rights in South Africa in Child Research 2000 Report of the International Child Research Seminar held at the Institute for Child and Family Development University of the Western Cape October 1998, Barnes - September, R. and Cardoso, P. (eds)

Tilley, A. Are non-nationals entitled to socio-economic rights? ESR Review Vol 1 No 3 October 1998

Tilley, A. Globalisation: a South African Perspective ChangeExchange Vol 1 No 3 Oct 1998

Tilley, A. Background paper, Social Security in South Africa, for ILO World Labour Report 2000.

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
- Brobbey, 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)
- 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
- 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. 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