

Julia Laffranque (born Vahing)

Was president of the CCJE 2008–2010 following a term as vice-president from 2006-2008. She was member of the CCJE from 2004–2011. During her presidency the CCJE received in Madrid prestigious award: “Justice of the World” for promoting judicial independence. She also organised as president of the CCJE a high-level international conference on Quality of judicial decision in Tartu, Estonia in 2008 and initiated the joint-declaration on the role of judges and prosecutors which was adopted in Bordeaux in 2009.

Julia Laffranque has been a judge since 2004. Previously she worked at the Ministry of Justice of Estonia (1996-2003): starting as a European Union law expert, then head of division of EU law and international relations and as culmination as Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice. She was responsible for legislative drafting, codification and approximation of Estonian law to the law of European Union.

Julia Laffranque was appointed by the Parliament as the youngest Supreme Court judge (29) in 2004 and served as a member of administrative law and later also constitutional law chambers.

From 2011–2020 she was elected and served as a judge at the European Court of Human Rights. She was from 2013–2016 chair of the annual seminar of the European Court of Human Rights responsible for the relations between the Court and national supreme and constitutional courts, she was also responsible for the relations between the Court and the CCBE (European lawyers), member of reform, EU law, Grand Chamber and Working Methods committees. She took part of reforming the single judge and WECL (well-established case law) committees at the Court. From 2015-2018 Julia Laffranque was the vice-president of the II Section of the European Court of Human Rights. In 2019 she run for European ombudsman with second best result.

In 2020 Julia Laffranque returned to the Supreme Court of Estonia where she is judge at the administrative law chamber. Her secondments abroad have brought her to the Legal Service of European Commission, ministries of justice of France and Sweden, State Council (*Conseil d’Etat*) of France and German federal administrative court (*Bundesverwaltungsgericht* in Leipzig) in the framework of EJTN.

Julia Laffranque has also been member/judge of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. She has been member of boards of Estonian Lawyers Association and Estonian Academic Law Society, policy think-tank Praxis, member of board of editors of publisher “Juura” and legal language magazine “Õiguskeel”.

In 2004 Julia Laffranque founded the European Law Society of Estonia and presided it until 2013. Since 2013 she has been honorary president of this society. From 2010-2012 Julia Laffranque was president of the International Federation for European Law (FIDE) and organised for a first time a FIDE Congress in Eastern Europe – XXV FIDE Congress in Estonia, Tallinn being the capital of European law. She also gave FIDE its moto “Uniting great minds of European law” and initiated the FIDE Youth conference which has become a tradition ever since.

As far as her academic vocation is concerned, Julia Laffranque, after graduating from high school in Tallinn, Estonia (gold medal) and Lichfield, Connecticut, USA (outstanding honours)

and completing the Washington Workshops on Diplomacy and Global Affairs, has studied law in Estonia and Germany, at the universities of Tartu and Hamburg (Copernicus scholarship). She holds an LL.M from Westfälische Wilhelms University Münster (DAAD scholarship) and PhD (doctor iuris) from her *alma mater* University of Tartu. She has also researched at the European University-Institute in Florence as EUSSIRF scholar and at the University of Kiel (City of Kiel scholarship). From 2011-2016 Dr Julia Laffranque was professor of European law at the University of Tartu and since 2016 she is a visiting-professor at the same university. She is member (as alumna), of student organization Filiae Patriae and was member of the board of Estonian School in Strasbourg. She is member of the advisory board of Avant-garde Lawyers.

Julia Laffranque is the author of a number of textbooks and articles on EU, human rights law and constitutional law, and is one of the authors of amendments to the Estonian Constitution as well as co-author of the commentary of Estonian Constitution. She has published over 100 articles in Estonian, English, German and French (translated also e.g. into Romanian) in different European and US-American legal journals and was editor of Proceedings of XXV FIDE Congress, 2012. Her main works include law books "Euroopa Liit ja Euroopa Ühendus: institutsioonid ja õigus (EU and European Communities: institutions and law)", 1999; co-author of French-Estonian-French Legal Dictionary, 2002; "Õppematerjal kohtunikele: Eelotsuse küsimine Euroopa Kohtult (Textbook for judges: How to Request Preliminary Rulings from the European Court of Justice)", 2005; "Euroopa Liidu õigussüsteem ja Eesti õiguse koht selles (Legal System of European Union and Estonian law)", 2006 and "Euroopa Inimõiguste Kohus ja Eesti õigus" (European Court of Human Rights and Estonian Law), 2017.

Since 2018 she is a member of the Scientific Committee of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and since 2020 member of the Board of Trustees of the European Law Academy (ERA). In 2020 she was elected as director of programmes of ERA and by the European Parliament as member of the panel based on Article 255 of the Treaty on Functioning of the European Union.

Her activities in society include also active membership at the board of Fisherman's Village Association in Tagaranna (Estonia, island Saaremaa) and organising literature festival at the same village every summer.

Her hobby is amateur acting and theatre: she has been member of Vilde Teater in Estonia and Tagora Theatre in Strasbourg, where she also was a member of the board of Tagora. In 2015 she created Theatre Club of the European Court of Human Rights: "Court in the Act". She has acted in over 20 roles, including e.g., Honey in Edward Albees "Who is afraid of Virginia Woolf?", performed on different stages, including at the English-speaking theatre festival FEATS in Geneva and at the Hague. She has directed several children plays with the Estonian School in Strasbourg.

As a singer of the European Choir of Estonians she has performed at the Estonian Song Festival in 2014 and 2019.

Julia Laffranque was awarded the Estonian White Cross, and she is *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite* of France. In 2013 she was elected European of the Year by European Movement Estonia. In 2016 she was elected as the best trainer of Estonian judges.

Julia Laffranque speaks Estonian, German, English, French, Finnish and Russian.

From her marriage to lawyer-translator Rodolphe Laffranque she has three sons.