

21.1.2026

CURRICULUM VITAE

Family name: Hirvelä
First names: Päivi Maarit
Sex: Female
Date of birth: 10 December 1954
Place of birth: Rovaniemi, Finland
Nationality: Finnish
Current title: Lawyer at Susiluoto Attorney-at Law Ltd 2023-
Previous title: Justice, Supreme Court of Finland

Home address and telephone number:

Erik Tulindberginkuja 2 A 16
00180 Helsinki
Finland
Phone: +358 50 3633085
Email: paivi.hirvela@gmail.com

Education, Degrees and Titles

- Doctor of Law, University of Helsinki, Finland, 2007
- Licentiate in Law, University of Helsinki, Finland, 1997
- Title of Docent in Process Law and research on Human Rights, University of Turku, 2016-
- Title of Docent in Criminal process, University of Helsinki, 2015-
- Title of Docent in Process Law and research on Human Rights, University of Lapland, 2014-
- Court training, District Court of Lapland, 1980
- Master of Law, University of Helsinki, Finland, 1980
- Matriculation examination, Rovaniemi High School, Finland, 1975

Languages

- Finnish, mother tongue
- Swedish
- English
- French

Relevant professional activities

Current position

- Lawyer at the Susiluoto Attorneys-at-Law Ltd, 2023-
- Member of the Grevio Expert Group, 2022-
- Ad hoc Judge of the ECHR, 2016-
- Expert on the OSCE list of experts for Human Dimension Mechanism, 2025-

Judicial activities

International positions held:

- Substitute Member of the Venice Commission in respect of Finland, 2018 – 2022
- Judge of the European Court of Human Rights (1 January 2007- 31 December 2015)
- Vice President of the IVth Section of the European Court of Human Rights (1 November 2013 – 31 December 2015)
- Lawyer, Registry of the European Court of Human Rights (18 June – 31 December 2001)
- Exchange studentship in the prosecutor establishment in Sweden (1 April – 30 June 1999)

Domestic positions held:

- Justice, Supreme Court of Finland (1 September 2016 -1 December 2022)
- State Prosecutor, Office of the Prosecutor General (1 February 1999 – 31 December 2006)
- District Prosecutor, Lahti Prosecutor's Office (1 September 1990 – 31 January 1999)
- Referendary of the Court of Appeal, Kouvola Court of Appeal (1 August 1982 –31 August 1990)
- District Judge, Lahti District Court (1 October 1994 – 31 December 1995)
- District Judge, Orimattila District Court (1 February – 31 May 1990)
- District Prosecutor, Lahti Prosecutor's Office (1 January 1986 – 4 April 1988)
- District Judge, Lahti District Court (1982 - 1986 several appointments of different length, secondary occupation)
- Legal Aid Counsel, Lahti (1 June – 31 August 1982)
- Legal Aid Counsel, Sodankylä (12 November 1981 – 28 February 1982)
- Rural Police Chief, Kolari Police District (22 May – 21 June 1980)

Non-judicial legal activities

- Assistant in Criminal and Procedural Law, Faculty of Law, University of Helsinki, (1 July 1996 – 31 March 1997)
- Researcher, University of Helsinki (1 January – 30 June 1996)
- Research Assistant, the National Research Institute of Legal Policy (28 August –21 November 1980)

Activities and experience in the field of human rights

- Member of Human Rights delegation (Ihmisoikeusvaltuuskunta) 2024-
- Member of GREVIO, the Group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence 2022-
- Substitute Member of the Venice Commission in respect of Finland 2018 – 2022
- Sub-Working group member of EJTN Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 2016 – 2018
- Ad hoc judge of Finland, the European Court of Human Rights, 2016-
- Member of CCJE (Consultative Council of European Judges), 2016 - 2022

- Member of a working group set up by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health tasked with regulations concerning the Mental Health Act: those concerning criminal patients in the Penal Code (2005 – 2006)
- Board member of the National Research Institute of Legal Policy 2004 – 2007
- Member of a working group set up by the Ministry of Justice tasked, based on international obligations, with preparing penal provisions in respect of trafficking in human beings, sexual abuse of children, child pornography and illegal immigration (2002 – 2003)
- Member of an expert working group set up by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health to develop the practice to uncover offences against children (2001 – 2003)
- Member of a working group set up by the Ministry of Justice tasked with assessing the use of video hearings in courts of law in the case of intimidated witnesses (2003)
- Member of a working group that focused on the arrangement of prosecutors' basic training (2000 –2001)
- Member of the crime prevention committee set up by the Ministry of Justice (1999 –2002)
- Member of a working group tasked with the revision of the legislation on the execution of sentences to social service and the tasks of Probation Services (1998 – 1999)

Publications

- Right to Respect for Private and Family Life, Home and Correspondence – A Practical guide to Article 8 Case-Law of the European Court of Human Rights (2022, co-author Satu Heikkilä, Intersentia)
- Right to a Fair Trial: Practical Guide to the Case-Law of the European Court of Human Rights (2021 co-author Satu Heikkilä, Intersentia)
- An Article, Rights of a Child in a Family, published 9.2.2021, ISBN 978-952-246-696-9
- Human Rights Handbook on ECHR case law (2017, co-author Satu Heikkilä, ISBN 978-952-14-3214-9)
- Human Rights, Handbook on ECHR case law (2013, co-author Satu Heikkilä, ISBN 978-951-37-6339-8)
- An article, Media professionals and penalties for defamation, in the publication of Freedom of Expression, Essays in honour of Nicolas Bratza, president of the European Court of Human Rights, 2012, (ISBN CoE: 978-92-8717-425-3)
- Examination of the sexual abuse of children; A practical legal guide (2007, ISBN 978-951-0-32622-0)
- Criminal Process in Sexual Crimes against Children. The Actualization of The Human and Basic Rights of a Child's Integrity in a Legal Process". (2006, ISBN 951-0-32616-X)
- An article, the Journal of the Finnish Lawyers' Association, vol. 95, 1997 number 7:
- A Child in Criminal Proceedings – Evidence Problems in Incest Case
- A Child in Criminal Proceedings (1997, ISBN 951-670-003-9)

Lecturing on the field of human rights

- Lectures on the field of criminal procedure for prosecutors and other governmental organisations.
- Lectures for national judges and university students on the field of human rights