



**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE**  
JOMO KENYATTA ROAD • FREETOWN • SIERRA LEONE  
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## **PRACTICE DIRECTION ON THE INTERNAL FUNCTIONING OF THE TRIAL CHAMBER**

I, HON. JUSTICE TERESA DOHERTY, JUDGE IN TRIAL CHAMBER II OF THE SPECIAL COURT AND PRESIDING JUDGE OF THAT CHAMBER;

**MINDFUL** of the Statute of the Special Court ("Statute") as annexed to the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the Establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, signed on 16 January 2002 and in particular, the provisions of its Articles 12 and 13;

**MINDFUL** of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Special Court and in particular, the provisions of Rule 27;

**MINDFUL** of the independent status of the Judges and of the Chamber in the exercise of their judicial functions as guaranteed by Articles 12 and 13 of the Statute;

**PURSUANT** to Rule 27(C) of the Rules;

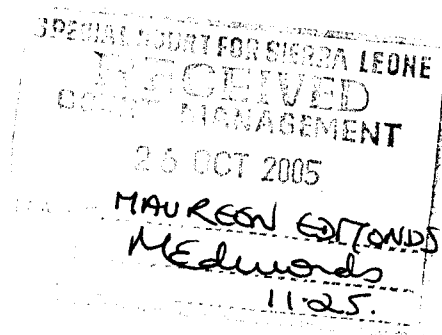
**AFTER** appropriate Consultations with the Judges of Trial Chamber II;

**DO HEREBY ISSUE** This Practice Direction in order to ensure the smooth functioning and independence of the Trial Chamber in relation to the exercise of its judicial functions;

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE LEGAL OFFICER**

The following functions shall be performed by the Legal Officers of Trial Chamber II:

1.
  - i. Providing legal advice and coordinating the administrative support to the Trial Chamber as a whole;



- ii. Acting as a liaison with the Prosecution, Defence Counsel, The Principal Defender and the Registry as required for efficient management of Court proceedings;
- iii. Accepting service of the Court processes concerning the Chamber which, for this purpose, shall be served directly by Court Management to the Chamber on any of the Legal Officers;
- iv. Attending Judicial Support Meetings;
- v. Representing the Chamber at Section Chiefs Meetings;
- vi. Supervising all Chamber Staff in conjunction with the Presiding Judge and the Judges of the Chamber;
- vii. Ensuring the allocation of work and the supervision of all Chamber Staff activities
- viii. Responding to all questions from the Press Organs if so requested after consultation with the Presiding Judge and the Judges ;
- ix. Assisting the Judges, when called upon, to select Interns and Staff for engagement or recruitment;
- x. Supervising and coordinating the work of Legal Interns and Associate Legal Officers placed under his or her authority;
- xi. Representing the Trial Chamber on the relevant Committees of the Special Court;

2. Associate Legal Officers, Interns and Secretaries who shall be placed under the authority of Legal Officers, are also subjected to the application of this Practice Direction.

3. Legal Officers, the Associate Legal Officers, Interns and Secretaries, in the performance of their duties which impact on the judicial independence of the Judge or Judges, shall be directly answerable to and will report exclusively to and liaise only with the Presiding Judge and the Judges of the Chamber who shall submit confidential reports and assessments on them to the Registrar of the Court when so required.

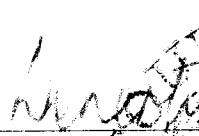
4. They shall however, remain under the administration of the Registrar on matters which are purely administrative in nature provided they do not directly or indirectly impact on or interfere with the independence guaranteed to the Judges and to the Chamber by the Agreement and the Statute of the Court.

5. In the performance of the above duties, the Legal Officers shall be under the exclusive control and general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the Judges of the Chamber, and will primarily carry out legal research on matters that the Chamber is seized of. In so doing

and at the request of the Presiding Judge or of the Judges of the Chamber, the Legal Officer may provide drafts on issues that are within the jurisdiction of the said Chamber.

This Direction shall come into force on the date of signature and may be amended as appropriate if deemed necessary.

DATED IN FREETOWN THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2005.

  
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Hon. Teresa Osherry  
Presiding Judge  
Trial Chamber I

