



**Special Court for Sierra Leone**  
Outreach and Public Affairs Office

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone, 2 November 2009**

### **Claire Carlton-Hanciles Named Special Court Principal Defender**



Claire Carlton-Hanciles, a Sierra Leonean lawyer, has been named Principal Defender of the Special Court for Sierra Leone effective 1 November 2009. Ms. Carlton-Hanciles, who is the first Sierra Leonean to occupy this post, has served as Acting Principal Defender since the departure last December of Elizabeth Nahamya.

Ms. Carlton-Hanciles is a graduate of Fourah Bay College and the Sierra Leone Law School. She was called to the Bar in 1997 as a Barrister and Solicitor.

From 1998-2003 she worked in private practice, specializing in family and human rights law.

She joined the Special Court in 2003 as Legal Officer/Duty Counsel in the Office of the Principal Defender.

#END

The Special Court is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone. It is mandated to bring to justice those who bear the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed in Sierra Leone after 30 November 1996.

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