



## European Court of Human Rights elects a new Vice-President

The European Court of Human Rights has today elected a new Vice-President – **Robert Spano** (Icelandic).

He has been elected for a three-year term and will take up his duties on 5 May 2019.

The Court is composed of one judge in respect of each of the 47 States to have ratified the European Convention on Human Rights. Judges work in five Sections from which Chambers of seven judges are constituted. The Court also sits as a Grand Chamber of 17 judges. The Court has two Vice-Presidents both of whom also preside over Sections, the other three Sections each having a Section President.

### [Judges' CV](#)

#### **Judge Robert Spano**

Born on 27 August 1972, in Reykjavik, Iceland

Cand. jur. degree in Law (combined BA and Masters Degrees), Faculty of Law, University of Iceland 1997

Mag. jur. degree in European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford (University College) 2000, Clifford Chance Prize (proxime accessit), Civil Procedure Prize

Deputy District Court Judge, 1997-1998

Legal Adviser to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, 1998-2001

Adjunct Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, 2000-2002

Assistant Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, 2002-2004

District Court Judge, 2004

Deputy to the Parliamentary Ombudsman, 2001-2004

Member of the Board, Human Rights Institute, University of Iceland, 2005-2013

Chairman of the Standing Committee of Experts on Criminal Law, Ministry of Justice, 2003-2008 and 2011-2013

Associate Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, (tenure) 2004-2006

Editor of the Law Review, Lawyers' Association of Iceland, 2005-2013

Professor of Public Law, Criminal Procedure and Jurisprudence, Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, (tenure) 2006

Chairman of a Commission of Experts appointed by the Prime Minister of Iceland to investigate human rights abuses from 1947-1992 in child care institutions run by the state and municipal governments, 2007-2012

Chairman of a Commission of Experts elected by the Assembly of the National Church of Iceland to investigate allegations of sexual abuse by the former Bishop of Iceland, 2010-2011

Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, 2007-2010

Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, 2010-2013

Member of the Judicial Supervisory Board, 2011-2013

Independent Expert to the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe, 2012

Icelandic Member of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDCP), 2012-2013

*Ad hoc* Judge, EFTA Court, 2012-2013

Parliamentary Ombudsman of Iceland (provisional appointment and *ad hoc*), 2009-2013

Judge of the European Court of Human Rights since 1 November 2013

President of Section since 1 May 2017.

---

This press release is a document produced by the Registry. It does not bind the Court. Decisions, judgments and further information about the Court can be found on [www.echr.coe.int](http://www.echr.coe.int). To receive the Court's press releases, please subscribe here: [www.echr.coe.int/RSS/en](http://www.echr.coe.int/RSS/en) or follow us on Twitter [@ECHRpress](https://twitter.com/ECHRpress).

**Press contacts**

[echrpress@echr.coe.int](mailto:echrpress@echr.coe.int) | tel: +33 3 90 21 42 08

**The European Court of Human Rights** was set up in Strasbourg by the Council of Europe Member States in 1959 to deal with alleged violations of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights.