



CURRICULUM VITAE

Mr. Maurits Barendrecht



"Providing justice is high tech, very personal and very similar across the world."

Maurits Barendrecht (1956) grew up in The Hague, the city of peace and justice. After studying Physics and graduating from Leiden Law School, he practiced law at De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, a leading Dutch law firm (1982-1997). He became a partner in this firm, practicing in litigation before the Dutch Supreme Court, intellectual property, labor law and public interest litigation.

Over the years, Maurits developed an itch that litigation and the civil justice were not really serving justice needs. Gradually, he became disappointed by the power of civil law and human rights to bring order in relationships between people and solving conflicts. This led him to study other types of rules, which provide an important - but little studied - element of dispute systems: objective criteria, simple rules of thumb that can be used to solve distributive issues. This is the area where he obtained his PhD (cum laude).

Since 1992, he is professor of Private Law at Tilburg University. Maurits studies dispute systems (legal procedures, negotiation processes, ADR, informal dispute mechanisms) from an interdisciplinary perspective. He systematically looks for knowledge from economics, psychology, organisation theory, negotiation theory, and conflict studies that may be integrated with best practices, in order to improve dispute systems so that they serve the interests of the people that rely on them in a better way.

His research takes places within Tisco (Tilburg Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Civil Law and Conflict Resolution Systems), see www.uvt.nl/tisco and now within the partnership with HiiL Innovating justice.

Barendrecht has lead several large scale innovation projects in the realm of justice and governance, which directly address urgent justice needs which are difficult to cope with through existing legal arrangements.



2014 International Forum on Legal Aid

These interactive research and development projects usually take place in cooperation with stakeholders such as client groups, ministries of justice, the judiciary, or those involved in the supply of legal services. To give some examples of innovations that took place under his leadership: - European Civil Code Project, now part of the draft Common Frame of Reference for European Contract Law, - Code of Conduct for Settling Personal Injury claims, - Making the Law Work for Everyone 2008, Report Working Group I on Access to Justice, - Internet applications for legal advice and online divorce, - The Innovating Justice platform, which connects justice sector innovations and innovators from across the world.