

Edmund Gritt



Call: 1997

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Details of practice

Ed specialises in criminal defence work, professional discipline, regulatory enforcement, inquests and licensing.

Crime

In his criminal defence practice, Ed specialises in:

- Allegations of rape and sexual assault of adults, child sexual offences (usually historic and often complex with multiple complainants), internet grooming and indecent images cases.
- Allegations relating to organised crime from contract killing (eg the Danny Morgan axe murder) to large-scale money laundering and international drug trafficking.
- Defending members of the Armed Forces (in both the Crown Court and the Courts Martial) and serving police officers charged with the most serious offences from manslaughter (eg the Army 'beasting' case) to serial rape.
- Allegations of 'white-collar' domestic violence: Ed represents numerous clients of good character charged with assaults on partners, ex-partners, other family members and domestic staff.
- Allegations of grave violence against children including homicide and Section 5 offences.
- Large-scale fraud and money laundering conspiracies, tax evasion and breach of restraint.
- Substantial trading standards and consumer protection investigations.
- Advising on appeal in cases in which he did not appear at first instance and thereafter conducting appeals in the Court of Appeal.

Ed prosecutes on behalf of regulators and professional disciplinary bodies.

Professional discipline

Ed regularly represents police officers facing misconduct hearings in London and across the country, and also appears before the Police Appeals Tribunal. Ed is also regularly instructed in matters for the General Dental Council in proceedings before the Professional Conduct Committee.

Regulatory

Ed has a particular interest and more than 10 years' experience in road transport law, acting for HGV operators and finance houses before the Traffic Commissioners in Public Inquiries and impounding hearings. He also defends HGV Operators and HGV drivers in criminal proceedings in the Magistrates' Courts, and acts in Death by Driving cases. He also advises companies in respect of transport regulatory matters and responding to criminal investigations.

Ed defends in regulatory proceedings such as brought by the Marine Management Organisation, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

Ed regularly prosecutes in Magistrates' Courts and the Crown Court on behalf of the London Fire Emergency and Planning Authority (LFEPA).

Inquests

Ed acts for Interested Persons (including local authorities, police forces) at inquests, (most often Article 2/with jury), with particular expertise in deaths in custody cases.

Licensing

Ed advises and appears before licensing sub-committee hearings, on behalf of both applicants and objectors.

Ed is regularly instructed by TfL in respect of licensing appeals in the Magistrates' Courts and the Crown Court, and in respect of criminal prosecutions.

Education/professional qualifications

BA Hons (Cantab) First Class 1988
Dip. Law (Westminster) 1996
Called to the Bar 1997

Other information

Before coming to the Bar, Ed worked for a year on a local newspaper and then for five years for the Economist Intelligence Unit specialising in the Middle East, with a particular interest in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Direct access

Edmund Gritt is qualified to accept instructions direct from clients under the Bar Council's Public Access Scheme. This means that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come direct to him. In addition, he welcomes instructions from solicitors, in-house law departments, qualified foreign lawyers, and clients licensed by the Bar Council to give instructions direct to barristers under the Bar Council's Licensed Access Scheme.

For further information please contact our Clerks.

Notable cases

2017

Inquest touching the death of Ian Pearson

Represented interested person in inquest into death of prisoner (by hanging) in HMP Wandsworth against a sensitive background of suspected extortion and corruption.

L

Defended senior conspirator in protracted and sophisticated multi-million pound frauds on mobile 'phone service providers.

T

Successfully defended father charged with joint liability offence (Section 5 Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) in respect of grievous assaults on baby by mother culminating in skull fracture. Complex clinical expert evidence as to timing and manifestation of pain.

P

Successfully defended serving police officer charged with historic sexual offences against family members while still a teenager. Case halted following legal argument in respect of the former principle of *doli incapax*.

Inquest touching the death of Robert Richards

Represented interested person in 2-week inquest into death of prisoner (by suicide) in HMP Wandsworth in context of alleged bullying and systemic failings.

J

Successfully defended impeccable international businessman charged with money laundering on behalf of a syndicate allegedly headed by the Tartan Pimpernel, following determined multi-jurisdictional NCA investigation. Partly successful dismissal application with the trial then terminating with a submission of no case to answer (led by Michael Bromley-Martin QC).

2016

B

Successfully defended man charged with rape of ex-partner in face of his iPhone recorded 'confession' to rape.

L

Defended mother charged with murder of her baby – trial involving extensive medical expert evidence (led by Patrick Gibbs QC).

S

Defended lorry driver charged with Causing Death by Dangerous Driving, accused of reversing lorry along carriageway of A40 resulting in fatal collision. On eve of trial persuaded the Prosecution to accept a plea to the lesser careless alternative on grounds that the final state of the expert evidence demonstrated no more than that the lorry was stationary at point of collision.

M

Successfully defended serving police officer on historic charges of child cruelty against his stepson in the 1990s including incident supposedly witnessed by serving inspector.

V

Successful appeal to Police Appeals Tribunal following 'kangaroo' misconduct hearing. Officer cleared of all allegations on re-hearing.

R

Defended man who voluntarily went to police to confess that he had gravely sexually assaulted his younger sister 50 years ago when he and she were both children. (Led by Patrick Gibbs QC)

2015**M**

Instructed to advise on appeal against conviction (three years out of time) of defendant convicted of protracted sexual abuse of his step-daughter. Conducted successful appeal in Court of Appeal (on grounds of failings by previous defence team and judicial misdirection). Defended appellant at retrial resulting in hung jury and ultimate acquittal.

S

Defended alleged conspirator in single importation of 'speed' accounting for more than half the total annual seizure in the UK of that drug. Acquitted of associated Class A importation, substantially reducing overall sentence.

Inquest touching the death of Imran Douglas

Represented local authority as interested person in 3-week inquest into death (by suicide) of first 18-year-old prisoner detained in HMP Belmarsh.

J

Defended conspirator in largest ever DWP prosecution: sophisticated gang perpetrating immigration fraud to manipulate more than 400 fraudulent identities so as to claim benefits and tax credits amounting of millions of pounds loss.

2014**S**

Successfully defended serving police inspector charged with raping a member of police staff, as well as alleged multiple rapes of his partner and her sister in the 1990s dredged up in the course of a 'no stone left unturned' investigation by the major crime unit.

L

Defended regular courier in £150million foreign exchange bureaux money laundering conspiracy.

C

Defended ex-BBC journalist accused of sexual offences against boys in the 1970s and 1980s, successfully resisting the prosecution attempt to resurrect charges previously abandoned when the defendant had been found unfit to stand trial.

L

Defended one of a pair of alcoholics charges with murdering a friend at sea by driving a motorboat over him and claiming accident (led by Patrick Gibbs QC).

J

Successfully defended in an alleged conspiracy to pervert the course of public justice by breaching a restraint order on various family and company assets imposed consequent to a multi-million-pound tax fraud.

Older**2011****G**

Successfully defended (led by David Whitehouse QC) the alleged contract killer in the notorious 1987 murder of the private investigator Danny Morgan ('R v Rees & Others').

2008**P**

Successfully defended (led by Stephen Batten QC) the senior of three British Army non-commissioned officers accused of 'beasting' a soldier to death.