

Richard Wormald QC



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QC: 2019

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'Standout, exceptional, strategic, superb...' **Chambers UK 2019**

"A very intellectual barrister who makes brilliant tactical choices and wins the most impossible cases." **Chambers UK 2018: Crime**

'Absolutely first class and a brilliant cross-examiner.'
Chambers UK 2017

'One of the silkiest advocates at the Bar.'
The Legal 500 2015



Details of practice

A Queen's Counsel practising in crime, financial crime and licensing, Richard is regarded as 'standout, superb and a star practitioner' at the criminal bar. As a junior he was consistently ranked as one of the very best, winning the Chambers' Junior of Year award in 2013/4.

He is currently advising senior board member of a company being investigated for bribery of public officials in Indonesia. He is leading in a high-profile insider-dealing case being prosecuted by the FCA, and is advising the Metropolitan Police in respect of ongoing terrorism investigations. He is defending in the UK's largest ever cash seizure case and money-laundering investigation and is instructed to defend in a murder at the end of the year.

Last year he acted: for two of the senior management team of Rolls Royce; as leading counsel in a high-profile Watchdog fraud; for the first defendant in one of the country's biggest boiler-room frauds; for a solicitor in a complex, multi-handed embezzlement case. Other cases in the recent past include various corporate fraud, bribery and corruption allegations, representing the former Cabinet Minister Chris Huhne, a well-known hotelier on charges of rape, acting in a number of murder and manslaughter cases, and undertaking judicial review proceedings, inquest and inquiry work.

Richard also acts as a legal adviser in licensing and disciplinary hearings.

He is highly-rated in all his chosen fields of practice: crime, fraud, professional discipline and licensing. He is commended for his hard-work and industry, for his colour and life, and for his professional knowledge and expertise.

He is also experienced in tax tribunal work, inquest work, health and safety prosecutions and is a well-regarded licensing practitioner.

His fields of practice are:

- Crime – murder, manslaughter and serious drugs cases
- Fraud – in particular bribery, corruption, insider-dealing and corporate fraud
- Licensing and gaming
- Professional discipline and regulatory
- Public and Administrative law
- Inquests
- Civil and commercial
- VAT and tax inquiries



Crime

Richard has defended and prosecuted a broad range of criminal offences for just over 24 years. He has defended in a number of murder, manslaughter and death by dangerous cases, including as leading junior. He undertaken a series of complex and sensitive matters for the defence in the Court of Appeal. He prosecutes serious crime for the National Crime Agency, and in 2011 he was commended by the Home Secretary for his work on behalf of its predecessor, SOCA.

He has a reputation for robust cross-examination and as fearless defence advocate. This year he is defending in a heroin trafficking case, a multi-handed murder, and acting for a solicitor charged with perverting the course of justice.

Fraud

Richard has acted in some of the most high profile fraud cases, both on behalf of the Crown and the defence. He has developed particular expertise in bribery and corruption cases, acting for an HMRC officer charged with accepting corrupt payments from The Sun; and the director of an oil company involved in procuring contracts through bribes, several Indonesian corruption cases, and management of Rolls Royce under investigation by the SFO.

This year Richard is defending in a market abuse fraud, an insider-dealing allegation, a corporate corrupt payments case, as well as on behalf of two solicitors each separately charged with fraud, and a insolvency service prosecution. He has dealt with a series of complex fraud appeals in Court of Appeal, prosecutes financial crime for the CPS and acts in tax tribunal cases where fraud is alleged as part of the claim.

Licensing and gaming

Richard has conducted numerous applications and appeals on behalf of licensees acting as counsel of choice for Punch Taverns, Greene King, Exxon Mobil, Asda and others. As well as representing market-leaders in the industry he is instructed by private clients and sometimes by residents' associations. He acts for Apollo Resorts & Leisure Ltd in respect of its various casino applications, and is instructed by Cashino in respect of its AGC and Tanning outlets.

Professional discipline and regulatory

He is experienced in hearings at police disciplinary tribunals, before the Law Society and a variety of professional disciplinary bodies: sports discipline tribunals, the General Dental and General Medical Councils, and the Architects' Regulatory Board. He has appeared in a dozen or so inquests and represented one of the officers said to have falsified evidence in the Stockwell inquest after the death of Jean Charles de Menezes.

Public and Administrative Law

Richard has appeared in the Administrative Court on numerous occasions in relation to judicial review of criminal, licensing and regulatory matters. He is particularly familiar with costs' legislation and has twice been to the High Court in respect of defendants costs orders.

Directory recommendations

Crime Junior of the year 2013 (Chambers & Partners Bar Awards)

"A standout junior who is extremely experienced in all matters of serious crime."

"A very intellectual barrister who makes brilliant tactical choices and wins the most impossible cases."

Chambers UK 2018: Crime

"A thoughtful and interesting advocate who really engages the tribunal. He is the equivalent of a silk."

Chambers UK 2018: Financial Crime

"Highly respected for gaming-related litigation". **The Legal 500 2017: Licensing**

'A fantastic junior who is extremely experienced in all matters of serious crime.'

'Absolutely first-class and a brilliant cross-examiner.' **Chambers UK 2017: Crime**

'A charismatic and very intelligent senior junior'. **The Legal 500 2016: Crime**

'A very senior junior who is exceptionally bright and very reliable. He has a great court presence and comes up with workable solutions.' *'He is an outstanding junior who is direct and forthright.'*

Chambers UK 2016: Crime

'Effective, clever, sensible and experienced.' **Chambers UK 2016: Financial Crime**

'One of the silkiest juniors at the Bar.' **The Legal 500 2015: Crime**

'Very helpful and extremely knowledgeable.' **The Legal 500 2015: Licensing**

'A very well-regarded junior with a well-rounded set of skills. He acts in high-profile cases, and is no stranger to the highest criminal courts in the land.' *'He's excellent if you want somebody with finesse, who is jury and judiciary-friendly. He pays attention to details, but can also see the bigger picture.'*

Chambers UK 2014: Crime

'Receives praise for his ability to reconcile detail with the overall strategic picture.' **Chambers UK 2014: Fraud**

'A very colourful advocate who injects life into a case, and who really knows his stuff.' **Chambers UK 2012: Fraud**

'Unflappable in a crisis' **The Legal 500 2011: Crime**

'Has the 'absolute confidence' of instructing solicitors' **The Legal 500 2011: Licensing**

Education/professional qualifications

BA (Joint Hons) University of York
MA in Law, City University, London

Appointments

Qualified Gray's Inn Advocacy Tutor
Honorary Lecturer in Criminal Law at City University, London; judge of the annual moot competition
Senior External Monitor of the Inns of Court School of Law

Direct access

Richard Wormald 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

2017/2018

R v Michael Nascimento

Leading junior for the principal defendant in a multi-handed boiler-room fraud

City of London Police v Zala LLP/Hamilton

Largest ever cash forfeiture case, investigation into virtual currency Ponzi fraud

SFO v GD

Pre-charge advice to a senior manager of Rolls Royce investigated for making corrupt payments

SFO v JF/E Ltd

Pre-charge advice to an individual and an arms/munitions company at the centre of Indonesian bribery allegations

R v Culaj

Large scale cocaine trafficking case / Court of Appeal authority on confiscation

R v Fannon & Others

Leading junior for a police officer charged with others for perverting the course of justice in a high-profile 'Black Lives Matter' case

Re Club Metropolitan

Licensing Appeal for club premises

2016

R v Clarke

Leading junior in high value advanced-fee and fraudulent trading case

R v Izzet Eren & Ors

For the defence in the Wood Green escape case (in which Jermaine Baker was shot and killed)

R v Kolaj

Leading junior for the defence in massive cocaine trafficking case

R v Coates & Kenny

£1m Solicitor fraud

R v Serani

Supply of 40 kilos of heroin

R v Ke XU

Leading junior – £100m fraud by theft of trading strategies intellectual property

Crime

R v Adams & Ors 2015

Leading junior – kidnap, GBH, imitation firearms

R v William Davies

Leading junior in large scale wine investment fraud 2015

SFO investigation into Rolls Royce 2014

R v Hamilton 2014

Murder

R v Jason Moore 2014

Murder

R v Chris Huhne 2013

Junior instructed to represent the former Cabinet Minister Chris Huhne

FSA v Patrick Cryne 2013/14

Counsel representing Patrick Cryne, owner of Barnsley FC and the first defendant in the iSoft fraud who was acquitted of conspiring to mislead the markets. Proceedings before the Financial Reporting Council were discounted after it was submitted that it would be tantamount to an abuse of process for them to proceed

R v Jonathon Hall 2013/14

HMRC Press Officer charged with conspiracy to make corrupt payments (Op Elvenden)

R v Smirnoff & Surmacki 2013/14

Allegation of conspiracy to commit commercial blackmail

R v Napoli & Ors 2011/12

Operation Candlelight 2011

Commended by the Home Secretary and the Director of SOCA for successfully prosecuting a series of drugs cases

Operation Hornblower 2011

Commended by the Home Secretary for securing convictions in the largest people trafficking operation that the Organisation has seen

R v F 2011

Successfully defended 'F' a well-known hotelier on charges of rape and sexual assault at the Central Criminal Court

R v Price 2011

Leading counsel for the defence at the Court of Appeal in the largest ever attempted importation of cocaine

R v Cooper 2010

Leading counsel for the defence in the House of Lords on an issue relating to mental capacity

Fraud

FSA v Cryne

Market abuse – misleading the markets

R v Fonseca & Ors

Ponzi fraud

HM Customs & Excise v Knight

£60m fraud

DTI v Mahady

Serious and complex fraud

R v Zimmel

Leading counsel in serious and complex fraud

Edwards Duthie v SFO

Judicial review of SFO re undertakings of confidentiality

R v Holland

Leading counsel in serious and complex fraud

SFO v Massingham & Others

SFO fraud

Public and Administrative

Brewer, R (on the application of) v Supreme Court Costs Office

[2006] EWHC 1955 (Admin) (27 July 2006)

Judicial Review of a refusal to pay a defendant's costs order

Verma, R (on the application of) v Stratford Magistrates' Court

[2006] EWHC 715 (Admin) (15 March 2006)
Judicial Review of the Crown's refusal to call test purchase volunteers

Brewer v Director of Public Prosecutions

[2004] EWHC 355 (Admin) (11 February 2004)
Judicial Review of a conviction relating to drink driving/driving without insurance

E (R on the application of) v Serious Fraud Office (2004) proceedings CO/4862/2004
Undertakings of confidentiality

Murray, R (on the application of) v Ministry Of Defence

[1997] EWHC Admin 1136 (15th December, 1997)
Judicial Review of a court-martial finding - 'fairness requires the giving of reasons'

Inquests

Inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes 2009

Appeared on behalf of a police officer accused in part of a cover-up

Inquest into the death of baby J 2009

Civil and commercial law

Recently acting for a telecommunications company in a multi-million pound cross-jurisdictional claim for breach of contract (settled), for a sailing school (winning outright) and in protracted civil contempt proceedings (settled).

Marketmaker Technology (Beijing) Co Ltd & Ors v CMC Group Plc & Ors

[2009] EWHC 1445 (QB) (24 June 2009)
Civil contempt

VAT and tax tribunals

Crown & Cushion Hotels Ltd v Customs & Excise

[2003] EWHC 1639 (Ch) (14 July 2003)

Crown & Cushion Hotels Ltd v HM Commissioners of Customs & Excise

(2004) [2004] EWCA Civ 516 – VAT tribunal appeal

Fast Forward Resources PLC v Revenue & Customs

[2002] UK VAT(Customs) C00223 (15 February 2002)
VAT Tribunal appeal

ARA v Rose

Before the Special Commissioners for Tax

ARA v Barry

First ever civil trial under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002