



Alisdair Williamson QC

Call: 1994 / QC: 2017

Alisdair Williamson QC practises in serious crime and professional discipline, and has been recognised for many years as one of the foremost barristers in his area.

He is well-known as specialist defence counsel in homicide, fraud, and difficult, complex sexual offences. He has acted in many very high-profile cases, including the successful defence of Coronation Street actor Michael Le Vell. He is a former Times Lawyer of the Week and also practises in professional disciplinary tribunals, inquests, and licensing.

Alisdair is currently instructed to defend a high-profile solicitor before the SDT in allegations of sexual misconduct. He has just successfully represented one of the lead officers in the police discipline case arising from the death of Sean Rigg. He was also instructed to defend in a claim of professional negligence against solicitors in the case of footballer Ched Evans following his acquittal of rape charges. He is also instructed in cases of murder, money laundering, and fraud around the country.

He has a successful appellate practice in both the Court of Appeal, where he is asked to take over cases in which he was not previously instructed, and in the form of judicial review.

He is ranked in Chambers UK and Legal 500.

Crime

Alisdair is one of the leading barristers in criminal law. He has defended in the gravest and most serious cases around the country. His experience of complex and sensitive allegations is of the highest order, whether murder or sexual offences. He has a truly impressive record in defending the most difficult and emotionally charged cases where a range of advocacy skills and styles are required. He has particular expertise in cross-examining vulnerable witnesses in the most demanding

of circumstances.

Notable Crime cases

- **R v WM (2019)**

Alisdair's client was acquitted of murdering his mother in a case of complicated psychiatric, evidential, and forensic issues.

- **R v P (2018)**

After successfully appealing the defendant's conviction arising from the judge's wrongful refusal to allow time for an expert to complete their report, Alisdair secured complete acquittals for a police officer accused of historical sexual abuse of his partner's daughter. The case involved complicated forensic issues arising from the effect of therapy and EMDR on the complainant's memory.

- **R v H (2018)**

Successful defence of a woman accused of serious, historical sexual assaults on her son. A highly unusual, difficult and emotionally charged case in which Alisdair secured his client's acquittal.

- **R v B (2018)**

Successful defence of headmaster and former scout master accused of a series of historical, serious sexual offences by, amongst others, a solicitor and a high-profile journalist.

Fraud & Corruption

Alisdair has been at the forefront of fraud work throughout his practice. Whether it has been advising in high-profile cases, strategic management of crises to prevent litigation, or representing high net worth individuals at every stage of the criminal process, Alisdair's experience and expertise is in constant demand. He has defended in a variety of VAT, missing trader, income tax and regulatory frauds. His background degree in economics enables him to master the financial details and nuances. Solicitors and lay clients value his approachable style and analytic ability.

Alisdair has extensive defence experience of tax evasion, missing trader and other VAT frauds, frauds on public bodies such as the NHS, and frauds in the obtaining of contracts from government departments.

Notable Fraud & Corruption cases

- **R v H (Southwark Crown Court)**

Leading counsel international conspiracy to defraud and money-laundering.

- **Re W-C (Chancery Division)**

Proceedings in respect of an accountancy services firm.

- **R v S (Ipswich Crown Court)**
Leading counsel multi-million pound international conspiracy to defraud.
- **R v B (Leeds Crown Court)**
Leading counsel multi-million pound international VAT missing trader fraud.
- **R v C (Chichester Crown Court)**
Regional Development Office fraud.

Inquests & Inquiries

Alisdair has extensive experience acting for individuals, including police officers and doctors, at Inquests in a range of areas around the country. He has particular expertise in investigations into deaths in police custody.

Notable Inquests & Inquiries cases

- **Inquest into death of ST (2016)**
Represented three Custody Sergeants in a widely reported death in custody.
- **Inquest into death of DB (2015)**
Represented a police officer whose vehicle crushed a member of the public after being left unattended. Complex issues of latent defect in the braking system, an unlawful killing conclusion was avoided following representations on behalf of the officer.

Professional Discipline

Alisdair has an enviable record in defending police officers in disciplinary proceedings and the criminal courts; he well understands the unique pressures that face police officers accused of wrong doing. He has widespread experience representing senior officers accused of corruption. He has successfully represented officers accused of the most serious offences and misconduct.

Alisdair also acts for lawyers, doctors, and dentists before their professional disciplinary bodies. He has particular expertise in allegations of sexual misconduct against professionals.

Notable Professional Discipline cases

- **SRA v Beckwith (2019)**
Alisdair represented Mr Beckwith in this ground-breaking prosecution by the SRA; following a hearing of 9 days the

SDT imposed a fine on Mr Beckwith for engaging in inappropriate sexual activity with a colleague when her judgment was impaired, the SDT refusing to make the more serious findings sought by the SRA.

- **In the matter of Sean Rigg (2019)**

Successful representation of officer cleared of any wrong doing arising from the death of Sean Rigg in 2008. Police discipline hearing held 10.5 years after the tragic events.

- **R v P (2018)**

After successfully appealing the defendant's conviction arising from the judge's wrongful refusal to allow time for an expert to complete their report, Alisdair secured complete acquittals for a police officer accused of historical sexual abuse of his partner's daughter. Complicated issues of memory contamination from Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

- **R v T (2018)**

Successful defence of police officer accused of historical serious sexual offences against step-daughter.

- **R (Chief Constable of the Derbyshire Constabulary)v The Police Appeals Tribunal (Green and Stewart –Interested Parties)[2012]**

EWHC 2280.

- **Re H (2016)**

Successful representation of Police Custody Sergeant at discipline proceedings for failure to secure medical attention for a detainee with two broken legs.

- **Re R (2014)**

Successful defence of a dentist accused before the GDC of sexual assaults on two members of staff. The case was dismissed.

Notable Cases

Crime

R v AD

2020

Alisdair's client, a teacher in a secure psychiatric unit, was acquitted of all counts of sexually abusing a child patient.

R v W

2019

Successful defence of man found with £500,000 in cash hidden in his flat. Charged with money-laundering, he explained that he was a semi-professional gambler and the money was his winnings from poker and horse racing.

R v P

2018
After successfully appealing the defendant's conviction arising from the judge's wrongful refusal to allow time for an expert to complete their report, Alisdair secured complete acquittals for a police officer accused of historical sexual abuse of his partner's daughter. Complicated issues of memory contamination from Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR).

R v T

2018
Successful defence of police officer accused of historical serious sexual offences against step-daughter.

R v F

2018
Successful defence of man accused of historical sexual offences against his partner's three children.

R v C

2018
Legally and factually complex defence of loss of control for man accused of murdering his wife over her sexual humiliation of him.

R v H

2018
Successful defence of a woman accused of serious, historical sexual assaults on her son. A highly unusual, difficult and emotionally charged case in which Alisdair secured his client's acquittal.

R v W-C

2018
Successful defence of businessman accused of buggery and other serious historical sexual offences against his cousin during the late 80s.

R v B

2018
Successful defence of headmaster and former scout master accused of a series of historical, serious sexual offences.

R v U

2017
Successful defence of young defendant accused of a leading role in fatal stabbing. Found not guilty of murder, manslaughter and conspiracy to commit GBH.

R v M

2017
Successful defence of man accused of raping his sister 35 years ago. The case raised complicated issues of doli incapax and also the presumption of incapacity of rape by reason of age. He was acquitted of rape and of ABH but convicted of an indecent assault for which he was fined.

R v L

2017

L was acquitted of attempted murder. He had stabbed through the heart the leader of a gang who had harassed L and damaged his property. Convicted of GBH.

R v L, V & S

2016

Successful defence of man accused of double gang-rape in the mid-eighties

R v O

2016

Secured the acquittal of a man accused of raping his brother's wife over an extended period, and historical sexual assault of his niece

R v C

2016

Successful defence of a man accused of raping an unconscious woman. Complex pharmacological and mental health issues

R v A

2015

Successful defence of a man accused of historical childhood incestuous sex offences by his sister. (Direct Access)

R v J

2015

Man accused of historical sexual assaults by a male friend of the family. Acquitted.

R v J

2015

Successful defence of man accused by former wife of a historical campaign of rape and assault.

R v E

2015

Secured the acquittal of a police officer accused of serious abusive behaviour, sexual and physical, on previous partners

R v M

2015

Secured the acquittal of a PC who had previously served with distinction as a Firefighter and who had been accused of the physical and indecent assault of recruits to the Fire Service.

R v C

2015

Police Officer accused by colleague of serious sexual assaults. Acquitted.

R v GC

2014

Successful defence of serving DS against allegations of child rape going back to the 1970s.

R v WH

2014

Secured acquittal of man accused of gang rape during the 1970s.

R v GJ

2014

Defended an allegation of child sex abuse dating back 30 years. The defendant was acquitted.

R v C

2013

Secured the acquittal of a police firearms officer accused of attempting to anally rape and digitally penetrating, his partner.

R v Michael Turner (Michael Le Vell)

2013

The successful defence of actor Michael Le Vell in his prosecution for child rape and other serious sexual offences.

R v D & Y

2013

Successful defence of a 14 year old boy accused of, when 13, raping his co-defendant's 15 year old girlfriend.

R v Ezekiel & Another

2013

Counsel for the Crown in the successful prosecution of the former leader of Thanet Council for Misconduct in Public Office.

R v G

2012

Secured the acquittal of defendant accused by well-known author of rape and GBH during their marriage

R v Studholme

2012

Leading junior counsel for the only defendant acquitted of conspiracy to supply London's largest ever seizure of cocaine.

Fraud

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Leading counsel multi-million pound international VAT missing trader fraud.

R v C (Chichester Crown Court)

Regional Development Office fraud.

R v W (Isleworth Crown Court)

Money laundering web.

R v JF (Croydon Crown Court)

Leading counsel million pound fraud on the Home Office.

R v A (Southwark Crown Court)

Large scale bribery for the award of local government contracts.

R v H (Lewes Crown Court)

Million pound income tax fraud and ancillary JR proceedings.

R v B (Southwark Crown Court)

A complex and large-scale multi-million fraud on the mobile phone networks.

R v W (Inner London Crown Court)

Industrial scale money-laundering through domestic casino networks, and property transactions in Spain.

R v S (Kingston Crown Court)

Leading counsel multi-handed money laundering.

R v AJ (Croydon Crown Court)

Leading counsel multi-million pound fraud against DEFRA.

R v E (Maidstone Crown Court)

Prosecution of the former Mayor of Thanet for corruption and Misconduct in Public Office.

R v Hamper

2012

Leading junior counsel in the successful defence of a woman accused of conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to launder the proceeds of cocaine supply.

R v John & Others

2012

Leading junior for 3rd defendant in largest DEFRA prosecution for fraud relating to animal medicines.

Inquests

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Police

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R v C

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Police Officer accused by colleague of serious sexual assaults. Acquitted.
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Memberships

- The Criminal Bar Association
- The Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Fraud Lawyers Association South Eastern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association Working Party on section 41 Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act
- Undertakes work for the Bar Council Pro Bono Unit
- Pro Bono Privy Council work

Education

- MA (Oxon) -Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Open Exhibitioner)
- Dip Law (City) with Commendation
- Called to the Bar 1994 (Astbury Scholar)

Accreditations

