

Joel Smith KC

Call: 2002 / Silk: 2024



Joel's practice encompasses serious crime and extradition, both defending and prosecuting. He is ranked in both the Legal 500 and Chambers UK legal directories.

In the field of criminal law, Joel mainly practises in homicide and serious crime, bringing to bear his experience as Junior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court between 2017 and 2024.

In extradition, Joel practises in cases of sensitivity and gravity, representing both individuals facing extradition and foreign governments at all levels from first instance to the Supreme Court. His caseload includes high profile allegations of murder, market manipulation, large scale fraud and government corruption.

Extradition

A regular practitioner in the extradition courts, Joel defends and prosecutes in factual complex, and legally significant cases. Joel also advises government departments and individuals before extradition proceedings are launched. Recent and ongoing cases include:

Albania v L (2026). Leading counsel for the defence in extradition proceedings concerning historic murder allegations.

Thailand v C and another (2026). Leading defence counsel in extradition proceedings concerning the treatment of transgender inmates in the Thai prison estate.

Colombia v G (2026). Leading counsel for the defence in extradition proceedings arising from a high profile murder case.

Kenya v P (2026) Leading counsel for the Kenyan government in extradition proceedings concerning an allegation of murder against a former member of the British Armed Forces.

USA v S (2026). Leading counsel for the Government of the USA in proceedings concerning allegations of a politically motivated bombing campaign against an individual on the FBI most wanted list.

Poland v K (2025/26). Leading counsel for the defendant in extradition proceedings concerning the independence of the Polish judiciary.

USA v S (2024/25). Leading counsel for the Government of the USA in extradition proceedings concerning high profile double murder and attempted murder allegation.

Israel v G (2024). Leading counsel for the Government of Israel in extradition proceedings concerning return to a territory which was engaged in armed conflict.

Crime

Primarily practising in cases concerning homicide offences, Joel has appeared in a number of the most high profile recent murder cases in London. Recent and ongoing cases include:

R v B (2027). Leading prosecution counsel in allegation of double murder, s18 and arson arising from a deliberately lit fire in a house of multiple occupancy.

R v C (2026). Leading prosecution counsel in murder/firearms trial concerning a shooting in South London.

R v B (2026) Leading prosecution counsel in murder/attempted murder trial concerning a shooting and subsequent attempted shooting in West London.

R v S (2026). Leading counsel for the Crown in murder case concerning an allegation of revenge stabbing.

R v. V and ors (2026). Leading prosecution counsel in case concerning allegation of murder and perverting the course of justice arising from a shooting at a party in Croydon and the destruction by fire of the car which was used by those said to be involved in the murder.

R v RE (2025). Leading prosecution counsel in murder by shooting outside a nightclub in South London.

R v K & B (2025). Leading prosecution counsel in case concerning a murder by stabbing in the shadow of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

R v C (2024). Leading prosecution counsel in double murder case in which it was alleged that the defendant killed two women, successfully disposing of the body of one of them.

R v M & G (2024/25) Junior prosecution counsel in high profile case concerning an allegation that the defendants decided to “live off grid” with their baby leading to the death of the child.

Directory Recommendations

“Joel is one of the leading new silks at the criminal Bar. He is frequently instructed in the most high profile cases at the Old Bailey and is well liked and respected by the senior judiciary. He is a particularly tough cross-examiner.” **Legal 500 2026: Crime**

“Joel is a class act. He is a pleasure to work, as he can get to the nub a complex issue in a millisecond and make it appear elementary. He is incredibly hard-working and responsive.” **Legal 500 2026: Extradition**

“Joel is the perfect silk; pragmatic and down to earth. He is intellectually brilliant and can break down anything to something simple. Joel makes sense of anything for anybody.” **Chambers UK 2026: Extradition**

“Joel is always excellent and easy to work with. He is vastly experienced and razor sharp on the law and tactics.”
Chambers UK 2026: **Extradition**

“A highly proficient advocate, who excels in cases involving technical issues, and is great at presenting complex material to a jury.” **Chambers UK 2026: Crime**

Professional Memberships

Criminal Bar Association
South Eastern Circuit
Extradition Lawyers' Association

Education

LLB (Hons) London School of Economics
Bar Vocational Courts – Inns of Court School of Law
Called to the Bar (Inner Temple) 2002

Publications

Chapter author/contributor to “**Disclosure in Criminal Proceedings**” (2025), edited by Paul Jarvis and Oliver Glasgow KC.

Accreditations



Privacy Statement

I, Joel Smith KC, am a data controller and can be contacted at 3 Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BH or by telephone on 020 7400 6400 or by email at joel.smith@3rblaw.com. My Data Protection Policy can be found [here](#).

All personal data that I process is for the purposes of providing legal services, conducting conflict-checks, marketing, defending potential complaints, legal proceedings or fee disputes, keeping anti-money laundering records, training other barristers and pupils and when providing work-shadowing opportunities, and/or exercising a right to a lien. The types of data I process vary upon the nature of the legal matter in relation to which I am engaged to advise, but can include names, contact details, biographic details and 'special category personal data' (such as details of racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, health, sex life and criminal convictions and proceedings).

Depending upon the circumstances of the case, the legal bases upon which I process personal data are (i) the performance of a contract to which the data subject is a party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract, (ii) the processing is necessary to comply with legal obligations to which I am subject, or (iii) the processing is necessary for the legitimate interests set out above, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child. When I rely on (iii) legitimate interests, my 'Legitimate Interests Assessment' can be found [here](#). When I process data which has not been obtained directly from the data subject (e.g. personal data contained in evidential materials), it will have been supplied to me as part of my instructions in circumstances covered by legal professional privilege.

Depending upon the circumstances of the case, I may share the personal data with:

1. my Chambers, which supplies professional and administrative support to my practice;
2. Courts and other tribunals to whom documents are presented;
3. my lay and professional clients;
4. potential witnesses, in particular experts, and friends or family of the data subject;
5. solicitors, barristers, pupils, mini pupils and other legal representatives;
6. ombudsmen and regulatory authorities;
7. current, past or prospective employers;

8. education and examining bodies;
9. business associates, professional advisers and trade bodies.

I retain personal data for no longer than 7 years after the case has come to an end or as otherwise required by law.

I do not intend to transfer data to any country which is not either within the European Union, or otherwise permitted by UK data protection legislation.

Under the UK GDPR, data subjects whose personal data I process have the right to request from me access to, and rectification or erasure of, their personal data, the right to the restriction of processing concerning them, the right to object to processing as well as the right to data portability. Data subjects also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ico.org.uk).

In cases where there is a contract between me and the data subject, the provision of personal data is a contractual requirement and the data subject is obliged to provide the personal data in order that I can supply legal services. A failure to provide such data may mean that I will not be able to provide those legal services.

[Data Protection Policy](#)

[Legitimate Interests Assessment](#)