

## Richard Horwell KC

Call: 1976 / Silk: 2006



Richard Horwell KC is recognised as a leading silk in Inquests and Public Inquiries, Crime and Financial Crime.

Since taking silk he has defended in numerous notable cases and been instructed in many prominent Inquests and Public Inquiries which have included the Manchester Arena Inquiry, the IICSA Public Inquiry into the Roman Catholic Church, the London Bridge terrorist attack Inquests, the Alexander Litvinenko Public Inquiry, the Jean Charles de Menezes (Stockwell) Inquest, and the Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed Inquests. He advises prosecuting authorities in and outside this jurisdiction and since the announcement of IICSA, has advised schools, religious institutions and other organisations as to how best to respond to its demands. Richard is regularly instructed to advise on independent inquiries and conducted the Home Office inquiry into the collapse of the trial of R v Mouncher & Others.

### **Main areas of practice:**

- Inquests and Public Inquiries
- Murder and manslaughter
- Sexual offences
- Fraud
- Money laundering
- Corruption and misfeasance in public office
- Police discipline
- Search warrants
- Appellate advice and advocacy

# Inquests & Public Inquiries

Richard's extensive criminal law background, court presentation and expertise has proved invaluable in the public law domain of inquests and public inquiries.

## Notable Inquests & Public Inquiries cases

- **Manchester Arena Inquiry**

Lead Counsel for Greater Manchester Police and the North West Counter Terrorism Policing since January 2020 in the Manchester Arena Inquiry which is an independent public inquiry, established on 22 October 2019 by the Home Secretary. The purpose of the Manchester Arena Inquiry is to investigate the deaths of the victims of the 2017 Manchester Arena attack.

- **Counsel for the Archdiocese of Birmingham**

Counsel for the Archdiocese of Birmingham at the IICSA Public Inquiry into the Roman Catholic Church.

- **Methodist Church**

Advising the Methodist Church in relation to the forthcoming IICSA Public Inquiry into multi-faith religious institutions.

- **Home Office**

Conducted the independent inquiry on behalf of the Home Office into the collapse of the trial of R v Mouncher & others. This was a corruption trial of 12 police officers which was stayed due to disclosure inadequacies. It followed the two murder trials which resulted from the brutal killing of Lynette White in Cardiff.

- **Jermaine Baker**

Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the Inquest into the death of Jermaine Baker.

- **London Bridge Terrorist Attack**

Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the Inquests into the deaths from the London Bridge terrorist attacks.

- **Jean Charles de Menezes**

Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the Inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes.

- **Alexander Litvinenko**

Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the Public Inquiry into the death of Alexander Litvinenko.

- **Olaseni Lewis**

Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the Inquest into the death of Olaseni Lewis.

- **Princess Diana & Dodi Al Fayed**

Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the Inquests into the deaths of Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed. The Guardian in 2008 reported that: Horwell was the only barrister to enhance his reputation at the inquests with a series of devastating cross-examinations of key witnesses, including Fayed and his head of security, John Macnamara, which fully exposed the weaknesses of their allegations.”

- **National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC)**

Continuing to advise the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the Metropolitan Police Service on the implementation and development of the post-Stockwell changes and advised ACPO on the drafting of parts of the ‘Police Use of Firearms Manual’.

- **Lectures at the annual CT Commanders' Course**

- **Australian Federal Police**

Gave presentations in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Perth to the Australian Federal Police on the lessons learnt from Stockwell and the need to record decisions and their rationale.

- Counsel for the family in an inquest where the deceased took her own life. The Mental Health Trust was criticised for failings in its care.
- Instructed by a leading university in respect of an inquest following the suicide of one of its members of staff.
- Has advised in a number of other inquests and public inquiries including: the Azelle Rodney Public Inquiry and the Undercover Police Public Inquiry.

## Crime

Richard has considerable experience in the criminal law and was Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court from 1991 to 2006 during which he was First Senior Treasury Counsel from 2002 to 2006, the longest serving First Senior Treasury Counsel for many decades.

### Notable Crime cases

- **Medouni & Kouider**

Counsel for the prosecution in this trial following the murder of the French nanny Sophie Lionnet.

- **Koh & Others**

Counsel for the prosecution in this trial following the murder of the model Harry Uzoka.

- **Woodgate & Clark & Others**

Counsel for the Information Commissioner’s Office in this prosecution for breaches of the Data Protection Act.

- **P**  
Represented the Deputy Head Master of a famous school charged with historic sexual abuse of pupils. Prosecution stayed as an abuse of the process of the court.
- **R**  
Represented a lawyer charged with the historic sexual abuse of a child. The defence highlighted the inadequacies of the investigation and eventually the prosecution offered no evidence.
- **C**  
Represented a high profile publicist at his trial and appeal following allegations of historical sexual abuse.
- **J**  
Represented a businessman charged with money laundering. After long negotiations the prosecution offered no evidence.
- **D**  
Importation of drugs. Client acquitted of importing cocaine from Columbia.
- **B**  
Counsel for the defendant in the 'N'Dubz' GBH trial. Client acquitted of section 18 wounding.
- **I**  
Counsel for the son of an international businessman. Client acquitted of murder.
- **B**  
Counsel for an appellant in an appeal against conviction for supplying drugs and instructed in the re-trial.
- **T**  
Advised the Managing Director of a Jersey based Trust Company in connection with charges of forgery and perverting the course of justice. Acquitted following the identification of flaws in the prosecution case.
- **Bamber**  
Represented Jeremy Bamber at his appeal against sentence in this jurisdiction and his subsequent application to the European Court of Human Rights as to whether the imposition of an irreducible life sentence amounts to a violation of Article 3. The full court held that the UK Government's sentencing policy violated Article 3.
- **O**  
Represented a Brazilian national who was charged with attempted murder after he had stabbed his girlfriend. Found not guilty by reason of insanity. Apart from the preparation of the psychiatric defence, also advised on issues concerning immigration and the Mental Health Act.

# Professional Discipline

Richard has appeared before the GMC and Police Misconduct Hearings.

## Notable Professional Discipline cases

- **Operation Kalmia**

Advised a Chief Constable and a senior police officer who was investigated in Operation Kalmia, an investigation into the alleged misconduct of a large number of high ranking police officers. The proceedings were eventually abandoned.

# Search Warrants

For many years, Richard has advised on the legality of the applications for and the execution of entry and search warrants.

## Notable Search Warrants cases

- **Avon & Somerset Constabulary**

Advised Avon & Somerset Constabulary on the legality of an entry and search warrant.

- **G**

Counsel for 'G' who challenged and successfully quashed an entry and search warrant which the Administrative Court described as 'casual and slipshod'.

- Advised a foreign prosecuting authority as to its search warrant legislation and procedures.

# Fraud & Financial Crime

Richard has wide-ranging experience in fraud and financial crime going back as far as the 1980s when he was instructed by the SFO in the Posgate and Grob Lloyd's reinsurance trials and the Guinness series of trials.

## Notable Fraud & Financial Crime cases

- **P**

Counsel for a Ghanaian banker charged with money laundering in the series of trials connected to Ibori, a previous

Governor of the Delta State, in Nigeria.

- **Investment Company**

Instructed by solicitors registered in the Cayman Islands to advise large investment company (\$500 million Hedge Fund) registered in the British Virgin Islands. Multi-jurisdictional issues relating to BVI, Brazilian and European law.

- **G & W**

Counsel for the director of an investment company prosecuted by the SFO in a £140m Ponzi fraud and the corruption of a US prosecutor.

- Instructed on behalf of a director arrested by the SFO in its investigation into payments made by BAE.

- **FSA**

Advised the FSA re Insider dealing.

- Instructed on behalf of a solicitor charged with a land registration fraud.

- Advised regarding the SFO's investigations re 'Oil for Food'.

- **Company Director**

Advised a company director under SFO investigation for conspiracy to defraud and money laundering.

- **Company Director**

Instructed on behalf of a company director charged with money laundering.

## Notable Cases

Instructed by the Serious Fraud Office in **Grob** and **Posgate**; **Guinness**; and advisory work in respect of other investigations.

Represented the managing director of MTM who had been charged by the Serious Fraud Office.

### **The Security Express robbery**

Ronnie Knight, Freddie Foreman and others – then the largest cash robbery in British history.

Various **IRA** prosecutions including: the plot to assassinate the Prime Minister; the Stoke Newington lorry bomb; the Heathrow mortar bomb attacks; and the conspiracy to obtain munitions from Iraq – this involved an operation which covered five other jurisdictions

### **Badat**

The terrorist who trained with Richard Reid and who conspired to bring down a passenger aircraft when in flight.

### **Trooper Williams**

Instructed after this British soldier had been charged with the murder of a citizen in Iraq.

### **Regan, Hornycy and Rees**

The murder of three generations of the Chohan family. The longest and most complex murder case to have been tried at the Old Bailey.

### **Harris, Rock, Cherry and Faulder**

The consolidated appeals in which the Court of Appeal reviewed the medical evidence and hypotheses surrounding “shaken baby syndrome”.

### **Smith**

The murder of school girl Toni-Ann Byfield.

### **Hanson and White**

The murder of the banker John Monckton.

### **Nelson**

The murder of PC Patrick Dunne and William Danso.

### **Gonzalez**

The London and south coast serial killer.

### **Ali Dizai**

The trial of a Commander in the Metropolitan Police Service for misconduct in a public office.

Instructed on behalf of a group of directors who were considered for prosecution by the SFO in the investigation into price fixing in the pharmaceutical industry.

Hearings before the General Medical Council and the RAC Motorsport Tribunal

## **Directory Recommendations**

“A man with a weighty reputation, who has a ton of experience.” **Chambers UK 2026 Crime**

“Richard is totally unflappable. He is a class act, with immeasurable experience.” **Legal 500 2026: Inquests and Inquiries**

“He is a great advocate. No one makes a closing speech as well as he does.” **Chambers UK 2025: Crime**

“Richard is very eagle-eyed and quickly gets to the point on weaknesses.” **Chambers UK 2025: Inquests & Public Inquiries**

“He is a strong lawyer and very confident, with great client-handling skills.” **Chambers UK 2025: Inquests & Public Inquiries**

“Richard is a formidable advocate but he is also a very cooperative person in the process.” **Chambers UK 2025: Inquests & Public Inquiries**

“Richard is a phenomenal barrister. A very powerful advocate and a force of nature in the hearing room.” **Legal 500 2025: Inquests & Inquiries**

“Very experienced and a man of great knowledge.” **Chambers UK 2024: Crime**

“He is a superb cross-examiner; he is very good at understanding details and logistics of big policy operations, and he explains them well in court.” **Chambers UK 2024: Inquests**

“Richard’s experience and expertise are second to none. He has also been prepared to work exceptionally hard as a member of the legal team.” **Chambers UK 2023: Inquests**

“A natural jury advocate.” **Legal 500 2023: Crime**

“The ultimate advocate – classy and persuasive. A terrific bedside manner with clients, and a great tactician who speaks and writes beautifully.” **Legal 500 2023: Inquests & Inquiries**

“Wonderful to work with, he is well prepared and a great jury advocate.” **Chambers UK 2022: Crime**

“He has massive gravitas and incredible judgement. He’s very good at dealing with very high-profile and sensitive matters.” **Chambers UK 2022: Inquests**

“A very sophisticated and assured advocate.” **Chambers UK 2022: Inquests**

“He brings steely focus and detailed preparation to a tough brief, which he carries off with consummate skill.” **Legal 500 2022: Inquests & Inquiries**

“Speaks with justified confidence and has superb judgement.” **Chambers UK 2021: Crime**

“Absolutely stupendous.” **Chambers UK 2021: Financial Crime**

“A very traditional and experienced trial advocate, who is wonderful to watch on his feet. It is a joy to sit behind him and watch the jury hang off his every word. He has them in the palm of his hand.” **Chambers UK 2020: Crime**

“A good choice if you’re defending and need to pull out all the stops.” **Chambers UK 2020: Crime**

“He is very experienced and a reassuring presence on the team. He has that prosecutorial insight which you can then use as part of your defence strategy.” **Chambers UK 2020: Financial Crime**

“A pleasure to observe on his feet; he delivers especially well-crafted speeches.” **Legal 500 2020: Crime**

“A real master of advocacy. Jurors hang off his every word. A fantastic advocate.” **Chambers UK 2019: Crime**

“He’s clever, quick and commands the utmost authority.” **Chambers UK 2019: Inquests**

“A very good, very experienced criminal KC with excellent judgement” who is “a very compelling advocate. A very good, very experienced criminal KC with excellent judgment who is a very compelling advocate.” **Chambers UK 2019: Financial Crime**

“A specialist in the appeal courts, he is widely respected by the senior judiciary.” **Legal 500 2019: Crime**

“He is experienced, talented and he has such a sharp mind; he doesn’t miss anything.” **Chambers UK 2018: Crime**

“A commanding advocate who is utterly dedicated to getting the best result for his clients.” **Chambers UK 2018: Inquests.**

“A very experienced and impressive advocate who is very persuasive as well as charismatic.” **Chambers UK 2018: Financial Crime**

## Appointments

- Bencher of Gray’s Inn 2009
- Silk 2006
- Appointed a Recorder 2004
- First Senior Treasury Counsel 2002 – 2006
- Senior Treasury Counsel 1996 – 2006
- Appointed Treasury Counsel 1991
- Called 1976

## Accreditations



## Privacy Statement

I, Richard Horwell 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 [richard.horwell@3rblaw.com](mailto:richard.horwell@3rblaw.com). My Data Protection Policy can be found below.

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 (eg 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](http://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.

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[Data Protection Policy](#)

[Legitimate Interests Assessment](#)