



Richard Horwell QC

Call: 1976 / QC: 2006

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

Richard is renowned for his advisory and advocacy work across a wide range of disciplines and proceedings. He was Treasury Counsel from 1991 to 2006 (First Senior Treasury Counsel from 2002 to 2006) during which he prosecuted many high profile cases involving murder and terrorism.

Since taking silk he has defended in numerous notable cases and been instructed in many prominent Inquests and Public Inquiries which have included the Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed Inquests, the Jean Charles de Menezes (Stockwell) Inquest, the London Bridge terrorist attack Inquests, the Alexander Litvinenko Public Inquiry and the IICSA Public Inquiry into the Roman Catholic Church. 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

- **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.”

- **Jean Charles de Menezes**

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

- **Olaseni Lewis**

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

- **London Bridge Terrorist Attack**

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

- **Jermaine Baker**

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

- **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.

- **Counsel for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police**

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

- **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.

- 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, Horncy 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

Appointments

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

Accreditations

