



Robert Morris

Call: 2008

Robert Morris has developed a successful practice in a number of different areas. He predominantly deals with complex cases and those involving difficult points of law. He has appeared in all three divisions of the High Court as well as regularly appearing in the Crown Court and Court of Appeal.

Robert mainly defends individuals and companies. He tends to be instructed in serious cases involving allegations of fraud, tax evasion, insider dealing, perjury, gross negligence manslaughter and murder. He regularly defends professionals and has a particular interest in criminal cases with a regulatory dimension.

He is particularly interested in money laundering and the proceeds of crime. He has advised numerous high-profile individuals on restraint orders, freezing orders, interim freezing orders and external requests made by foreign states.

Robert also regularly appears before professional tribunals and has considerable experience of acting for police officers at gross misconduct hearings and at inquests.

Robert also acts for companies in licensing hearings and those accused of breaching environmental permits, health and safety legislation and food safety permits.

Robert accepts direct access instructions.

General Crime

- Prosecutes and defends in all areas of criminal law
- Regularly instructed in serious and complex cases
- Frequently represents police officers charged with criminal offences including perjury and fraud

- Prosecutes and defends companies charged with regulatory offences

Notable General Crime cases

- **R v PM (Chelmsford Crown Court 2018)**

Defended the first Defendant in an 8 week trial where the Prosecution alleged a conspiracy to defraud the elderly. PM was acquitted of conspiracy.

- **R v Woodgate and Clark Ltd (Maidstone Crown Court 2017)**

Prosecuted for the Information Commissioner a loss adjuster for offences under the Data Protection Act 1998.

- **R v G Ltd (2017)**

Successfully defended a crystal glass company charged with polluting the air with excessive lead emissions.

- **R v K (Southwark Crown Court 2017)**

Defended a police officer charged with corrupt or improper exercise of police powers. Court ruled there was no case to answer.

- **R v S (St Albans Crown Court 2017)**

Defended a police officer charged with harassment with violence. The complainant was his former partner who was a CPS prosecutor. Following cross examination and submissions the Court ruled there was no case to answer.

- **R v PW (Southwark Crown Court 2016)**

Defended a police custody sergeant accused of perjury relating to a death in custody.

- **R v Colonel Kumar Lama (2016 Central Criminal Court)**

Defended a Nepalese Colonel in relation to two allegations of torture that allegedly occurred during the Nepalese civil war. The case was prosecuted in England on the basis of universal jurisdiction. The Defendant was acquitted of both charges

Proceeds of Crime

Money Laundering/Proceeds of Crime:

- Appears regularly in confiscation and civil recovery proceedings
- Represents victims and other owners in confiscation and civil recovery proceedings
- Advises companies in the UK and abroad on the law of money laundering
- Acts for both the prosecution and defence in confiscation and cash forfeiture proceedings
- Advises on applications to vary restraint orders

Notable Proceeds of Crime cases

- **NCA v X (2019 High Court)**
Advised and represented an individual facing an Unexplained Wealth Order and an Interim Freezing Order.
- **R v Masters [2019] EWCA Crim 650**
Successfully appealed a sentence for money laundering. Case turned on the construction of the sentencing guideline.
- **R v JW (2019 Southwark Crown Court)**
Advised and represented an individual in relation to a restraint order. £250,000 was excluded from the restraint order and returned to the Defendant.
- **Re S (A Firm of Solicitors)**
Advised a firm of solicitors on their responsibilities when a money laundering operation for political exposed persons was revealed in privileged circumstances.
- **R v MA, MA, MA 2016 (Blackfriars Crown Court)**
Successfully appealed a sentence for money laundering. Case turned on the construction of the sentencing guideline.
- **NCA v Robb [2015] Ch 520**
Represented victims in a civil recovery claim relating to a sophisticated property fraud in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The victims were awarded £1.28 million
- **Environment Agency v UWMS Ltd (Worcester Crown Court 2015)**
Successfully defended the first and second defendants in the largest confiscation order ever brought by the Environment Agency. No confiscation order was made.

Corruption & financial crime

- Experienced in dealing with complex frauds
- Advises parties in arbitral proceedings on issues of corruption and fraud
- Advises companies on compliance with the Bribery Act 2010
- Currently instructed in a number of cases concerning tax fraud
- Appears in the First-tier and Upper-tier Tax Tribunal representing those accused of tax fraud

Notable Corruption & financial crime cases

- **FCA v FAM and WAC (Southwark Crown Court 2018, Retrial 2019)**
Defended a successful trader charged with insider dealing.

- **R v JO (Chelmsford Crown Court 2019)**
Representing a trader in high value supercars accused of tax evasion.
- **R v AC (Wood Green Crown Court 2017)**
Defended in a £50 million VAT fraud.
- **Re M**
Advised on a dispute over a major construction project in Dubai which was undermined by corruption and concerned money laundering in Malaysia.
- **Re T**
Advised on the law of money laundering in the UK, Seychelles and Isle of Man in relation to a multi million pound dispute involving two sets of Russian interests in a mobile telephone company in Kyrgyzstan. This involved making submissions to the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Seychelles.
- **S Ltd v HMRC (2013 – 2018)**
Represented a company accused of MTIC fraud in the First tier and Upper-tier Tax Tribunal. The company's appeal was eventually upheld and the company was awarded £1.4 million
- **H Ltd v HMRC [2011] UKFT 860 (TC)**
Represented a company accused of MTIC fraud in the Tax Tribunal. The company's appeal was upheld and the company was awarded £900,000.

Inquests & Inquiries

Represents individuals and public authorities who have been made interested persons.

Notable Inquests & Inquiries cases

- **Inquest touching the death of TS (2018)**
Represented two police sergeants in a 13 week inquest into the death of a man suffering excited delirium who died under police restraint whilst detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act.
- **Inquest touching the death of MT (2017)**
Represented two police constables and a police sergeant in a five week inquest. The deceased suffered mental health difficulties and died after setting fire to his flat.

Police Discipline

Represents officers facing gross misconduct hearings.

Notable Police Discipline cases

- **PC S (Metropolitan Police 2019 – recommended by the IOPC)**
Successfully represented PC S who faced allegations dating back to 2013. Allegations dismissed because of delay.
- **PC A (Metropolitan Police 2019 – recommended by the IOPC)**
Successfully represented PC A who faced allegations dating back to 2013. All allegations dismissed.
- **PS W (Metropolitan Police 2019 - recommended by the IOPC)**
Successfully represented the custody sergeant who faced allegations arising out of the death in custody of Sean Rigg.
- **PS R (Surrey Police 2017 - directed by the IOPC)**
Successfully represented the response sergeant who faced allegations arising out of the death in custody of Terry Smith.

Courts-martial

Represents individuals facing criminal and disciplinary charges.

Notable Courts-martial cases

- **R v C/Sgt B (Bulford 2019)**
Successfully defended a C/Sgt charged with perjury. The Court ruled that the alleged lie was not material to the proceedings.
- **R v Cpt N (Bulford 2017)**
Successfully defended a Captain accused of arson with intend to endanger life. A flare had been set off following a mess dinner which malfunctioned and caused approximately £2 million of damage to the nearby barracks. Following expert evidence and submissions the court ruled there was no case to answer.

Unlawful Arrest

Represents individuals in the County Court and the High court in claims for false imprisonment.

Notable Unlawful Arrest cases

- **B v HMRC**
Successfully represented a tax adviser who was unlawfully arrested by HMRC.
- **X v Y**
Successfully represented an individual who was unlawfully arrested for possession of indecent images of children. The Judge concluded that the assessment of the images as indecent was 'absurd' and tainted by malice.

Extradition

Represents requested persons at first instance and on appeal to the High Court.

Notable Extradition cases

- **MW v Poland (2008-2017)**
Represented an individual who faced over 9 years 5 different sets of extradition proceedings. MW was eventually discharged on the basis of the passage of time.
- **Symes v Greece (2013)**
Represented an antiquities dealer who was subsequently discharged from extradition proceedings.

Notable Cases

General crime

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(Chelmsford Crown Court 2018)

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PC A

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Symes v Greece 2013

Represented an antiques dealer who was subsequently discharged from extradition proceedings

Memberships

- Fraud Lawyers Association

Education / Professional Qualifications

- MA (Oxon) – Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- MPhil – Philosophy
- Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)
- Bar Vocational Course (Outstanding)
- Princess Royal Scholarship (Inner Temple)
- Inner Temple Otto Rix Prize (Pupillage Scholarship)

Appointments

- Appointed to List B of the Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health & Safety and Environmental Law
- Appointed to the Proceeds of Crime Panel for the SFO

Other Information

- Appointed to List B of the Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law
- Appointed to the Proceeds of Crime Panel for the SFO
- Member of the Fraud Lawyers Association