

## Trevor Burke KC

Call: 1981 / Silk: 2001



Trevor Burke KC is a highly renowned practitioner at the Criminal Bar, once mooted as “the next George Carman”.

His practice is wide-ranging and encompasses serious crime, fraud and professional discipline, as well as regulatory law. He has appeared in many leading and high profile cases as can be seen from the Notable Cases list. Trevor’s practice has an increasingly international element and he regularly undertakes advisory work in the USA, Northern Ireland and the Cayman Islands, where he has a growing practice as a crime, fraud and money-laundering specialist.

## Crime

Trevor is considered to be a top criminal silk and a notable trial lawyer. He has been involved in many serious criminal matters, both public and privately funded work. His criminal expertise includes:

- Murder
- Drug related offences
- Corruption
- Money laundering
- Serious sexual offences

## Notable Crime cases

- **Thorbjørn Olesen**  
Represented professional golfer who was cleared of sexual assault whilst on a flight.

- **William Clegg**  
Represented a banker cleared of assault BA cabin Crew.
- **Arif Ansari**  
BBC Asian Network's head of news found not guilty over the naming of a sexual abuse victim in a live radio broadcast.
- **Nathan Gray**  
Tory aide who worked as an election agent for the MP Craig Mackinlay in 2015 was cleared of falsifying an election expenses claim.
- **Darren McKie**  
A police inspector who murdered his wife in their home and dumped her body in a lake.
- **Alan Smith**  
Chauffeur whose client was the undercover reporter known as the 'fake sheikh', both accused of perverting the course of justice.
- **Cheryl Carter (Operation Weeting/Leveson Inquiry)**  
Leading counsel of successful acquittal of the PA to Rebekah Brooks, accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice in the phone hacking investigation.
- **Fashanu, Grobbelaar & Others**  
Football corruption.
- **Nigel Benn**  
Allegation of assault.
- **Terry Marsh**  
Allegation of student fraud.
- **Gary Glitter**  
Allegation of rape, downloading child pornography.
- **Peter Buck (REM)**  
Endangering an airplane.
- **Marlon King**  
Assault.
- **Jonathan King**  
Costs.
- **Taylor Sisters**  
Murder conviction overturned, non-disclosure and adverse press reporting.

- **John Hasse**  
Alleged corruption of a former Home Secretary to secure a Pardon.
- **David Gunn**  
Trusthorpe contract killing.

## White Collar Crime

Trevor is recognised as a leading practitioner in Financial Crime. He has extensive experience spanning the last 20 years. His expertise includes:

- Fraud civil and criminal
- VAT fraud
- Market manipulation
- Disqualified directors
- Insider dealing
- Advance fee frauds
- Mortgage frauds

He is regularly instructed on domestic and international matters, mainly in the Cayman Island, where he has become the leading counsel for all of their major fraud matters.

### Notable White Collar Crime cases

- **Padelis**  
Large scale fraud on the Health Service by a locum supply company.
- **J Patel**  
London Metal Market advance fee fraud. This multi-handed case involved a worldwide conspiracy to defraud which resulted in a \$600M loss to various banks and lending institutions. Mr Patel was the Senior Vice President of Structured Finance at RBG, a company involved in buying and selling all types of metal. The allegation was that the company set up false commodity trade finance programmes and invoicing schemes which resulted in payments being made on the strength of invoices when no metal in fact existed. During the trial it was necessary to cross-examine witnesses who worked for: RBG; the lending institutions; the insurers; the liquidator as well as all the auditors of RBG and from other various institutions. Mr Patel was the only defendant against whom the Judge ruled at the conclusion of the Prosecution case that there was insufficient evidence to go to the Jury and verdicts of not guilty were entered at half time.
- **Kounnou**  
Insurance fraud.

- **Bank of America**  
Fraud.
- **Michael Elsom**  
Senior trader accused of tax evasion involving film financing schemes.
- **Andrew Rybak**  
Leading counsel in a £70 million contracts corruption case.

## Cayman Islands

Trevor is regularly instructed on domestic and international matters, mainly in the Cayman Islands, where he has become the leading counsel for all of their major fraud matters. His international expertise includes:

- Money laundering
- Serious crime including murders and drug related cases
- Corruption
- Enforcing Foreign Judgements

He has recently spent many months working in the Cayman Islands, Nigeria & Dublin on a large arbitration.

### Notable Cayman Islands cases

- **Euro Bank Corporation**  
\$250,000,000 money laundering allegation. Trial lasted almost 11 months stayed as an abuse of process.
- **Hurricane Ivan**  
Civil fraud arising out of insurance claims as a result of Hurricane Ivan.
- **Canover Watson**  
Medicare fraud.

## Notable Cases

### **Cheryl Carter (Operation Weeting/Leveson Inquiry)**

Leading counsel of successful acquittal of the PA to Rebekah Brooks, accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice in the phone hacking investigation.

### **Arif Ansari**

BBC Asian Network's head of news found not guilty over the naming of a sexual abuse victim in a live radio broadcast.

**Nathan Gray**

Tory aide who worked as an election agent for the MP Craig Mackinlay in 2015 was cleared of falsifying an election expenses claim.

**Darren McKie**

A police inspector who murdered his wife in their home and dumped her body in a lake.

**Alan Smith**

Chauffeur whose client was the undercover reporter known as the 'fake sheikh', both accused of perverting the course of justice.

**Fashanu, Grobbelaar and others**

Football corruption

**Nigel Benn**

Allegation of assault

**Terry Marsh**

Allegation of student fraud

**Gary Glitter**

Allegation of rape, downloading child pornography

**Peter Buck (REM)**

Endangering an airplane

**Marlon King**

Assault

**Jonathan King**

Costs

**Taylor sisters**

Murder conviction overturned, non-disclosure and adverse press reporting

**Terry Adams**

**John Hasse**

Alleged corruption of a former Home Secretary to secure a Pardon

**David Gunn**

Trusthorpe contract killing

## White Collar Crime

### **Padelis**

Large scale fraud on the Health Service by a locum supply company

### **J Patel**

London Metal Market advance fee fraud

This multi-handed case involved a worldwide conspiracy to defraud which resulted in a \$600M loss to various banks and lending institutions. Mr Patel was the Senior Vice President of Structured Finance at RBG, a company involved in buying and selling all types of metal. The allegation was that the company set up false commodity trade finance programmes and invoicing schemes which resulted in payments being made on the strength of invoices when no metal in fact existed.

During the trial it was necessary to cross-examine witnesses who worked for: RBG; the lending institutions; the insurers; the liquidator as well as all the auditors of RBG and from other various institutions. Mr Patel was the only defendant against whom the Judge ruled at the conclusion of the Prosecution case that there was insufficient evidence to go to the Jury and verdicts of not guilty were entered at half time.

### **Kounnou**

Insurance fraud

### **Bank of America**

Fraud

### **Michael Elsom**

Senior trader accused of tax evasion involving film financing schemes.

### **Andrew Rybak**

Leading counsel in a £70 million contracts corruption case.

## Cayman Islands

### **Euro Bank Corporation**

\$250,000,000 money laundering allegation. Trial lasted almost 11 months stayed as an abuse of process.

Civil fraud arising out of insurance claims as a result of **Hurricane Ivan**.

### **Canover Watson**

Medicare fraud.

## Directory Recommendations

“He is charismatic and smooth operator. Clients love him and he is a go-to silk.” **Chambers UK 2026: Crime**

“He is one of the best advocates that I have seen and the sort of person who can hold a jury in his hand. He provides the balance of humour and incisiveness, and he is a class act.” **Chambers UK 2026: Crime**

“Trevor Burke KC is excellent, super smooth and very clever. He recognises clients’ wider goals and interests. He is very savvy in those issues, smooth in his speeches and juries like him.” **Chambers UK 2026: Crime**

“He is a top-drawer silk.” **Chambers UK 2026: Crime**

Trevor is an incredible barrister.” **Chambers UK 2026: Financial Crime**

“Trevor is very versatile, wonderful with clients and is a great judge of a case and strategy.” **Chambers UK 2026: Financial Crime**

“He is an outstanding advocate and has the best temperament in court. He is calm, charming and adored by juries.” **Chambers UK 2025: Crime**

“He is an exceptional and unique talent, and very charming with juries and judges.” **Chambers UK 2025: Crime**

“He is excellent in front of a jury and has the perfect balance of humour, intimacy, and seriousness that leaves people in the palm of his hand.” **Chambers UK 2025: Crime**

“He is a very effective and talented advocate.” **Chambers UK 2025: Crime**

“A tremendously versatile silk with a personable manner, Trevor has impeccable judgement and exudes an air of calm and assurance in court.” **Chambers UK 2025: Financial Crime**

“Trevor is hard-working and strategic with a wonderful sense of humour. Clients and juries love him.” **Chambers UK 2025: Financial Crime**

## Memberships

- Member of the South Eastern Circuit
- Member of the Criminal Bar Association

## Education

- BA Hons (Law)
- Called 1981
- Silk 2001

# Accreditations



# Privacy Statement

I, Trevor Burke 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 [trevor.burke@3rblaw.com](mailto:trevor.burke@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 (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, 'white listed' by the EU or otherwise permitted by EU law (e.g. to the USA under the provisions of the 'Privacy Shield').

Under the 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 the legal services.

Rev 1.1 10.07.2018

[Data Protection Policy](#)

[Legitimate Interests Assessment](#)

## Direct Access

Trevor Burke KC is qualified to accept instructions direct from clients under the Bar Council's [Public Access](#) Scheme. This means that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come direct to him. In addition, he welcomes instructions from solicitors, in-house law departments, qualified foreign lawyers, and clients licensed by the Bar Council to give instructions direct to barristers under the Bar Council's [Licensed Access](#) Scheme.

For further information please contact our [Clerks](#).