



Christopher Henley QC

Year of Call: 1989

Year of Silk: 2015



Recommended Silk in Chambers and Partners (2017 and 2018) and Legal 500 (2016), and consistently cited over many years as outstanding in his field of practice:

‘able, hardworking and incredibly bright....good at driving his point home’

‘very hardworking and popular’

Chris Henley is highly regarded for his keen attention to detail, his imaginative and intelligent approach to challenging issues, and his tenacious and persuasive advocacy. Legal 500 has commended the very broad range of serious cases he undertakes. He has recently been elected Vice Chair of the Criminal Bar Association.

Since taking silk in 2015 he has been instructed by solicitors in multiple murders, two murder appeals, several very substantial tax and VAT frauds in Southwark and Birmingham, as well as two serious terrorist cases, and very recently acted in a very high profile trial concerning serial false allegations of rape (R v JB, Southwark CC). He has secured acquittals for a Prep School headmaster charged with multiple counts of historic child cruelty, a professional valuer charged with high value mortgage fraud, a defendant of good character charged with manslaughter and a young defendant charged with kidnap.

He has advised a Muslim charity on issues raised by the Charity Commission following a covert investigation by ITV, a journalist on their obligations under terrorism legislation and a solicitor facing allegations of serious professional misconduct. H has been interviewed by Joshua Rozenberg for Law in Action, and by ITV news. He is Vice Chair of the CBA and has had a number of articles published on legal aid cuts and proposed reforms to the Criminal Justice System.

He has been instructed in many high profile cases in recent years involving allegations of fraud (VAT, Revenue, fraudulent trading), terrorism (21/7 bombings, Syria) and murder (the Damilola Taylor and Daniel Morgan cases).

Current and recent instructions include a series of significant terrorism cases: JJ, a Bolton secondary school teacher, charged with section 5 TA 2006 offences, SG, an ex-British Soldier charged with travelling to Syria to fight against the Assad regime, MAS charged with membership of the Pakistan Taliban (TTP) and disseminating terrorist propaganda, and H a vulnerable defendant charged with a section 5 offence. He regularly provides pre-charge advice and assistance to solicitors acting on behalf of clients detained under the Terrorism Acts 2000 & 2006. He recently advised the solicitor acting for members of a family who were detained having been deported from Turkey; all were subsequently released without charge. He provided advice to T, a teenager, who is the youngest female prosecuted for Terrorism.

He has extensive experience of advising professionals charged with misconduct by their professional bodies, he provides comprehensive pre-charge advice in cash seizure and restraint proceedings, has a strong record in regulatory offences (health and safety, environmental protection) and has appeared at inquests.

Member of the CBA Executive and Amnesty International.

Fraud and Financial Crime

Extensive experience in fraud and financial crime of all categories. Instructed as leading counsel to defend allegations of fraudulent trading brought by the Serious Fraud Office and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, MTIC fraud, 'Boiler room' fraud, duty evasion and diversion fraud, advance fee fraud, commercial mortgage fraud, tax and VAT fraud, and money laundering.

Current instructions include the representation of a construction manager charged with conspiracy to fraudulently evade income tax and VAT arising out multi-million pound Motorway contracts. These complex allegations involve fraudulent payments to 'missing' or hijacked companies within the construction industry over a number of years.

Recent cases include:

R v Josh Kopp and 3 others (2017) Southwark CC - £45 million VAT fraud

R v JG and 11 others (2016) Southwark CC - Multi-million fraud (£40 Million) on Barclays. Mortgages raised on multiple high value properties in Mayfair and Kensington. JG, professional valuer, alleged to have provided dishonest inflated valuations.

R v Mehboob Akhtar & 10 others (2016) Birmingham CC - MA a revered 'holy man' and spiritual leader, thousands of followers. MA, members of his family and inner circle prosecuted for multiple commercial and residential mortgage frauds, tax fraud and money laundering.

R v N W-D Southwark CC (2015) - Tax fraud. N W-D financial adviser to city traders, investment in 'film schemes'. Two 10 week trials.

HMRC v John Beatty and 19 others (2014). 4 month trial. Leading counsel for JB, acquitted of conspiracy to evade income tax and VAT. 17 defendants convicted of multi-million construction industry fraud.

R v N.O. (2013/14) - Leading counsel for NO, long-term target of covert surveillance operation. Alleged to be main supplier of class A drugs within Derbyshire area. Allegations of conspiracy and money laundering. 16 co-defendants.

R v Munir Farooqi (2014) - Leading counsel. Successfully opposed the counter-terrorism unit's application to seize the Farooqi family home. High Court Judge refused to order forfeiture.

R v S.M. (2014) - SM acquitted of money laundering proceeds of son's drug business'.

R v Kim West (2013) £multi-million duty evasion.

R v Omer Butt and others (2012) – Leading counsel for the main defendant. OB, a dentist was accused of conspiracy to defraud the Bury Primary Care Trust of hundreds of thousands of pounds, and of false accounting. OB owned the largest dental practice in the Bury PCT area. Case involved extensive analysis of the new General Dental Contract, introduced in 2006. Allegation of conspiracy to defraud stayed as an abuse of process following lengthy legal argument and expert evidence. No evidence offered on false accounting. Trial fixed for three months. For press coverage, see: [Manchester Evening News - Dentist is arrested in NHS fraud plot probe.](#)

R v Derek Arnold and others (2012) – Leading counsel for DA. Conspiracy to defraud the DWP of £1.8Million. DA and BB set up a company to employ and train individuals with disabilities. Massive claims for support workers, transport costs and equipment submitted under the Access to Work scheme. Two month trial. For press coverage, see: [The Daily Mail - 'Disability champions' jailed for claiming £1.8MILLION in benefits to fund luxury cars, scuba diving and a penthouse apartment.](#)

Dept for Business Innovation and Skills v Andrew Booth and others (2012) – Leading counsel representing Company Director in four month trial. Allegations of fraudulent trading, fraud, perjury and theft, two substantial insurance companies with off-shore structures collapsed. Issues relating to ownership, control, defrauding creditors, perjury in High Court Proceedings. Acquitted of two of the three principal allegations. Tens of thousands of pages of evidence.

Coventry Trading Standards v Dr Vincent McKee (2012) – Dr McKee an academic and three times Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate was charged with 34 counts of fraud, and other related offences. VM was the Chief Executive and Director of a Tutoring Company (ICUT). UAT was the subject of repeated complaints of dishonest practises and overcharging. VM was investigated by Sky News. 7 week trial. For press coverage, see: [Sky News - Lib Dem Candidate in tuition fees scam](#).

R v Said Bouzemada (2011) – Conspiracy to defraud the Islamic Bank of Britain

SFO v Paul Murphy (2011) - Leading counsel. SFO prosecution for 'boiler room' fraud.

Regina v Scott Henderson (2011) – Leading counsel. Defendant alleged to have played a senior role in a 'boiler room' fraud operated from Spain

R v Sales (2011) – allegations of internet based conspiracy to provide false identities and documentation to facilitate fraud. Multi-million pound losses alleged.

R v Rasool (2011) – acquitted of involvement conspiracy to defraud, involving the wholesale compromise of the CHIP and PIN system. Loss alleged to be in the region of £50 million.

R v Allard (2010) – acquitted of duty evasion and diversion fraud. The two co-defendants were convicted.

R v Smith (2009) – acquitted of defrauding HSBC.

R v Green (2009) – SFO prosecution alleging fraudulent trading. Successful companies acquired and then systematically stripped of their assets.

R v Bardwell (2009) – Leading counsel for 'inside man' acquitted of laundering the proceeds of fuel stolen from an oil refinery in the Thames estuary.

R v Razzaq (2009) – principal defendant in advance fee fraud.

R v Nung (2008) – Leading counsel for main defendant alleged to be in charge of a network of businesses established to launder the proceeds of drug crime. Nung was acquitted of all charges including money laundering and fraud. This was the largest financial enquiry conducted by Norfolk police.

R v Ellis (2008) – Company director acquitted of factoring fraud. Two co-defendants pleaded guilty.

R v Leedham (2007) – the owner of a dairy charged with PAYE and revenue fraud.

R v Ali (2007) – Leading counsel for principal defendant in a family charged with multiple mortgage fraud and benefit fraud.

Terrorism

Considerable recent experience of representing clients charged with terrorist offences under the Terrorism Act 2000, and the Terrorism Act 2006. Has provided pre-charge advice to solicitors representing a spiritual leader detained on suspicion of encouraging acts of terrorism. The suspect was released without charge.

Currently acting for a secondary school science teacher charged with offences under the Terrorism Act relating to the conflict in Syria.

R v Jamshed Javeed (2014) - Allegations of terrorism arising out of the conflict in Syria. Secondary School teacher pleaded guilty to two section 5 Terrorism Act 2006 offences. Extensive news coverage. Drafted the very detailed basis of plea. For news reports, click here: [BBC News - Teacher Jamshed Javeed admits Syria terror offences](#) and [Daily Telegraph – Jihad Teacher admits Syria related terror offences](#).

R v Farooqi (2014) - In the first attempt by the CPS to obtain forfeiture of a family home under terrorism legislation, successfully defended the application for forfeiture arguing the application breached the fundamental human rights of other family members who had committed no offence. See – [BBC News - Police fail to seize terror inmate Munir Farooqi's home](#)

R v Sharif Ali (2013) - SA was one of nine defendants arrested under the Terrorism Act as part of a joint US/UK surveillance operation. US Homeland Security investigators believed that SA was a member of a cell raising funds for Al Shabbab, in Kenya, by smuggling Khat to US. No evidence linking SA to terrorism. Six week trial.

R v Omer Butt (2012) - A high profile dentist charged with conspiracy to defraud. The North-West Counter Terrorism Unit conducted this extensive investigation into alleged financial crime. Charges stayed as an abuse of process following lengthy legal argument.

R v Farooqi (2011) – 3-month trial at Manchester Crown Court. Harris Farooqi was the only one of four defendants acquitted of offences contrary to section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (preparation of terrorist acts).

R v Shahid Ali (2009) – Charged with encouraging acts of terrorism abroad.

R v Muhedin Ali (2007) – 3-month trial. MA was charged with offences arising out of the attempted bombings on 21st July 2005. He was acquitted of failing to disclose prior knowledge of the attempts to bomb the London underground. He was convicted of having subsequent contact with Hussein Osman, the Shepherds Bush bomber. Offences contrary to s 38 B Terrorism Act 2000.

Experience of 'IRA' terrorism prosecutions. In 1997, represented Brian McHugh alleged to be a quarter master for the IRA, charged with conspiracy to cause explosions.

Regulatory and Disciplinary Proceedings

Appears before professional disciplinary tribunals.

Successfully represented police officers accused of using excessive force in the course of an arrest and homophobic bullying within the workplace. Both were cleared of all alleged wrongdoing.

Successfully represented Laura Ashley in a private prosecution brought by a trade association. Laura Ashley was accused of breaches of the Trade Descriptions Act.

Successfully represented the owner of a pet crematorium in proceedings brought by the Environment Agency. The defendant, RB, was cleared of all alleged breaches of the EPA.

Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter

Extensive experience of defending in murder and manslaughter cases. Defended in murder trials as sole counsel, leading counsel and junior counsel.

Currently acting for the principal defendant (of six) charged with the murder of an antiques dealer, killed during the course of a burglary.

Particular experience of representing young defendants charged with murder.

Represented the first defendant in the **Damilola Taylor** trial (**R v Preddie**, CCC).

R v E H CCC (2017) - EH man of good character stabbed burglar who attacked him.

R v DG and another Leicester CC (2017) - Revenge murder following previous gang attack.

R v Jordan Matthews Cardiff CC (2017) - Murder of girlfriend.

R v Dwayne Edgar and others Cardiff CC (2016) - Drugs feud. Gang attack.

R v Reece Jones CCC (2016) - Killing of disabled man by stranger.

R v Billy Latham Lewes (2015) - Single punch following neighbour dispute.

R v Simon Penton and 6 others (2014). Junior counsel for SP, the principal defendant, acquitted of murder. Michael Griffiths was beaten, tied up and his house was set on fire with him inside in a targeted burglary organised by SP. See – [BBC News - Two men found guilty of Michael Griffiths' murder.](#)

R v Stuart Crawford (2011). Crawford accused of bludgeoning his landlord to death, emptying his bank accounts and then fleeing to Thailand. Extradited from Thailand to stand trial.

R v SP (CCC) represented the first of seven defendants charged with a gang murder in Croydon. Cut-throat defence against four co-defendants. SP was the only defendant to be acquitted of all charges.

R v Tucker and T (CCC) was a widely reported case involving the shooting of a young father on his doorstep in Canning Town. Bradley Tucker was convicted and was sentenced to a minimum term of 25 years. T, aged 16 yrs, was acquitted.

R v ND (CCC): ND, aged 15, was acquitted of murder. Three co-defendants were convicted of murder.

In **R v Rees and others** (CCC, 2011) instructed to represent an ex-Detective Sergeant charged in connection with the axe murder of Daniel Morgan, a private investigator, in a South London pub car park in 1989. This notorious case has been the subject of political and media interest as rumours of police corruption have circulated for many years. Following many months of legal argument the proceedings were stayed.

R v Ramsey (CCC) a fairground safety inspector charged with gross negligence manslaughter.

R v White and Hyatt (Aylesbury CC), charged with the murder of White's girlfriend. Hyatt was acquitted of murder by the jury. White's conviction was subsequently quashed by the Court of Appeal.

R v C (CCC), leading counsel for C acquitted of all charges. Two co-defendants convicted of murder.

Serious and Organised Crime

Appeared as leading and sole counsel for many defendants charged with serious crime. Has extensive experience in defending individuals charged with the importation and supply of class A drugs, firearms offences, people trafficking, duty evasion and other serious crime.

Current instructions include the defence of a Prep school headmaster charged with historic child cruelty at a state boarding school in the 1980s and a Romanian national one of seven defendants charged with people trafficking for sexual exploitation.

R v Mohammed Imran Khan (2014). Principal defendant of 9. MIK alleged to be continuing to control a gang importing heroin from Pakistan. whilst he was in prison serving a long sentence for similar offences. Found not guilty of two allegations of conspiracy to import heroin.

R v AM (2014). Polish national found not guilty of the alleged rape and false imprisonment of his estranged wife.

R v Burnett Morris and others (2012). Leading counsel for main defendant in drugs and money laundering trial. Proceeds of drug crime transferred to Jamaica and invested in significant property portfolio and racehorses.

R v Darren Quick (2010) Cardiff CC – Quick alleged to be the head of a drugs gang based in Kent, supplying substantial quantities of cocaine to crime groups in Bournemouth and South Wales.

R v Syed Ahmed (2010) Southwark CC– Leading counsel for a qualified barrister working as an accredited immigration adviser. Hundreds of fraudulent student visa applications submitted to the Home Office. Bogus higher education college in East London supporting the applications. £2.65 million recovered in cash.

R v Southall (2010) Northampton CC – Leading counsel for the principal defendant in a multi-million pound cigarette smuggling enterprise. 12-month surveillance operation.

R v Mykoo (2009) Wood Green CC – M admitted 84 strangulation robberies. The Judge described him as 'the most prolific violent robber to be sentenced in London in recent years'. The victims, who included the fashion designer Nicole Farhi, were wealthy lone females.

R v Albar (2008) Southwark CC – A was a member of a Turkish crime group importing heroin into the UK. Leading counsel.

R v Hogg (2008) Kingston CC – Leading counsel for Alfie Hogg. Covert surveillance operation into the supply of cocaine and possession of firearms.

R v Sahan (2007) Croydon CC – Leading counsel for S, one of seven defendants charged with organised people trafficking into the UK from Turkey.