



Matthew Buckland

Year of Call: 1998



Calm, measured and persuasive; an advocate described by Criminal Law and Justice as “masterful” and by the Guardian as “deft and subtle”.

Matthew is a specialist defence advocate with particular expertise in defending fraud, money laundering and other allegations of organized criminal activity.

Matthew has represented numerous professionals charged with fraud including accountants, bankers, chartered surveyors and lawyers. He has also acted for them at related disciplinary proceedings. He has also enjoyed success in the VAT tribunal.

Matthew also has a niche practice defending those charged with offences under the Pornography legislation.

Fraud and Financial Crime

Operation Amazon (2010-2017) Alleged tax fraud. Professional client

Operation Bamburgh - Mortgage Fraud on a massive scale. Professional client

Operation Coponent - A novel and complex fraud on McDonalds

Operation Vex (2011-2014) - A VAT fraud on an almost unprecedented scale

O - Banker charged with insider trading

Vantis Fraud - Accountants prosecuted for aggressive tax avoidance scheme

Lagan - Olympic ticket fraud.

Ahmed - Fraud by breach of trust and an attempt to obtain substantial property portfolio by deception.

Confiscation, Civil Recovery and Asset Forfeiture

Wright - Application under section 23 and Admin Court for Habeas Corpus application

Sharma - Proceedings under the Criminal Justice Act 1994- Acting for an accountant charged with orchestrating a highly complex and sophisticated money laundering scheme.

Doherty – Advice on restraint orders and POCA proceedings arising out of allegations of drug supply.

Anand - Advice on restraint and complex arguments on principles of joint ownership

Ahmed - Complex confiscation where Prosecution had returned properties and cash to victims. Abuse issues and proportionality arguments.

Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter

Sandhu - Single punch manslaughter- Junior alone

Snellgrove - Attempted murder shooting – Junior Alone

Fensome - Murder Led Junior

Organised Crime

E- drug supply and money laundering - plea negotiation limiting scope of indictment

Thomas - Large scale supply of drugs throughout South Wales. Acquitted.

Daniel - Kidnap and armed robbery- acquitted.

Blackett - Blackmail

Khawaja - Heroin importation – acquitted.

Sexual Offences

Extensive experience of extreme pornography and IIOC. Many of these cases have extensive newspaper and TV coverage.

Walsh - barrister charged with extreme pornography offences- Acquitted.

Twink trial - A professor charged with IIOC - acquitted

D - A teacher at a Public school charged with extreme pornography . Acquited of 3 of the 4 counts. Non-custodial sentence.

Represented many professionals including a COO of a financial institution, a pilot, a nuclear scientist, and a doctor. A recent client's feedback:

"Matthew has a professional but affable style and provided accurate and realistic advice throughout. He was very responsive to my requests for information and help which was invaluable at a time of great personal stress in a case that took over 16 months to reach conclusion. His performance in the court room was confident, convincing and composed and I was extremely grateful to have him as my counsel particularly in his assistance in successfully arguing against a punitive Sexual Offences Prevention Order which was being requested by the prosecution. I would strongly and wholeheartedly recommend Matthew to anyone who finds themselves in my situation."

Regulatory and Disciplinary Proceedings

Experience defending companies against breaches of Health and Safety at work regulations, breach of fire safety regulations, and breaches of planning regulations. Cases available on request.

Privin corporation – Successful VAT tribunal claim for over £1 million in relation to mobile phones linked to an MTIC

Sharma - ACCA disciplinary

D – A Nursing and Midwifery Counsel disciplinary appeal to High Court.

Health and Safety / Regulatory

Experience defending companies against breaches of Health and Safety at work regulations, breach of fire safety regulations, and breaches of planning regulations. Cases available on request.