



YEAR OF BIRTH: 1953
YEAR OF CALL: 1977
INN: Inner Temple
CIRCUIT: South Eastern
QC: 2003
APPOINTMENTS: Appointed to SFO panel (2001)
CLE advocacy instructor 1989-1999
PUBLICATIONS: "Transsexual Rape-A loophole closed?"
(Cr LR 1997)

PROFILE

A leading criminal defence silk who is regularly instructed in both crime and fraud as first choice counsel by most major defence firms having appeared in many high profile and reported cases.

He is cited in the *Legal 500 (2008)* as "a star" and in *Chambers and Partners (2008)* as "a real fighter-he'll leave no stone unturned and has great leadership qualities" with "a pleasing style of advocacy-he appears laid-back but can be lethal in cross-examination" and "able to relate to clients from all spheres of society".

He came to prominence as junior defence counsel in *R v Pryce*, (the 17 year old musician accused in 1994 of hacking into the high security computer systems of the Pentagon and NASA). Thereafter he prosecuted a number of newsworthy cases: - *R v Brian Harvey* (the East 17 star), *R v Shannon* (the actor John Alford) and *R v Earl of Hardwick* (both News of the World "fake sheik" stings), *R v Gani* (the celebrity rolex robberies) and *R v Chopra* (the Samsung mobile telephone heist at Heathrow).

His appearances in silk include defending in the well publicised trials of

- *R v Pesareanu* (the Victoria Beckham Kidnap plot);
- *R v Hendy-Freegard* (the "bogus MI5 agent kidnapper" and subject of a Channel 4 documentary);
- *R v Clinton McKenzie* (the boxer charged with allowing his premises to be used for drug dealing);
- *R v Austin* (a linked London City Bond appeal);
- *R v Mihaylov* the precedent setting trial on UK/USA disclosure protocols held at the Central Criminal Court;
- *R v Byron Coles* (an alleged member of the South London PCC Gang as featured in the BBC series "Murder Blue")
- The super-grass cases of *R v Khan (Yusef)* and *R v Finn (Weir)*;
- *R v Terrence Rodgers* (the Lincolnshire father who killed his daughter shortly after her wedding).
- *R v Khan & Oths* (the racially motivated murder committed during the Aston Riots in Birmingham).

- *R v Kevin Brown* (at Woolwich in the most expensive security trial to date and which concerned security vehicle robberies).

More recently he was instructed in the 21/7 London bombings; the “Lord Rodley Plot” to rob the Sumitomo Matsui Bank of £220 million; secured acquittals in three murder trials, namely *R v Goburn*, *R v Hanson & Anor* and *R v Bhaskaran & Oths*; and a retrial following a successful appeal in *R v Khan & Oths* (see above).

He is currently (Part 3) representing in Trinidad the Jamaat al Muslimeen leader *Abu Bakr*, who is accused of terrorism and sedition with Al Qaeda links to the JFK Pipeline Bomb Plot; *Terry Smith* the crime author and TV pundit alleged to have carried out armed robberies on Cash-in Transit security vehicles; and *Kamsan Mahmood* in an alleged “cash for crash” insurance fraud.

RECENT CASES

Case Name: *R v Khan & Oths*
 Appearance: Defence
 Description: A racially motivated murder during the widely publicised “Aston Riots” in Birmingham following the alleged rape of a black girl by Asian businessmen. The defendants fled to Dubai and were deported triggering Abuse of process applications. They were convicted but on appeal were granted a re-trial due to non-disclosure of covert tapes by the prosecution.

Case Name: *R v Haase & Oths*
 Appearance: Defence
 Description: Acted (until had to withdraw for professional reasons) for principal defendant (alleged Liverpool gangster) charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Allegation arose out of the grant in 1995 of the Royal Pardon by the then Home Secretary (Michael Howard) in respect of 36 separate firearm seizures. Prosecution alleged that the seizures were laid down by Haase as part of a scam to obtain early release. The case generated 2 books, 2 documentaries and various investigations by Parliament into informant handling by Customs.

Case Name: *R v Terry Smith & Oths*
 Appearance: Defence
 Description: High profile series of cash in transit robberies alleged to have been carried out by Terry Smith, the crime author and TV pundit.

Case Name: *R v Jan Van Osselaer & Others*
Appearance: Defence
Description: High profile Fraud case. Acting for the computer expert allegedly recruited by "Lord Rodley" to access SMBC Bank computers and transfer worldwide £220 million.

Case Name: *R v Abu Bakr*
Appearance: Defence (leading Wayne Sturge in Trinidad).
Description: Leader of the Jamaat al Muslimeen who in 1990 seized parliament and held the then prime minister (Patrick Manning) hostage before securing immunity. Currently charged with terrorism and sedition arising out of a broadcast on national TV and who is linked to the JFK Pipeline Bomb plot and Al Qaeda.