

Craig Ferguson

"He is an incredibly engaging advocate - he's very charming and hugely persuasive."
Chambers UK 2024



Year of Call: 1992

020 7353 5324

Craig Ferguson is a specialist regulatory law practitioner whose practice focuses on workplace crime and inquests.

He has extensive experience of representing companies, individual directors, managers and employees in relation to a broad spectrum of offences, including corporate and gross negligence manslaughter, in proceedings before the criminal courts and at inquests. He defends in cases brought by a wide range of enforcement authorities and has particular expertise in health and safety.

His background is in criminal defence, business crime and professional discipline. For many years he has been recognized as a leading practitioner in serious and complex fraud cases both for corporate and individual professional clients. He has defended in grave and complex criminal matters including murder (from planned assassination to crime of passion) attempted murder, manslaughter (from medical error to shooting), kidnap, armed robbery, bribery, corruption and major drug trafficking. He has represented many registered professionals in Fitness to Practice hearings before their regulatory bodies and in concurrent proceedings before the courts.

Craig delivers training in relation to criminal regulatory and inquest matters to solicitors and other members of the profession.

What others say:

"He is a reassuring and calming influence on clients and solicitors alike." and "Craig is absolutely excellent. He's a very personable barrister who makes everyone feel at ease." – Chambers UK 2024 (Health & Safety)

"Well-known and respected in health and safety cases and inquests." – Legal 500 UK 2024 (Health & Safety)

"Craig is an assured advocate. He inspires confidence." and "His advice is excellent and his

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

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judgement is excellent. He prepares well and is amazing in court.” – Chambers UK 2023 (Health & Safety)

“He is a superb advocate who prepares diligently and is very good with clients.” “Commanding yet understanding and charismatic in court.” – Chambers UK 2022 (Health & Safety)

“Craig Ferguson is fantastic.” Legal 500 UK 2022 (Health & Safety) and (Inquests & Inquiries)

“He’s phenomenal – really sharp, very good with clients, great in court and very hard-working.” “His attention to detail is excellent and he is an extremely persuasive advocate.” “He is organised, always well prepared and great on strategy.” – Chambers UK 2021

“Craig is absolutely superb, he works as a real team player, getting involved with cases and clients at early stages and he isn’t afraid to make big strategic decisions in cases. He is a real pro in court, and far outperforms his peers.” – Legal 500 2021 (Health & Safety)

“Strikes the perfect balance for inquests; he is empathetic and understated, while being utterly robust in pursuing the best interests of clients. A real star in this area.” – Legal 500 2021 (Inquests & Inquiries)

“A formidable advocate who commands the attention of the court and knows how to present a case in the best possible way.” – Legal 500 2020 (Inquests & Inquiries)

“Robust and meticulous; a talented advocate.” – Legal 500 2020 (Health & Safety)

“Craig is an exceptionally astute advocate. He is very responsive and inspires confidence in clients. When you instruct him you know you are getting a first-class service. He has the quality needed to persevere in the most difficult cases.” – Chambers UK 2020 (Crime)

“His client care and overall approach is unparalleled. He is committed to working as a team, much to the benefit of his instructing solicitors and the client. His advocacy and court presence is deeply impressive. I recommend Craig across the board in this practice area: he is definitely at the top of his game.” Chambers UK 2020 (Health & Safety)

“He’s very precise in all he does and liked by clients as he can put them at ease very quickly.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Crime)

“Good smooth operator with a lovely manner.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Financial Crime)

“Brilliant and very highly regarded.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Financial Crime)

“Clients love him for his ability to humanise himself. He talks to them very casually and gets his message across clearly.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Health & Safety)

“Super hard-working. He reviews papers very carefully and is able to assimilate a large amount of information in a short amount of time. You get a very polished service from him.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Professional Discipline)

“Approachable, analytical, user-friendly and very good on his feet.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Professional Discipline)

“A top-rate junior and a persuasive negotiator, who gets his point across in a concise manner.” – Legal 500 2017 (Health & Safety)

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“He puts forward the most persuasive, compelling submissions and has an almost incomparable ability to think on his feet.” – Chambers UK 2017

“An absolute class act.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Crime)

“Superb regulatory and criminal barrister.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Crime)

“Juries just like him. They sit up and listen because they know he is a good advocate. He is an absolute class act.” – Chambers UK, 2015

“He has developed into one of the finest advocates at the Bar. He is just a real natural talent.” – Chambers UK, 2015 (Financial Crime)

“His advocacy is excellent. He’s always been very strong and balanced, and he gets to the cut and thrust of the case.” – Chambers UK, 2015 (Health & Safety)

Criminal Regulatory

Criminal Regulatory & Inquests

Craig is a leader of the 2 Hare Court Criminal Regulatory Team and he regularly represents corporate bodies, their officers and other individuals before the criminal courts in relation to the full range of criminal offences arising out of fatal and non-fatal accidents. He is instructed to act on behalf of companies large and small from a wide variety of industry sectors in relation to proceedings following fatalities at work, including retail, construction, energy, steel fabrication, printing, security, mobile telecommunications, transport, healthcare and hydraulic lifting.

He is frequently instructed to represent interested persons in relation to the inquests associated with these cases.

Recent cases include representing:

- A national supermarket company in relation to prosecution and appeal against conviction for offences relating to the death of an employee who died following an accident believed to have resulted from an epileptic seizure.
- A holiday company in relation to the inquest into the tragic death of a barrister who perished in a fire at a holiday camp.
- A student accommodation provider in relation to the inquest into the death of a student from alcohol intoxication.
- A garage in relation to the death of an employee who died when a vehicle lift collapsed.
- The director of a brick restoration company prosecuted following the death of an employee from inhaling dichloromethane fumes.
- A transport company prosecuted following an accident when its driver reversed a HGV, crushing a pedestrian against a FLT.
- A steel casting company prosecuted following an incident in which an employee was showered in molten steel.
- A playground designer, following the death of a young child who was crushed by a falling rotten tree trunk, which formed part of a natural play area in a London park.
- A Community Interest Company that ran the school health service contract for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, in relation to a prosecution following the death of a child at school.
- Several construction and manufacturing companies following accidents resulting in fatal and/or catastrophic injuries.

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- A sprinkler installation company, prosecuted pursuant to section 2 HSWA following a fall from height.
- A 72-year-old mechanic and his company following the collapse of a bus which killed the trainee who was repairing it.
- A private security company delivering the contract to protect the EUPOL Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan, into the death of a close protection officer who died together with other non-UK nationals when the Taliban launched a suicide bomb attack against the mission.
- A printing company facing allegations pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of HSWA following a fatal accident resulting from a fall from a rooftop.
- A care home in the inquest into the death of an elderly resident who was one of many residents suspected of being victims of neglect or abuse.
- A construction company and one of its directors, accused of corporate manslaughter and offences pursuant to section 3 and 37 of HSWA following a double fatality in which two men fell through a site hoarding into an open light well to their death.
- A highways maintenance company contracted by a County Council to maintain its highways, following a double fatality whereby two vehicles crashed on a stretch of road where water had pooled and frozen.
- A textiles manufacturing company that supplies fillings for mattresses, following the death of an employee who was crushed in a textile compression and packing machine.
- A construction company that faced alternative counts under section 2 and 3 of HSWA following the collapse of a 12 metre lighting column during installation, which caused significant head injuries to a labourer.
- An insulation manufacturer in relation to a series of alleged contraventions of the Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations arising from an inspection of its factory premises where it manufactured home insulation from wool and hemp.
- A building maintenance services company in relation to a breach of the Work at Height Regulations which came to light when a roofing contractor fell from the unprotected roof of a two storey building, sustaining serious injuries.
- A logistics company in relation to a section 2 HSWA charge arising from an accident at its logistics unit when a forklift truck dropped its load on a delivery driver, crushing his skull and causing life threatening injuries.
- A chemical producer in relation to a prosecution following a serious accident whereby a subcontractor's employee sustained burn injuries resulting from an electrical flashover on a top tier COMAH site.
- A steel fabricator in relation to both inquest and prosecution following the death of a delivery driver who was crushed during the unloading of steel from his trailer.
- A mobile phone producer in relation to an inquest in which it was initially suspected that a fire, which caused the death of five members of a family was caused by their charger.
- An oil company in the Inquests into the deaths caused by Al Qaeda terrorists during a brutal attack which resulted in the loss of forty innocent people at a gas installation in Algeria.
- Hillsborough Inquests – acted as independent counsel to the individual officers of the FA who were called to give evidence.

Business Crime & Financial Services

Craig has extensive experience of acting in serious and complex fraud cases both for corporate and individual professional clients. He has experience in investigations involving allegations of criminal cartel offences, bribery (UK and overseas), boiler room frauds, banking fraud, general VAT offences, MTIC and carousel fraud cases, tax offences and money laundering.

He has also been instructed in a number of major VAT Tribunal cases before the First Tier and Upper Tribunals. He has frequently been instructed to provide advice in relation to investigations prior to charge and is experienced in dealing with ancillary proceedings, such as restraint and confiscation.

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He was a contributor to the CBA's response to the Law Commission in respect of the review of the law relating to fraud and dishonesty.

Criminal Defence

He has extensive experience of defending in grave and complex criminal matters including murder (from planned assassination to crime of passion) attempted murder, manslaughter (from medical surgical error to shooting), kidnap, armed robbery, bribery, corruption and major drug trafficking. He has appeared as leading counsel in long and complex cases. Until his decision to focus his practice on criminal regulatory matters and inquests, he was consistently ranked in Band 1 in Chambers UK (Crime).

Professional Discipline

Craig has over a decade of experience appearing in proceedings at the General Medical Council, General Dental Council, and other healthcare regulators. From 2011, the entirety of his regulatory practice involved defending regulated professionals, and he has been instructed by all the major indemnity providers to advise and appear on behalf of their members. He has been instructed by the leading solicitors in this area, commonly to represent highly eminent leaders in their field of practice.

Craig has experience of all forms of Interim Order and Fitness to Practice hearings involving issues of performance, health, and misconduct. In addition, he has experience of NHS England proceedings, and regularly appears in Coroners' Courts. He has represented numerous professionals who faced concurrent proceedings in the criminal courts and before their professional regulator, especially in cases involving allegations of fraud and manslaughter. Until his decision to focus his practice on criminal regulatory matters and inquests, he was consistently ranked in Band 1 in Chambers UK (Professional Discipline).

Accreditations



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Appointments & Memberships

- 2009-2017: Recorder of the Crown Court
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association

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