

Harry Bentley

Call: 2007

"Harry is very practical, he gets to the heart of a case quickly and is great on his feet."

Chambers UK 2025



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Harry is ranked as a leading junior in Crime for both Chambers UK and Legal 500. He has been involved in many high profile, complex and serious prosecutions as both leading and junior counsel.

He has extensive experience in multi-handed complex frauds, including investment, VAT or carousel, pension, construction and immigration fraud as well as offences of cheating the public revenue through unlawful tobacco or missing trader schemes.

Harry's non-financial criminal experience is wide ranging, from murder through to terrorism. Harry is regularly instructed in large-scale drug supply and importation cases involving Encrochat and spoofing technology.

Harry has experience in asset recovery proceedings, including account freezing order and cash forfeiture applications in both the Magistrate's Court and Crown Court.

He defends both individuals and companies in regulatory proceedings ranging from environmental and animal welfare prosecutions through to advising on gambling or trading standards law.

Expertise

Business Crime & Financial Services

One of Harry's main practice areas over the years has been serious fraud. He has experience in complex confiscation proceedings in both negotiated settlements and contested hearings.

Notable Cases:

R v R

£21m conspiracy to cheat the public revenue through the VAT & Construction Industry Scheme.

R v H

£1m conspiracy to cheat the public revenue through the sale of counterfeit tobacco.

R v S

£750,000 conspiracy to defraud investors in a diamond investment scheme.

R v H

£1.7m conspiracy to defraud investors in a fraudulent carbon credit scheme.

R v P

Multi-million pound conspiracy to defraud investors in a land banking scheme.

R v N

Multi-million pound conspiracy to defraud HMRC through the Construction Industry Scheme (CIS).

R v W

£23m conspiracy to defraud investors in a bio-fuel investment scheme involving Jatropha plantations in Cambodia.

R v M

Multi-million pound MTIC fraud.

R v C

£1m conspiracy to defraud investors in a fraudulent *en primeur* wine investment scheme.

Criminal Defence

Harry has appeared in many high-profile serious crime cases including several murders and conspiracies.

Notable Cases:

R v H

Multi-handed revenge murder of a drug dealer in Leicester.

R v DR

An Operation Venetic prosecution of an Organised Crime Group operating in Sussex & Kent to supply hundreds of kilograms of cocaine.

R v KR

An Operation Venetic prosecution of an Organised Crime Group operating in the Ipswich area with a nationwide operation distributing cocaine and cannabis.

R v J

Student charged with possession of neo-Nazi terrorist manuals. His suspended sentence after trial was referred to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient by the Attorney General. The judge's sentence remarks gained media attention when he was encouraged to read classic literature.

R v M

Former soldier charged with having explosive substances, encouraging terrorism, disseminating terrorist publications and possession of terrorist documents. The defendant operated a neo-Nazi Telegram channel. Counter terrorism officers found plans for 3D printed firearms and other weapons at his home on arrest.

R v E

Charges of encouraging terrorism contrary to section 1 Terrorism Act 2006. The Libyan defendant suffered from mental health difficulties arising out of the pandemic and events from his childhood in Libya.

R v WB

Conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to commit GBH. The case had its roots in gang crime and was one of a number of tit-for-tat murders and violent assaults in Salford, Manchester. Previous incidents had included the murder of Paul Massey who was standing for Mayor of Salford and a grenade attack on a family's home.

R v T

The defendant was accused of murdering his disabled mother and dismembering the body by decapitation while suffering from a drug induced psychosis. Extensive psychiatric evidence was called over a number of days by both the prosecution and defence.

R v I

The defendant was one of six individuals involved, in the mass manufacture and production of anabolic steroids, in specialist laboratories within the UK.

R v R

One of the largest slavery prosecutions in the UK. The case involved allegations starting 25 years ago made by multiple vulnerable complainants.

R v B

Murder and dismemberment of a police officer. The two men had met over the social media app Grindr before the murder. The case received a large amount of media attention.

R v F

Conspiracy to steal ancient Chinese jade and Rhinoceros horn artefacts from museum across the UK.

R v TJ

Conspiracy to control prostitution arising out of one of the most popular internet-based escort agencies in the North of England.