

## Harry Bentley

"Highly organised, meticulously prepared and a barrister with strong advocacy skills."  
Chambers UK 2023



Year of Call: 2007

020 7353 5324

Harry Bentley's areas of practice are Criminal Defence, Regulatory & Gambling law and Professional Discipline.

He has been involved in many high profile, complex and serious prosecutions both as both leading and junior counsel. His experience in Crime includes multi-handed murder trials, terrorism, investment fraud, drug importation, cheating the revenue and serious sexual offences. He has particular experience in conspiracy allegations ranging from conspiracies to cheat the public revenue, murder, steal museum artefacts, control prostitution or evade immigration controls through to conspiracies to import industrial amounts of cocaine. He is currently involved in a number of cases arising from Operation Venetic's exploit of the EncroChat telecommunications system.

His experience in Regulatory law ranges from defending individuals in proceedings brought by the Environment Agency to advising companies on the Gambling Act 2005 or animal welfare regulations. In professional disciplinary proceedings he both presents and defends. He has significant experience presenting on behalf of Professional regulators such as the National College of Teaching and Leadership (as it was then) and has presented on behalf of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. He has also defended in Teaching Regulation Agency proceedings as well as having been regularly instructed on behalf of the Royal College of Nursing in Nursing and Midwifery Council proceedings.

Harry is ranked as a leading junior in Crime for both Chambers UK and Legal 500.

## What others say:

*"He's undaunted by even the most serious and complicated cases, and has always been great with clients." and "Harry is extremely hardworking and diligent and prepares meticulously." – Chambers UK 2024*

*"Harry is an extremely committed and exceptionally hard working counsel. He is an effective advocate, great in front of a jury, and a great cross-examiner. He is always quick at picking up the*

### Location

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*facts and getting straight to the heart of matters.” – Legal 500 UK 2024*

*“Harry has a wide range of experience, strong advocacy skills, excellent legal knowledge and a thorough understanding of the law.” – Legal 500 UK 2023*

*“Comes into his own with clients as he is so personable. He offers excellent legal knowledge and advice.” – Chambers UK 2022*

*“With Harry, a belt and braces approach is taken when preparing any document for court. Everything is covered and nothing is left out. Weighty documents prepared are always commended by judges. Harry is an advocate, who always impresses, well prepared, measured and can captivate juries with a friendly manner. An advocate with presence who commands the courts respect.” – Legal 500 UK 2022*

*“A dedicated advocate who has excellent legal knowledge and a thorough understanding of the law. He has always demonstrated attention to detail at all times so far as preparation and advice is concerned together with excellent advocacy skills.” – Legal 500 UK 2021*

*“A knowledgeable and highly responsive barrister who instils confidence.” – Chambers UK 2021*

*“A fantastic barrister.” – Legal 500 2020*

*“Exceptionally good. He’s very conscientious and diligent, and is strong on his feet.” “Harry’s approach to cases is thorough and clinical but his approach to clients remains kind and empathetic to levels not often seen at the Bar.” – Chambers UK 2020*

*“He provides very methodical and considered opinions and is never flustered by the most complex cases.” – Legal 500 2019*

## Business Crime & Financial Services

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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**

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£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

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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.

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## **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.

# Criminal Regulatory

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Harry represents companies and individuals in criminal regulatory proceedings.

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# Professional Discipline

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Harry both presents cases on behalf of regulators and defends professionals in a number of different regulatory settings.

## Notable Cases:

### **NMC v B**

Defence of an advanced nurse practitioner alleged to have acted outside of her scope of practice by inappropriately prescribing and administering iron injections in a primary care setting.

### **NMC v S**

Represented the registrant against allegations arising from the death of a teenager from appendicitis.

### **NCTL v R**

Acting for the Regulator in a case where a teacher failed to disclose a relationship with a student to her employers.

### **NCTL v P**

Acting for the Regulator against a teacher committing mortgage fraud using their employer's letterhead and then lied on applications to future employers.

### **NCTL v F**

Acting for the Regulator against a teacher who sent sexually motivated text messages to former pupils.

### **NCTL v J**

Acting for the Regulator against a teacher in a relationship with a convicted sex offender.

### **NCTL v J**

Acting for the Regulator in a case where a teacher struck a vulnerable pupil in a classroom.

## Accreditations

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## Appointments & Memberships

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- Association of Commonwealth Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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