



Mark Graffius QC

Year of Call: 1990 QC: 2020

020 7353 5324

Mark Graffius is a 'no nonsense, outstanding advocate' in the fields of serious crime and complex fraud, in which he excels and is a highly sought silk.

He is skilful and articulate and has been described as 'highly polished' with 'exceptional client care and judgement'.

Mark's particular specialisation is in fraud allegations of corporate crime, but he also has extensive experience in cases involving murder, drug manufacture and importation, money laundering, firearms and cash detentions. He has been involved in numerous high profile organised crime cases from Supergrass cases and gangland murders, to the Tonbridge Robbery and the first successful challenge of DNA evidence in the UK.

Mark has defended directors in cases varying from substantial VAT and Duty and Excise fraud, to a national sub-contracting fraud in the construction industry, to money laundering involving Swiss banks and Swiss Banking Law. Due to his expertise in this area of financial crime, Mark often advises company directors in matters of tax, VAT and directors disqualifications, pre-charge.

Business Crime & Financial Services

Mark is regularly instructed in complex and substantial fraud cases and in asset forfeiture and restraint proceeding.

Mark also advises company directors pre-charge and in matters of tax, VAT and director's disqualifications.

Cases

R v X

Mark Graffius and [Merry van Woodenberg](#) represented a man who was tried at Southwark Crown Court for

Location

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conspiracy to defraud. The trial related to his involvement in setting up a company and associated accounts, which were then used as vehicles to assist in a cross-jurisdictional conspiracy involving the large-scale theft of film production equipment. The frauds, amounting to £4 million, took place in America, Europe, South Africa and Japan. Mark and Merry were instructed by [Graeme Hydari](#) of Hodge Jones & Allen.

HMRC v Divyesh Karsan & Ors

Mark, leading Nikita McNeill, appeared in a lengthy and complex MTIC fraud. The prosecution followed a large scale HMRC investigation, including covert surveillance and concealed cameras installed within the organisation's offices. HMRC estimated that over £85 million in profits was laundered within the UK and transferred abroad, and that the total loss to the revenue as over £34 million. Mark defended the director of Golden Harvest, a wholesale alcohol supplier who was alleged to have acted as a "buffer company".

HMRC v Italian Wine Company

Over a 5 year period from 2008 to 2013, the Italian Wine Company allegedly smuggled wine from Italy by manipulating the Excise Movement and Control System and by the multiple use of Administrative Reference Codes on importation documents. HMRC estimated that the total VAT, Excise Duty and Corporation Tax evaded was over £46.5 million.

R v S

£250 million MTIC fraud – Operation Euripus, representing a director of four Hong Kong and two EU based companies alleged to have been a main EU supplier and responsible for organizing the movement of money off-shore.

R v Collins

£80 million MTIC fraud – Operation Vex, representing a director of a UK and Dubai based companies.

R v M

£3.5 million land banking fraud representing the director of three companies alleged to have held and sold land for investment as an unregulated Collective Investment Scheme.

R v D

Representing a director in an alleged national subcontracting fraud carried out over a three-year period in the construction industry.

R v Z

Conspiracy to defraud mortgage lenders involving portfolios of property alleged to have been carried out over a nine-year period.

R v W

Leading Counsel. Defending BIS Prosecution of Director charged with defrauding creditors.

R v H

Conspiracy to defraud involving Swiss Banks and Swiss banking law and procedure.

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R v A

Leading Counsel. Defending SFO Prosecution of Corporate Share Fraud.

R v Hussain

Multi-million commercial mortgage fraud.

Criminal Defence

Cases

R v TL

Acted for client accused of beating the victim to death in his back garden in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

R v MD

Historic murder trial at Chelmsford Crown Court.

R v Gul

Conspiracy to supply firearms

R v D

22-year-old cold case murder

R v AB

Attempted Gangland murder

R v A

Conspiracy to cheat the public revenue.

Tobacco duty evasion: 48 tonnes of tobacco and £7.5 million duty evaded.

R v V

Nationwide Country Lines Class A drug supply

R v Qureshi

Fraud on major clearing banks by computer hacking

R v Connoly

International tobacco smuggling operation valued at £70 million.

R v M

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Conspiracy to Rob, Kidnap and possess firearms. Robbery of £53 million from the Securitas Depot Tonbridge.

R v Hillier

Robbery of gold bullion, diamonds and currency from Brinks Matt at Swissport Heathrow.

Appointments & Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- Financial Services Association

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