

Orlando Pownall QC

"Superb and charming." "My silk of choice." and "He is exceptionally talented." "A formidable opponent."
Chambers UK 2021



Year of Call: 1975 QC: 2002

020 7353 5324

Orlando is '*regarded by his peers as being one of the best of the best*' at the Criminal Bar. Ranked as a '*star*' silk by Chambers UK, he is frequently instructed as leading counsel in high profile cases, carrying '*great authority with Judges*'.

Having defended on a number of high profile cases, including the recent and successful defence of New Zealand cricket captain Chris Cairns who was tried for perjury and perverting the course of justice, Orlando is described as '*a good cross-examiner...who defends well and has a huge presence in court*'.

Orlando is repeatedly instructed by high profile clients to provide pre-charge advice for a range of criminal and business crime charges. He is said to be "*Very engaging and passionate – he gets stuck in.*"

He undertakes a number of financial crime cases, having been instructed most recently in Operation Tabernula, one of the largest insider dealing cases bought by the Financial Conduct Authority.

What others say:

"A strong advocate with excellent client care." and His cross-examinations are carefully crafted and at times ruthless." – Legal 500 UK 2021

"Orlando is one of the best tacticians out there." – Chambers UK 2020

"A superb silk and one who adopts a determined approach to defending clients' rights in the face of serious and complex allegations." and "He's got a very suave jury manner which for the right case can make a big difference." – Chambers UK 2020

"His recent work includes MTIC fraud matters." – Legal 500 2020

"His cross-examinations are carefully crafted and at times ruthless." – Legal 500 2020

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

“A formidable advocate with an outstanding reputation.” – Chambers UK 2019

“One of the best silks around, he is very articulate and has a nice delivery. He is very popular with clients.” – Chambers UK 2019

“A formidable and well-respected advocate, and an amazing tactician.” – Legal 500 2018

“One of the outstanding criminal advocates, he commands the courtroom when he is on his feet.” – Legal 500 2017

“To see him in full flow is a masterclass in effective advocacy.” – Legal 500 2017

“A man with a very bright mind.” – Chambers UK 2017

“He’s unflappable under fire and nothing ruffles him.” – Chambers UK 2017

“He is a supreme performer and an artist of the courtroom” – Chambers UK 2016

“He is the most wonderful jury advocate, who charms juries and carries great authority with judges.” – Chambers UK 2016

“It is great to work with him as he is an amazing advocate who is hard-working, very classy and modest.” – Chambers UK 2016

“He has a style that is commanding but effortlessly smooth.” – Legal 500 2016

Criminal Defence

Orlando is a highly regarded and esteemed defence advocate who previously held the position of Treasury Counsel, both Junior and First Senior. During his tenure as First Senior Treasury Counsel he prosecuted a large number of high profile cases but since his appointment to Silk in 2002 he almost exclusively defends. In recent years he has defended a number of celebrities charged with a variety of offences, along with two of the journalists charged with aiding and abetting misconduct in a public office and offences contrary to computer misuse legislation.

Cases

R v Medouni

Represented the husband of the couple accused of murdering French nanny Sophie Lionnet and attempting to dispose of her remains by barbecuing them in their South West London garden. Medouni’s wife was convinced Lionnet was conspiring with her ex-boyfriend, ex-Boyzone singer Mark Walton and interrogated and tortured the nanny during the weeks leading up to her death.

R v Adam Johnson

Represented former Sunderland and England footballer, Adam Johnson at his trial on two charges of sexual activity with a child, relating to an incident between him and a 15 year old fan. Following a 3 week trial at Bradford Crown Court he was unanimously acquitted of the most serious charge, but convicted of a lesser charge of digital

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penetration. The case attracted widespread publicity in the national and international press.

R v Chris Cairns

Represented the former New Zealand cricketer, charged with perjury and perverting the course of justice following a libel case Cairns brought against Lalit Modi the former chairman of the IPL over a defamatory tweet.

R v Terry Hughes

Employees of G4S who were charged with the unlawfully killing of the deportee Jimmy Mubenga

R v Leoni Granger

Charged with the murder of a gambler in a so called “ honey trap” plot.

R v Kofi Mercer

Charged with murder arising out of advances in DNA profiling techniques.

Orlando has recently appeared in the Supreme Court where he represented Gerry McGeough who sought to appeal his conviction for attempted murder and membership of the IRA on the grounds that confidential information provided for the purpose of an application for refugee status was wrongly admitted in evidence.

Orlando regularly appears in the Court of Appeal in appeals against both conviction and sentence.

Business Crime & Financial Services

Orlando undertakes a number of cases involving financial crime and is instructed in a number of high profile matters such as Operation Tabernula, a prosecution brought by the FCA where it is alleged that the defendants were involved in insider dealing.

He has recently undertaken a lengthy MTIC fraud involving luxury cars exported to the Far East, an alleged fraud on the Royal Mail by a large on line clothing manufacturer and a case involving a cheat on the revenue arising from film tax credits.

Orlando has had considerable dealings with Proceeds of Crime Act cases in particular, restraint and detention proceedings. He was instructed in one of the leading authorities relating to confiscation and “after acquired” assets which was heard by the Supreme Court. (R v Peacock).

Accreditations

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Appointments & Memberships

- 2009-2013: Head of Chambers
- 1999-2002: First Senior Treasury Counsel
- 1998-2010: Recorder on the South Eastern Circuit
- 1989: Junior Treasury Counsel
- Shortlisted for Legal 500's Crime Silk of the Year 2017
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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