

## Peter Lownds

"He is an exceptionally talented barrister. Incredibly thorough in relation to paper heavy cases. Outstanding written work. Very prompt in responding to correspondence. An advocate of the highest calibre able to easily adapt to the demands of differing cases. Excellent with clients. First choice counsel in London and the surrounding areas."

Legal 500 UK 2021



Year of Call: 1998

020 7353 5324

Peter Lownds is a specialist in complex criminal and disciplinary cases.

He has a leading junior criminal defence practice that involves large scale and high profile fraud and organised crime.

Peter is listed as a leading junior in both Criminal Law and Financial Crime by Chambers UK, and as a leading junior in Crime by The Legal 500. Recent praise for him includes:

"Very studious and a man whom juries trust." "A very knowledgeable and experienced junior" who is "hard-working and diligent in case preparation." – Chambers UK 2021

"A superb junior – thorough and astute." "He's very knowledgeable and experienced." – Chambers UK 2021

"An excellent barrister who is both erudite and eloquent, and who exercises great tactical judgement. He is adept at handling tricky clients in a robust but sensitive way." and "As a man of few but well-chosen words, he has gravitas." – Chambers UK 2020

"Peter has a fantastic eye for detail, especially when dealing with large paper caseloads." and "An excellent trial advocate who does detailed case preparation and is excellent with clients." – Chambers and Partners 2020

"He exudes quiet authority." – Legal 500 2020

"Very good at detailed financial crime cases and brilliant with clients." – Chambers and Partners 2019

"He is very, very astute and tactically savvy." – Chambers and Partners 2019

"Even with impossible cases and nightmare lay clients, he is effective with limited tools." – Legal 500, 2019

### Location

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“Excellent in and out of court, with a very practical approach and great client care skills” – Legal 500, 2017

“He is very thorough and has a good strategic eye in fraud cases.” Legal 500, 2017

“An exceptional advocate”. Senior member of the judiciary

His criminal trials over the last year have included acting for a man alleged to be involved in a substantial Greater London based heroin conspiracy, a company owner accused of attempting to murder his wife and a businessman charged with involvement in a City based pay-day loan investment conspiracy. His other recent notable cases include defending a young man with learning difficulties accused of manslaughter and a teenager alleged to be plotting to make a terrorist bomb. Imminent trials include representing a company director accused of being involved in an alleged long-running “cash for crash” insurance fraud, and defending a young women accused of participation in a substantial solar power product fraud.

Peter is frequently also instructed in disciplinary and regulatory proceedings. The experience he gained from previously working as a clinical negligence solicitor, and as a legal adviser to a leading teaching trade union, has equipped him with sensitive client care skills and invaluable insight into the problems experienced by professionals.

He presents cases against optical professionals, teachers and for NHS England. His defence practice embraces representing doctors, dentists, teachers and police officers. Peter’s criminal defence experience means that he has particular expertise in defending cases concerning allegations of dishonesty and sexual misconduct.

He is also regularly instructed to represent interested parties at inquests. His recent cases include representing doctors at inquests concerning the deaths of a sectioned patient and a young teenager who killed herself.

Peter accepts **Direct Access** instructions.

## Business Crime & Financial Services

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Peter is a former litigation solicitor with leading City firm Slaughter and May and has substantial experience accrued over many years in defending serious and complex cases involving allegations of fraud, money laundering, corruption and high value confiscation.

He is listed as a leading junior in Financial Crime by Chambers UK, and as a leading junior in Criminal Fraud by The Legal 500. Recent praise for him includes:

“Peter has a fantastic eye for detail, especially when dealing with large paper caseloads.” and “An excellent trial advocate who does detailed case preparation and is excellent with clients.” – Chambers and Partners 2020

“He exudes quiet authority.” – Legal 500 2020

“Very good at detailed financial crime cases and brilliant with clients.” – Chambers and Partners 2019

“He is very, very astute and tactically savvy.” – Chambers and Partners 2019

“Even with impossible cases and nightmare lay clients, he is effective with limited tools.” – Legal 500,

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His fraud experience encompasses all types of cases including advanced fee, false identity, mortgage, benefit, and Ponzi and pyramid schemes.

In his most recent case he acted for a business owner accused of involvement in a boiler room fraud. The case concerned the selling to private investors of a US-based investment product that involved lending money to pay-day loan companies. The trial included a major conflict with the other leading defendant.

Peter's other recent cases include representing a Russian banker charged with accepting bribes from a US based consultant representing six oil and gas companies seeking loans from a European bank. The case lasted over seven years and included substantial issues of disclosure. He has also recently represented the owner of a Northern Soul record supply business accused of widespread fraudulent trading over a five year period and breach of copyright and trades mark offences. The case included a challenge to the admissibility of the record examination conducted by the prosecution's expert.

His imminent trials include representing a company director accused of being involved in an alleged six-year long "cash for crash" insurance fraud, and defending a young women accused of participation in a substantial solar-product trading standards fraud.

## Notable previous cases:

### 2019

#### **R v I (Southwark CC)**

Acting for a business owner accused of involvement in a boiler room fraud concerning the selling to private investors of a US based investment product involving the lending of money to pay-day loan companies.

#### **R v D (Southwark CC)**

Representing a director charged with fraudulent trading concerning the activities of a food distribution company.

### 2018

#### **R v P (Cardiff CC)**

Acting for a wholesale Northern Soul music manufacturer and seller accused of fraudulent trading and breach of copyright and trades mark offences.

#### **R v B (Teesside CC)**

Acting for retired magistrate accused of money laundering his son's drugs receipts.

### 2017

#### **R v R (Central Criminal Court)**

Acting for a senior banker in an immensely factually complex banking corruption case concerning allegations of bribes being accepted in regard to applications to a European bank from oil and gas companies in the old Soviet Republics.

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### **R v V (Southwark CC)**

Representing a vitamin supply company owner charged with a very substantial conspiracy to defraud involving thefts from multiple bank accounts and associated money laundering.

**2016**

### **R v U (Southwark CC)**

Representing a man accused of involvement in a major long-running car-ringing fraud.

### **R v P (Southwark CC)**

Acting for a company owner charged with involvement in multi-million pound international banking fraud involving the theft of monies from the bank accounts of extremely wealthy individuals.

### **R v R (Blackfriars CC)**

Representing the owner of rail engineering consultancy company charged with evading all income tax, national insurance and VAT for 13 years.

### **R v H (Nottingham CC)**

Acting for a business director charged, together with his wife (a retired District Judge), with the forgery of a will and other documents to facilitate the theft of two country cottages.

**2015**

### **R v B (Southwark CC)**

Acting for the assistant to the managing director in a high value City-based diamond trading fraud that involved the selling of overpriced coloured diamonds to investors.

### **R v R (Sheffield Crown Court)**

Representing the owner of a precious metals company accused of drug-related money laundering.

**2014**

### **R v B (Croydon CC)**

Representing an immigration advice business-owner in factually complex confiscation proceedings concerning the disputed ownership of approximately 50 residential properties.

### **R v M (Central Criminal Court)**

Acting for a City banker accused of running a brothel and associated money laundering.

### **R v B (Southwark CC)**

Representing the managing director in regard to an alleged advanced fee fraud concerning the activities of a lend-to-let mortgage investment company in which investors paid to become members of a draw-down lending scheme to invest in buy-to-let residential properties.

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2013

### **R v A (Reading CC)**

Acting for the Head of National Recruitment at NHS Professionals Ltd accused of fraud by abuse of position by recruiting staff via an unauthorised third party company in return for payment.

### **R v R (Cambridge CC)**

Acting for the owner of an extremely successful internet company selling pharmaceutical products charged with defrauding the Post Office by under-declaring postage costs of more than of £500,000.

### **R v A (Isleworth CC)**

Representing a businessman accused of blackmailing a communication company owner with sexually compromising photographs following a business dispute.

## Criminal Defence

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### Terrorism

Peter has defended in Islamic terrorism cases. These include the House of Lords case of R v G; R v J [2009] UKHL 13 and a very high profile case concerning al-Qaeda's internet media operation. He recently represented a teenager accused of grooming a vulnerable fellow college student to construct a pipe bomb for use in a planned terrorist incident. He also acted as junior counsel for a man accused of conducting an animal-rights-motivated bombing campaign against Oxford University.

### Drugs supply

He is frequently instructed on behalf of people accused of being concerned in the commercial importation or supply of class A drugs. He has considerable experience in pursuing disclosure disputes and in presenting abuse-of-process applications. He is also skilled at challenging the prosecution's interpretation of telephone evidence. Notable cases include successfully acting for a woman charged with involvement in a major nationwide opium supply conspiracy and successfully appealing the sentence of the pilot of an aircraft used to import cocaine from mainland Europe. His most recent cases have involved representing a retired magistrate accused of drug-related money laundering, in a case founded upon the evidence of a supergrass, and acting for a man accused of being the right-hand man to the leader of a major Luton/Greater London heroin conspiracy.

### Homicide and serious non-fatal violence

He has considerable experience in representing clients accused of homicide or very serious non-fatal violence. He has dealt with many cases involving an alleged gang or organised crime background. Recent cases include representing a young man with learning difficulties accused of the manslaughter of a delivery driver and acting for a man accused of being involved in a near fatal shooting incident at a camp site.

### Rape and other sexual offending

He has conducted many trials involving allegations of rape and serious sexual offending. Recent cases include defending a man charged with historical rapes related to a major grooming investigation and representing a mental health carer alleged to have sexually abused a women lacking the capacity to consent. His past rape cases

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include obtaining an acquittal for an actor who appeared in the film War Horse.

### Contempt of court and perverting the course of justice

He has a niche interest in cases involving allegations of contempt of court or perverting the course of justice. He acted for a man who published a recent image of one of the men responsible for the murder of Jamie Bulger. He has also represented a juror who conducted internet research.

## Notable Previous Cases:

### 2019

#### **R v K (Kingston CC)**

Acting for a man alleged to have played a major role in a Luton/Greater London heroin conspiracy.

### 2018

#### **R v B (Teesside CC)**

Acting for a retired magistrate accused of drugs-related money laundering in a case involving evidence from a Supergrass.

#### **R v H (Northampton CC)**

Representing a man alleged to be involved in a near fatal shooting incident at a camp site.

#### **R v R (Cambridge CC)**

Acting for a mental health care worker alleged to have sexually abused a woman lacking the capacity to consent. The case involved the questioning of two witnesses with severe learning difficulties.

#### **R v R (Croydon CC)**

Representing a man facing historical sexual assault allegations from five complainants

### 2017

#### **R v W (Court of Appeal)**

The successful appeal of the 19 year prison sentence of the 'cocaine pilot'. Andrew Wright had previously pleaded guilty in 2016 to conspiracy to import £33.5m of cocaine in his light vessel plane

#### **R v K (Blackfriars CC)**

Represented a garage owner at trial charged with involvement in a conspiracy to import and supply 200 kilos of cocaine via Tilbury docks.

#### **R v H (Northampton CC)**

Acted for a man facing historical rape allegations from four complainants

### 2016

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### **R v L (Kingston CC)**

Large multi-handed £1M opium conspiracy. Represented second defendant and partner of leading conspirator.

### **R v L (Peterborough CC)**

Represented a man with learning difficulties charged with manslaughter involving robbery on pizza delivery driver

**2015**

### **R v I (Central Criminal Court)**

Representing a teenager accused of grooming a vulnerable fellow college student to buy ingredients for a pipe bomb to be used in a terrorist attack.

### **R v S (Southwark CC)**

Acting for a cleaner charged in regard to a near fatal stabbing incident in a Mayfair art gallery

### **R v R (Sheffield CC)**

Represented the owner of a metals company facing charges of drug related money laundering and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

**2014**

### **R v E (Central Criminal Court)**

Representing man accused of murdering a friend following an argument

### **R v F (Sheffield CC)**

Representing man accused of conspiring to hire a hitman to murder a business rival in Pakistan.

**2013**

### **R v M (Kingston CC)**

Acted for a client accused of involvement in a very high profile armed robbery at Selfridges in which a group of men disguised in burkas stole over £1 million of very high value watches.

**Earlier**

### **R v R (Birmingham CC)**

Acted for the first defendant in the gang orientated double murder case concerning the killing of John and Joan Stirland by Colin Gunn and his associates.

### **R v D (Central Criminal Court)**

Acted for the first defendant of twenty six in the largest and most complex cannabis production case ever tried in the UK.

### **R v G (Birmingham CC)**

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Acted for a pilot charged with gross negligence manslaughter in regard to an incident in which a man was killed as a result of an injury sustained when a gyrocopter was seeking to take-off from Long Marsden Airfield.

## **R v B (Oxford CC)**

Acted for the defendant in a case concerning a bombing campaign in opposition to Oxford University's animal experimentation laboratory.

## Criminal Regulatory

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Peter has substantial experience in dealing with inquest cases having acted for families of the bereaved, employers and individual professional workers.

The experience he gained from working as a clinical negligence solicitor, and as a legal adviser to a leading teaching trade union, has equipped him with sensitive client care skills and invaluable insight into the realities of the working lives of busy professionals.

He has dealt with a wide range of cases including healthcare related deaths, workplace fatalities, and the deaths of school children. His recent cases include representing a GP at an inquest into the death of a care home resident who had been sectioned by the police, and acting for another GP in a high-profile case concerning a school child who killed herself. His current caseload includes representing the family of a man who died after being restrained at a pub.

In a particularly high profile criminal case he successfully defended a pilot of a helicopter charged with manslaughter following a fatality at Long Marston Airfield during an incident involving the Warwickshire Hunt.

He has also acted as counsel on two major independent inquiries into homicides committed by patients with mental health problems.

## Inquests & Public Inquiries

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Peter has considerable experience in dealing with inquests into deaths in healthcare and cases involving workplace accidents. He has acted at inquests for families of the bereaved, employers and individual professional workers. He has dealt with a wide range of cases, including those involving the death of a sectioned patient and the death of a pupil on a school trip.

The experience he gained from previously working as a clinical negligence solicitor, and as a legal adviser to a leading teaching trade union, has equipped him with sensitive client care skills and invaluable insight into workplace environments and the working lives of busy professionals.

His notable inquest cases over the last two years have included representing a doctor at an inquest into the death of a resident at a care home and acting for a GP at an inquest into the death of Amber Peat, a teenage school child who tragically hung herself.

He has also acted as counsel on two major independent inquiries into homicides committed by patients with mental health problems.

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# Professional Discipline

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Peter is frequently instructed by regulatory bodies and on behalf of individual practitioners. His experience includes representing professionals in tribunals and in associated high court proceedings.

The experience he gained from working as a clinical negligence solicitor, and as a legal adviser to a leading teaching trade union, has equipped him with sensitive client care skills and invaluable insight into the disciplinary and performance problems experienced by professionals.

He presents cases against optical professionals, teachers and for NHS England. His defence practice embraces representing doctors, dentists, teachers and police officers.

Peter has dealt with a wide range of cases including allegations of sexual offending, dishonesty, professional or clinical error, health issues, inadequate service provision, bullying and serious compliance failings. He is experienced in handling factually complex cases involving voluminous materials and multiple complaints. His criminal defence experience means that he has particular expertise in defending cases concerning allegations of dishonesty and sexual misconduct.

His cases in 2021 have included defending a consultant accused of attempting to kiss a hospital inpatient, representing a doctor alleged to have plagiarised the academic work of a colleague, acting for a doctor alleged to have been inappropriately prescribing cannabis-based medicine, and presenting a case against an optometrist involving serious clinical failure.

He has acted as the legal adviser at hearings for the Teaching Regulator and for a University School of Medicine.

In addition he has also served on the Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Standards Board.

## Accreditations

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## Appointments & Memberships

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- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers' Association
- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association

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