

## Will Martin

“One of the best juniors at the criminal bar”  
“An outstanding all-rounder”  
“A definite star in the making”  
Legal 500 UK 2021



Year of Call: 2010

020 7353 5324

Will Martin is a highly regarded junior, ranked in the Legal 500 as a leader in the field of crime.

Considered to be a first-class advocate and astute tactician, Will advises and acts for individuals and companies in a diverse array of matters across the criminal spectrum, from pre-charge through to trial.

Will's criminal practice focuses primarily on defending and prosecuting serious crime, white-collar crime and regulatory crime. He has particular experience in complex cases, including murder and high-value fraud. A number of cases in which he has appeared have attracted significant attention in the national media.

Will is often instructed in complex regulatory matters, including health and safety, trading standards, planning enforcement and environmental legislation.

Will has a busy sports law practice, with a particular expertise in football. He regularly acts for sports' governing bodies, such as the Football Association (the FA) and the English Football League (the EFL) in high profile regulatory and disciplinary disputes.

Will is able to receive **Direct Access** instructions.

## What Others Say:

“One of the best juniors at the criminal bar. He thinks deeply about his cases and puts huge effort into their preparation. An outstanding all-rounder, he is comfortable arguing points of law and addressing juries. He has the ability to work across a number of practice areas. A definite star in the making.” – Legal 500 UK 2021

“A natural advocate with a real presence in court” – Legal 500 UK 2020

### Location

2 Hare Court  
Temple  
London  
EC4Y 7BH

### Contact Us

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# Business Crime & Financial Services

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Will specialises in defending and prosecuting cases of business crime, including complex, high value fraud, and other white collar work, including bankruptcy and insolvency offences. Will represents both individuals and businesses.

Will spent a year working with the financial regulator, the FCA, on *Operation Tabernula*, the largest ever insider trading prosecution brought by the regulator, and *Operation Cotton*, a multi-million pound land banking fraud.

Will has particular niche expertise in the complex field of Legal Professional Privilege (LPP). He was instructed as independent counsel by the FCA in relation to an investigation into an alleged \$1bn tax fraud, and by Herbert Smith Freehills in relation to material held by a multinational bank during an investigation into a £200m fraud perpetrated by its employees. Will has also acted as on-site independent LPP counsel for the SFO during searches.

## Recent Cases:

### **Operation Warship**

Successful prosecution (alone) of £1m multi-handed conspiracy to defraud car buyers using false online car companies. Instructed by CPS Specialist Fraud Division.

### **Operation Serpent**

Successful prosecution (alone) of multi-handed conspiracy to defraud Howdens Joinery using false trading accounts set up by hijacked or false companies. Instructed by CPS Specialist Fraud Division.

### **SFO v Thomas & Ors**

Led junior in successful defence of the CEO of an international fibre-optic / infrastructure company alleged by the SFO to have played a significant role in a fraud perpetrated against Barclays and KBC banks to the value of £160m. The trial, at Southwark Crown Court, lasted some five months.

### **DBEIS v GC**

Defence of a businessman prosecuted by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for allegedly falsifying invoices during the winding up of multi-million pound business in order to account for fraudulent cash withdrawals.

### **Investigation X**

Following an investigation commenced by the US Department of Justice, assisted in the internal investigation of a large multinational company for alleged breaches of the Iranian sanction regime, following investigation by the US Department of Justice.

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# Criminal Defence

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A fearless and agile advocate, Will defends in cases across the criminal spectrum, with his practice encompassing matters such as homicide and serious violence, drugs, and public disorder including protests. He has particular experience in representing professionals, from CEOs to police officers.

## Recent Cases:

### **R v RW**

Defence (led) of a 15 year old charged with murder.

### **R v MCT**

Defence (led) of an individual charged with murder.

### **R v RM**

Defence (alone) of a businessman alleged to have blackmailed his business partner following a high-value telecommunications deal gone-wrong.

### **R v TP & Ors**

Defence (alone) of an individual charged with violent disorder following involvement in clashes with police and antifascist protesters. The incident was widely reported following the channel 4 documentary Angry, White & Proud.

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## Criminal Regulatory

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A major part of Will's practice is advising and acting in matters related to business regulation, especially defending and prosecuting cases related to health and safety, trading standards, planning and environmental protection regulations.

### Recent Cases:

#### **HSE v MR**

Defence of a business owner prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive following an accident in which an employee's hand was amputated.

#### **HSE v Company X**

Defence of a company prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for allegedly dangerous excavation and building works at a residential property in London.

#### **Trading Standards v SA & Ors**

Defence of the company secretary of a London estate agency facing allegations of fraudulent trading.

#### **Trading Standards v SK & Ors**

Defence of the director of a car dealership charged with various offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

## Private Prosecution

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Will frequently advises and represents clients who wish to bring or defend private prosecution proceedings.

Will has successfully conducted numerous prosecutions in the Magistrates' and Crown Courts.

Will brings invaluable public prosecution experience to bear on the private sphere, having advised on investigation, restraint of assets, evidence, charging, disclosure, and confiscation for agencies as diverse as the CPS, SFO, FCA, UKBA and the Home Office.

Will has particular expertise managing issues of disclosure, a potential pitfall of private prosecution, and has drafted numerous disclosure management documents and protocols.

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Will has also helped train private investigators to assist them in giving live evidence in court.

## Recent Cases:

### **R v B & Ors**

Will defended three businessmen against a private prosecution brought by a disgruntled associate. The associate alleged a conspiracy to commit blackmail in relation to the purchase of a property.

Following written representations, the DPP was persuaded to take over the case and the CPS then offered no evidence against the three men. Will obtained costs against the private prosecutor for having brought the case improperly, a decision ratified by the Divisional Court: *The Queen (on the application of Ayodeji Holloway) and Harrow Crown Court and Adamneet Singh Bhui, Jimneet Singh Bhui and Gurpinder Singh Bhui [2019] EWHC 1731 (Admin)*

## Public Prosecution

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Will is a Grade 4 Prosecutor. He is frequently instructed as junior counsel, as well as acting alone.

Will's prosecution practice encompasses cases across the criminal spectrum, including matters such as homicide and serious violence, drug supply, and serious sexual offences. Will has particular experience prosecuting cases of human trafficking by organised crime networks.

## Recent Cases:

### **R v ZN & Ors**

Prosecution of ZN and six other individuals for conspiring to attack ZN's 3-year-old child using sulphuric acid. The attack took place in a busy shop in Worcester. Led by Jonathan Rees QC; instructed by CPS West Midlands Complex Casework Unit

### **R v EM**

Prosecution of EM for the murder of a young man at a butcher's shop in Wood Green. Led by Brian O'Neill QC; instructed by the CPS Homicide Unit,

### **R v DF**

Prosecution of DF for the killing of his 11-year-old niece. Led by Jonathan Rees QC; instructed by CPS West Midlands Complex Casework Unit

### **R v SP & Ors**

Prosecution of a network of Slovakian traffickers for bringing women from Eastern Europe to the UK for the purposes of sham marriage and prostitution. Led by [Sarah Przybylska](#); instructed by the CPS Special Casework Unit,

### **R v KH & KH**

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Prosecution of two public officials at Broadmoor secure psychiatric unit in relation to payments made by the News of the World and Daily Mirror for stories. Led junior; Instructed by CPS Organised Crime Division.

## Professional Discipline

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Will specialises in sports professional discipline, particularly within football. Please see the Sports Law tab for more detail.

Additionally, Will has appeared before other disciplinary tribunals, including at the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

## Sports Law

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Will's Sports Law practice encompasses advising and representing clients in regulatory and disciplinary disputes. Will has a particular expertise in football, and regularly acts in high profile cases for sports' governing bodies, such as the Football Association (the FA) and the English Football League (the EFL).

Will is adept at dealing with both on and off-field disputes. On-field, he is often instructed in matters relating to violent or abusive conduct by players, coaches or supporters. Off-field, Will specialises proceedings relating to intermediaries (i.e. players' and clubs' agents), and disputes which centre on the ownership, and ownership structures, of football clubs. Will has extensive experience dealing with as well as safeguarding disputes and Anti-Doping Regulation Violations.

Will has represented the FA at appellate level, and advised both the FA and the EFL in relation to High Court proceedings.

Will was seconded to the Football Association in 2018.

Will is a member of the British Association for Sport and Law ('BASL')

Will's current instructions include:

- Advising the FA in relation to alleged breaches of the Working with Intermediaries Regulations by a club, club director and intermediary as a result of the hidden ownership structure of a club;
- Advising the FA in relation to alleged sham contracts paid by a Championship club to third parties to secure playing contracts;
- Advising the FA in relation to alleged breaches of the Anti-Doping Regulations by a first team coach found to have purchased performance-enhancing drugs online;
- Advising the FA in relation to alleged breaches of the Working with Intermediaries Regulations arising as a result of monies paid by a high-profile Intermediary to the family of a young player to secure a Representation Contract;
- Advising the EFL in relation to alleged breaches of the Owners and Directors Test arising as a result of the ownership structure of a club; and
- Advising the EFL in relation to alleged breaches of the Owners and Directors Test arising as a result of the attempted hostile takeover of a club.

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Will's recent cases include:

- **The FA v Millwall Football Club:** Represented The FA in a case brought against the club as a result of racist chanting heard at a match against Everton at the den in January 2019. Millwall were fined £10,000 and ordered to implement an action plan.
- **The FA v West Ham United Football Club:** Represented The FA in a case brought against the club as a result of significant crowd disorder at a match against Burnley at the London Stadium in March 2018. The case was complicated by WHUFC's contract with the operators of the London Stadium. The FA successfully proved its case, and the Club was fined £100,000;
- **The FA v David Manasseh:** Represented The FA in case brought against a leading football intermediary and managing director and co-founder of the Stellar Group, for approaching and entering into a representation contract with a player aged under 16. Mr. Manasseh denied the charge, but The FA successfully proved its case. He was suspended from intermediary activity for three months and fined £50,000.

## Accreditations

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## Appointments & Memberships

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- 2020: Appointed to SFO Panel B
- CPS Advocate Panel Level 4
- CPS Serious Crime Group Specialist Panel Level 4
- CPS Fraud Specialist Panel Level 3
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- Private Prosecution Association

## Education & Qualifications

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- BA (Hons) (1st class) Politics, University of Nottingham
- David Karmel Entrance Award, Gray's Inn
- Steen Award, Gray's Inn
- Norman Tapp Memorial Prize, Gray's Inn
- Kalisher Archbold Award, Kalisher Trust

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