

Zubair Ahmad KC

Call: 1995 | Silk: 2019

"Zubair is a very calming influence and very proactive in looking ahead."

Chambers UK 2025 (Crime)



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Zubair Ahmad KC is a leading silk described as *“a phenomenal advocate”*; *“a great tactician in extraordinarily difficult cases”* and *“unbelievably able, immensely knowledgeable and with very sound judgement”*.

He has significant experience in both civil disputes and criminal matters involving corporate, professional and HNW clients.

Zubair is one of only a few silks appointed in both civil and criminal law. He regularly works on cases involving parallel civil and criminal proceedings or where the civil and criminal law intersect: he worked on both the private law civil claim in Belhaj (extraordinary rendition) and in the parallel judicial review brought by Belhaj of the CPS’s decision not to prosecute a public official for complicity in his rendition to Libya. He has acted in civil, criminal and immigration proceedings arising out of alleged breaches of the Syria sanctions.

He regularly advises corporate, professional and HNW clients on reputational management and has successfully avoided prosecution in a number of significant cases by making pre-charge representations or otherwise brought proceedings to an end: he acted for a British director who was detained in Albania pending extradition to Bahrain for alleged fraud and secured the withdrawal of the extradition request and his immediate release. He recently acted for a HNW client who avoided prosecution for supporting a proscribed organisation contrary to the Terrorism Act 2000.

He works on immigration and nationality matters including deprivation of British citizenship cases arising out of allegations of criminality. He has worked on a number of judicial review cases involving foreign citizens challenging the Secretary of State’s refusal to relocate them to the UK. He has successfully secured relocation in each case.

Has experience of advising corporate and professional clients on the Official Secrets Acts. With very significant expertise in Closed Material Procedure and the Justice and Security Act 2013 he is able to advise corporate clients on all aspects of the National Security and Investment Act 2021.

His areas of practice in addition to general crime include: all forms of fraud, bribery and corruption, financial crime and economic sanctions. He is currently acting for a director who is accused of being part of a scheme to launder £263 million in cash via the Nat West bank – this was the first case in which a bank was prosecuted for money laundering.

He has very extensive experience of homicide trials. Since taking silk he has successfully defended in a number of homicide trials: R v AY (prosecution offered no evidence in response to an application to stay proceedings as an abuse of process); R v KK (acquitted of all charges by the jury) and R v MG (acquitted of all charges following successful submission of no case). Prior to taking silk he had

extensive experience of prosecuting the full spectrum of homicide trials as a monitree Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court.

He has additionally been called to the Bar of Northern Ireland.

Zubair accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions.

Expertise

Criminal Defence

Recent instructions have involved Zubair advising on corruption charges relating to a law officer. He is currently leading counsel defending the first defendant in a multi million pound MTIC fraud.

Appointed to the A-G's Special Counsel (Public Interest Immunity) panel in 2004. Recent appointment as Special Counsel in a terrorism act trial: *R v Haseeb Hamayoon and others* at the Central Criminal Court during 2015-2016.

A monitree Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court between 2010 and 2014 prosecuting high profile and complex cases including the trial of 20 defendants accused of murder – the largest joint enterprise murder trial to have taken place at the Central Criminal Court. Appeared for the prosecution and defence in six homicide trials during 2014-2015.

Notable cases:

R v MG

MG, one of three defendants, faced two counts of attempted murder, and the Recorder of Luton, HHJ Michael Simon stopped the proceedings at the close of the prosecution case and Zubair's client was found not guilty of all charges.