

NICHOLAS CLARKE QC



Head of Criminal Team

YEAR OF CALL

1981, Middle Temple

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

2006

EDUCATION

LLB (Hons), University of Sheffield

ASSOCIATIONS

Criminal Bar Association

"9 St John Street's Nicholas Clarke QC has a strong prosecution heavy practice"
Legal 500 2011

"Excels at medico-legal defence."
Legal 500 2011

"He is highly experienced in medico-legal cases and adept with expert witnesses"
Legal 500 – 2008

"Expert at medico-legal cases with complex elements"
Legal 500 2006

"Attracts instructions with complex forensic elements"
Legal 500 2005

"Forceful but sensitive in his conduct of cases with medical or psychiatric issues"
Chambers & Partners 2005

APPOINTMENTS

Queen's Counsel
Recorder

SPECIALIST AREAS OF PRACTICE

Criminal Law

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Mr Clarke has spent over 30 years at the Manchester Bar and has extensive experience across the whole criminal spectrum. He was made an Assistant Recorder in 1999, a Recorder in 2000 and a Queen's Counsel in 2006.

Mr Clarke has acted in a number of large scale frauds, starting in the 1980's when he defended a solicitor and part time District Judge) in the largest mortgage fraud prosecution on the Northern Circuit – a case of solicitors, accountants and surveyors involved in multiple back to back property transactions. Since then he has acted both for the Prosecution and Defence in cases involving many tens of thousands of documents. He is on the Serious Fraud Office panel of prosecutors. He has defended SFO prosecutions served in electronic format. He defended the CEO of a number of companies in the North East charged with conspiracy to defraud investors of over £85 million. He has defended in some of the largest cases of drugs importation to come before the courts, including a conspiracy that imported £250 million worth of cocaine. He has appeared in contested POCA applications with claims for realisable amounts extending to millions of pounds.

He has acquired a reputation defending and prosecuting cases of homicide, large scale drug importation and sexual and physical abuse of children. He has taken a particular interest in cases with a medical or psychiatric background and has extensive experience of cross-examining expert witnesses including pathologists, psychiatrists, neuroradiologists and paediatric specialists in various disciplines. Mr Clarke defended in the first trial in this

country in which the Crown relied solely on earprints to identify the defendant during which he cross-examined an expert from Holland in earprint identification. He has conducted cases involving palynological evidence as a geographical signature (by pollen and spores).

Mr Clarke has led many members of these chambers and others. He was in one of the largest gangland murder cases heard on circuit involving the notorious Gooch gang murdering two members of the Doddington gang. He has also been in cases involving Lithuanian gun runners importing converted Baikal handguns, silencers and ammunition for onward distribution to gangs in Manchester, Liverpool and elsewhere.

Mr Clarke appeared on BBC's *Panorama* in relation to the disclosure provisions of the CPIA 1996. He has also appeared on television to discuss the case of a youth who incited the murder of himself.

He has embraced new technology to assist in the preparation and the presentation of material in Court (eg Powerpoint presentations and/or the use of electronic presentation of documents using Courtroom computers and monitors for all Court users including the jury). He is prepared to accept instructions and case papers via email or on disc. He is an efficient professional who remains aware of his pastoral role and the need to communicate with and retain the confidence of the lay client.

Mr Clarke is chairman of 3rd Hazel Grove Scout Group and a member of Disley Golf Club. He is a Manchester United season ticket holder, keeps marine fish and grows orchids.

OTHER CHAMBERS

Bank House Chambers, Old Bank House, Hartshead, Sheffield S1 2EL



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