

## Curriculum Vitae

### Stephen Leslie QC

King's College, London LLB

Called by Lincoln's Inn (Thomas Moore Scholar)

QC 1993

Bencher Lincoln's Inn 2001 - current

Leader, South Eastern Circuit 2009-2010

## Expertise

### Background and reputation

Stephen Leslie QC is a past Leader of the South Eastern Circuit following a 2-year term that ended 31/12/2010. Ranked as a Leading Silk in Chambers & Partners (2010), he is noted for *"exceptional attention to detail and ability to absorb large amounts of documentation, often in circumstances of high pressure."*

Stephen Leslie QC has focused almost exclusively on criminal work - prosecuting and defending - for almost 40 years. During that time he has built an outstanding track record, noted for being able to easily deal with vast quantities of information in financial frauds, and complex cases involving multiple issues.

### Specialist practice areas

Criminal/Civil Fraud | Serious Crime | Regulation/Compliance | Asset Forfeiture | Serious Sexual Offences | Health & Safety | Terrorist Cases & Inquests in the UK | Court Marshalls in Iraq | Death Sentence Cases in the West Indies (pro bono) - Privy Council | Administrative Law Appeal to Privy Council | Fraud cases in Canary Islands & Hong Kong.

### Fraud, corruption and financial crime

Fraud, corruption and financial crime form a substantial part of his practice. Mr Leslie led in his first serious fraud trial 30 years ago and has, as Queen's Counsel, appeared in numerous high profile fraud cases including a 15-month SFO prosecution R v Pound defending an architect in a £multi-million charities fraud and a 3-month single handed SFO prosecution defending a sales director of a multi-national company. Since then he has appeared in almost every type of fraud including boiler room, advance fee, mortgage, charity fraud, computer and letter of credit frauds, money laundering and insider dealing. Memorable high profile trials have included R v Wilkins - the first acquittal in an SFO case following Maxwell, and recently appearing in a high-profile SFO case representing [Lord] Edward Davenport. Stephen's experience of corruption trials encompasses cases against the police and public officials, and he also appears in taxation appeals for both solicitors and barristers.

### Regulatory, asset forfeiture and confiscations

Stephen Leslie has also experience of regulatory law and has appeared and advised in a variety of cases including providing advice on the potential criminality of financial trading. He is similarly experienced in asset forfeiture and confiscation applications, especially in large and complex cases.

### Violent crime

Stephen Leslie's extensive track record of violent crime is no less impressive. He was Leader in four murder trials before taking Silk and has maintained a healthy practice since. His high-profile cases included the widely reported Hungerford Bridge murder, where he represented the sole female defendant, and an 8-week gangland shooting trial, where he appeared for the main defendant.

Recently, he appeared defending in a high-profile murder trial at the Old Bailey where the jury failed to agree.

### **Pro bono and Privy Council appearances**

Stephen Leslie has appeared regularly in pro bono criminal defence work before the Privy Council. Many of these cases are murder appeals from the Caribbean, including Mohit, an important decision concerning the power of the DPP in Mauritius to discontinue criminal prosecutions against the then Prime Minister.

He also has a particular interest and unrivalled experience in representing barristers and solicitors in fee/taxation litigation at all levels, largely pro bono.

### **General skills, experience, memberships and interests**

Stephen Leslie works flexibly and happily with paperless briefs with all information stored electronically - in particular, in complex frauds. He has travelled to Iraq [Basra] for a Court Marshall trial and trained members of the Judiciary/Bar in Ghana. He has appeared on TV and radio as a representative of the Bar discussing various criminal matters. He has also written a number of articles for the Law Times on such diverse matters as child evidence and publically-funded fees.

Stephen Leslie was a member of the Bar Council of England & Wales including the Employed Bar Committee (until 9.6.14) and is an Advisor to the Windsor Fellowship, previously being a non-executive Director to the Kid's Taskforce Charity. As a keen follower of cricket he is an associate member of the MCC, and he is a liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London. Free time is spent exploring undiscovered places and haggling for a bargain!

## **Recent Notable Cases**

A selection of Stephen Leslie's most recent cases follow:

### **FRAUD, CONSPIRACY**

#### **R v M (VHCC category 2) 2014**

- \$100+ million international boiler room fraud (said to be largest ever), involving four continents
- Representing the accountant, who moved the funds across the world
- 3-month trial prosecuted by the SFO

#### **R v B 2013**

- 3-month Immigration Fraud
- Acting for the first and main defendant of three
- Case involved an alleged bogus college concerning on crown case c 5000 students, involving Immigration and Education Law as well as detailed accountancy expertise

#### **R v F (VHCC category 2) 2012**

- 3-month complex MTIC fraud trial
- Acting for the first and main defendant of two
- Complex accountancy evidence as well as analysing very extensive HMRC collation and utilisation of evidence
- Jury failed to agree

#### **FSA v D (VHCC category 2) 2011**

- Complex boiler room fraud representing the internal company accountant who was alleged to have run numerous bank accounts.
- International high-profile fraud involving six different countries.
- £28m involved through different companies, some of which had the Defendant as Company Director/Secretary
- Virtually paperless case
- 4-month trial after which every other co-defendant convicted on all counts, but Dingley acquitted of all counts

#### **SFO v D (VHCC category 2) 2011**

- Advance fee fraud c.£12m, rent fraud, ramping fraud and money laundering
- Representing the main defendant
- 4-month trial prosecuted by the SFO
- Largely paperless case where extensive material kept in encrypted form

#### **CPS v S (VHCC) 2010**

- Case referred by Charity Commission involving a multi-million major charity fraud
- Represented the main defendant
- 4-month trial
- High-profile case involving Peers, Senior Clergy & MPs as Charity Trustees

#### **RCPO v C (VHCC) 2010**

- International VAT fraud c.£20m
- Represented the person holding themselves out as a freight forwarder in UK & Spain with regard to goods that were proved not to exist
- Largely paperless case

#### **CPS v D 2009**

- Prosecuted a trust fund fraud set up by the defendant's grandfather, Lord Davies
- High profile case, with media interest, in which Defendant pleaded mid-trial

#### **CPS v A 2008**

- Multi-million pound major bank fraud and money laundering trial
- Represented one of the main defendants
- 4-month trial

### **VIOLENT CRIME**

#### **R v KJS 2013**

- 3-month high profile murder
- Acting for the first defendant and only one charged with murder in an 8 handed trial
- Case involved thousands of hours of CCTV and complex images
- Jury failed to agree

#### **R v O 2012**

- 2-month-plus well-publicised murder
- Acting for the first and main defendant who assassinated a man for an alleged gang
- Highly complex and detailed analysis mobile phone evidence

**CPS v B 2009**

- Prosecuted a baby shaking case
- Complex medical issues

**CPS v C 2009**

- 6-week murder trial in Cambridge
- Main defendant in a 3 handed “cut throat”

**CPS v M 2008**

- Attempted murder trial in Bolton in which victim was left severely brain damaged
- 2-handed “cut throat” in which defendant acquitted & co-defendant convicted

**CPS v B 2008**

- Manchester murder trial where a young person provoked the Defendant.
- Representing a pensioner, who was acquitted of murder, convicted of manslaughter

**DRUGS****CPS v D 2011**

- The largest ever dealings with cutting agents throughout England and Scotland for drugs [many tons of cutting agent]
- Acting for the first and main defendant in an 8-week trial

**CPS v M 2009**

- Major international drugs (cocaine and cannabis) conspiracy to import many millions
- Complicated confiscation proceedings for this defendant and one of the co-defendants (who Stephen was subsequently instructed to represent)

**ATTEMPT TO PERVERT THE COURSE OF JUSTICE****CPS v L 2009**

- Attempting to pervert the course of justice in relation to a contract killing
- 8-week trial

**Contact Details**

Robin Driscoll, Senior Clerk  
Public Defender Service Advocacy Unit  
Business Suite, Ground Floor  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ  
DX: 328 London

Inquiries to Robin Driscoll, Senior Clerk  
Telephone: 020 3334 4253  
Mobile: 07468 709022  
Email: [pdsclerks@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pdsclerks@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: <http://publicdefenderservice.org.uk>

Offices in Cardiff, Swansea, Pontypridd, Cheltenham, Darlington & London.  
Available to meet solicitors and clients at any convenient location.