

Curriculum Vitae

Michael Wood QC

Bar Finals 1976 QC 1999

Southampton University – LLB 2:1 (Hons)

Called 1976 Middle Temple

1976-1977 Pupillage at 1 Essex Court and Cloisters

1977 Tenant at 23 Essex Street (formerly at 36 Essex Street and 3 Temple Gardens). Chambers of Lord Wigoder QC, Michael Hill QC, Michael Lawson QC and, latterly, Christopher Kinch QC.

1993 Assistant Recorder

1999 Recorder. Authorised to try serious sexual offences and to sit at the Central Criminal Court.

2007 Sole Practitioner and sometimes Door Tenant 2 Kings Bench Walk & Carmelite Chambers

2011 Bencher Middle Temple

2014 Queens Counsel, Public Defender Service

2015 Appointed to Panel of Acting Grand Court Judges in the Cayman Islands.

Expertise

Well-respected, primary defence QC, commonly appearing in complex frauds, murders and inquests.

Frauds have included MTIC, boiler room, advance fee and fraudulent trading.

Murders have included gang-related cases and ones involving firearms and other weapons which have involved cell site, low copy number DNA, firearms discharge residue, blood spatter, wound track and causation.

Prior to taking Silk, as a Junior and Leading Junior, undertook the full range of criminal work with an emphasis on both prosecuting and defending fraud cases. Instructed to prosecute the second case undertaken by the Serious Fraud Office and, thereafter, appeared regularly for the SFO until 2004.

Described by others as very friendly, always thoroughly prepared and as having the ability to grasp complex issues with speed.

Notable Cases

Set out below is a selection of cases in which Michael Wood QC has been involved, but it should not be regarded as exhaustive.

Fraud

R v CF [2014/5] (VHCC)

Fraudulent trading. Jury bundle presented on iPads.

R v B [2013] (VHCC)

Fraudulent trading. Prosecution offered no evidence two months before trial.

R v MK [2011/2] (VHCC)

MTIC fraud. No evidence offered 3 years after charging.

R v M [2011/2] (VHCC)

Boiler room fraud. Original trial stopped due to non-disclosure by SFO.

R v P [2010/11] (VHCC)

MTIC fraud. Limited pleas accepted with agreement of no hidden assets.

R v R [2010] (VHCC)

£100 million MTIC fraud. 1st case involving evidence from FCIB.

R v A [2009/10] (VHCC)

£170 million MTIC fraud. Cut throat defence with father.

R v K [2013] (Grad Fee)

Advance fee fraud involving breach of trading sanctions with Iran.

R v R [2009] (Grad Fee)

Money laundering involving use of solicitors accounts.

R v C [2008] (Grad Fee)

Advance fee fraud and money laundering.

R v E and B (SFO)

Misstating accounts of CSG a listed company.

R v L and B (SFO)

Creating false profits in MTM a listed company.

R v T and T (SFO)

Leasing fraud in Blackspur leasing. Linked to Atlantic Computers.

R v A and M (SFO)

Forex fraud.

R v W (SFO)

McDonald Wheeler investment fund management fraud. 2nd SFO case prosecuted.

R v RP [2010] (Private)

Boiler room fraud run from Spain with parallel US investigation.

R v MS [2003] (Private)

Carousel fraud. Conviction quashed by CCA. Retrial stayed as abuse.

R v EA

£250 million MTIC fraud.

R v JR

£150 million MTIC fraud.

R v FN Music

Copyright fraud.

R v PC

Advance fee fraud.

Murder and related

R v W

Pending trial. Defendant charged with unlawfully killing of his baby. Numerous experts and issues as to causation.

R v Saxton

Baby shaking murder. Acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter. Numerous prosecution experts.

R v P

Execution of rival drug dealer. Deceased was nephew of defendant.

R v S

Defendant serving life for attempted murder of girlfriend charged with historic murder of two former girlfriends and dismembering their bodies.

R v T

Chechen involved in fight with Russians. Acquitted of murder and attempted murder.

R v N

Multi-handed murder. Main witness had entered into SOCPA agreement. Acquitted at retrial.

R v N

'Wrong' brother shot with machine gun in bed. Firearms discharge evidence, DNA and cell site.

R v D

Trident murder involving anonymous witness and voice modulation.

R v PK

Murder of Pole sleeping rough. Blood spatter and DNA.

R v CH

Sixteen-year-old charged with the murder of her partner's mother.

R v NF

Serving soldier charged with attempted murder of wife by booby trapping her car with grenade stolen from firing range.

R v MA

Murder arising out of drug feud. Heavy reliance on cell site.

R v LE

Fifteen-year-old charged with murder of grandfather outside mosque. Crown accepted plea of manslaughter at trial.

R v KZ

Murder in Nottingham. Extensive blood spatter evidence.

R v RB

Multi-handed gang murder.

R v South Coast Shipping

Junior Counsel for defence in private prosecution arising out of Marchioness tragedy.

HS

Inquest matter. Man shot in street carrying wrapped chair leg looking identical to sawn-off shotgun.

WD

Inquest matter. Death in custody at Brixton Police Station.

DO'N

Inquest matter. Suspected IRA terrorist shot in armed siege.

Police Corruption

R v O'C

Police corruption matter, SE Regional Crime Squad.

R v O'L

Police corruption matter, major Merseyside police corruption case.

To Note/Other

Represented solicitors and barristers in respect of hearings before the Law Society and Bar Council.

Represented presenting officer in proceedings arising out of the death of Victoria Climbié.

Advocacy trainer at teacher at Inn, teaching pupils and new practitioners (2/3 years' call).

Admitted to the Court at the Dubai International Finance Centre.

Appeared in a 6-month fraud and various murders in the Cayman Islands.

Member, and sometimes committee member, of Criminal Bar Association.

Member, and sometimes committee member, of Bar Human Rights Committee.

Appeared pro bono for the Leader of the Opposition in Malawi when it was still a one-party State.

Conducted, at request of Bar Council, training on expert witnesses in Malaysia.

Contact Details

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