

## 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 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**

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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**

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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!

Stephen Leslie is currently a member of a broad-based group [including non-Civil Servants], at the Cabinet Office, which meets regularly, looking into Fraud across government.

## **Recent Notable Cases**

A selection of Stephen Leslie's recent cases follow:

<b>FRAUD, CONSPIRACY</b>
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### **O v U and another 2016**

- A very complex Civil Commercial Contempt trial to be listed for 20 days in the High Court in front of a High Court Judge.
- The alleged Contempt [4 in all] arose out of a 47 day High Court Action where there were findings against U.
- Fully preparing for trial involving complex legal issues in relation to contempt.
- Preparing the case on a complex and wide ranging factual basis, electronic and paper, involving well over 100,000 pages, having to identify the relevant documents, from the totality, and prepare the case for trial not having been in the original trial. Case ultimately adjourned shortly before the trial date [virtually fully prepared], in spite of a limited period for preparation [4-5 months], as a result of 2 opposed hearings and then not proceeded with because U was convicted in criminal trial.

**R v J 2016**

- Complex Benefit frauds involving innumerable allegation over 8 plus years
- Large number of lever arch files containing various different frauds with varying names
- Defendant was involved in sacking 4 previous teams and we were able to conclude trial with overall length of some 10 working weeks having taken it over mid trail and with minimum time to prepare and continue without complaint from the defendant during trial.

**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

## **VIOLENT CRIME**

### **R v F 2015**

- Murder trial involving stabbing of associate.
- Issues relating to specific intent and self defence
- Issues involving toxicology and pathology

### **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"

## **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

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