

Ranked Band 1 Chambers and Partners 2015: "He is an incredibly good advocate."

Legal 500 2015 Band 1: "Devastating in cross-examination."

Ranked Band 1 Chambers and Partners 2016: "He looks into the detail thoroughly and he's an extremely good cross-examiner."

Legal 500 2016, Band 1: "An exceptional advocate in the most complex of cases."

Simon specialises in all aspects of criminal law, in particular organised crime, drugs and fraud. He has defended many high profile cases such as Dale Cregan, Kiaran Stapleton, Arran Coghlan, Rebecca Leighton and Operation Elveden.

He exclusively defends in serious and complex crime. His practice encompasses substantial gang related turf war conspiracies, murder, complex multi-handed drugs cases, gun running, corruption, evasion of duty, MTIC and serious fraud.

He has appeared in many high profile cases. He recently defended John Hardy, a former sergeant major, in Operation Elveden who was accused of selling stories about Prince William and Prince Harry to The Sun. He is the only source to be acquitted by a jury in those trials. As well as his skills as a jury advocate, he is well known for his ability to develop complex legal arguments. He is known for his mastery of detail even in cases with voluminous quantities of evidence. He has an advanced knowledge of computing which can assist with the management of large amounts of evidence.

He led for the defence in the first case in which an application for independent special counsel for disclosure was granted [R v Greaves].

He has defended a number of solicitors in recent years who have found themselves charged with criminal offences.

He will provide an extremely comprehensive and involved service together with a robust defence to those charged with more minor offences who wish to pay privately.

He also appears in Sport Regulatory work and has appeared before the FA Appeal Committee and the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne. In 2012 he succeeded in restoring Bradford City FC to the FA cup after they were disqualified.

Notable Cases

Criminal Law

R v Dale Cregan – Defended Dale Cregan in perhaps the most notorious murder trial in recent times. Despite his admission to murdering two women police officers, he secured his acquittal upon a further hand grenade and sub-machine gun attack upon a defenceless woman.

R v Graham Richardson – Murder of a gold dealer and repeated burglary of his home whilst his body lay undiscovered.

R v Rabeel Malik – Successful defence of a mother over the violent death of her baby.

R v Zaahid Patel – Gang attack on a drug dealer by 12 defendants. 4 month murder raising difficult joint enterprise issues and five separate cut-throat defences.

R v Stephen Gourley – Gang shooting in a busy Birmingham pub, difficult joint enterprise issues following the guilty plea of the gun man. Defendant acquitted upon submission.

R v Adrian Rhodes – Acquittal of client for murder in a South London gang shooting. Two separate shootings with complex joint enterprise issues in each.

R v Shahid Nowaz – Defence of man accused of murder in Hackney. A notorious case because the victim was mistaken for a gang member. Abandoned by the prosecution and remains unsolved.

R v Angela Dowling – Murder of man accused of paedophilia. Difficult secondary party issues relating to joint enterprise.



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PRACTICE AREAS

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Criminal Law

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R v Rebecca Leighton – the Stepping Hill Hospital (Stockport) nurse arrested for the insulin deaths. <http://tinyurl.com/8574vyc>

R v Ishaq Hussain - the Pakistani gang grooming murder in which his client, the alleged orchestrator, was acquitted: <http://tinyurl.com/7qtgrvw>. This was the subject of a Panorama documentary. Complex parasitic joint enterprise issues.

R v Kieron Stapleton - the defendant accused of the murder in Salford of the Indian student, Anuj Bidve, who was shot in the head on Boxing Day. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-16437658>

R v Butt – murders and attempted murders between two rival Manchester gangs.

R v Thorne – drug turf war involving three murders of rival gang members.

R v Erdman – conspiracy to murder, kidnapping and torture between two rival factions of gangsters in Salford.

R v Power – racial murder of taxi driver in Bury, shortly before race riots.

R v Azhar Mohammed – gangland conspiracy to murder.

R v Simon Chin – attempted murder by a former gang member of a woman who suffered multiple stab wounds. This was a difficult trial with anonymous witnesses.

R v Zeeshan Gani – conspiracy to murder involving a Manchester gang. The case included difficult bad character and anonymity issues.

R v Jason Ferries – a young man who suffered from Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD was charged with the murder of his stepmother. He was found guilty of diminished responsibility manslaughter after complex psychiatric evidence was presented to the jury.

R v Kayael Wint – a young man with learning difficulties charged with a Manchester Gooch gang conspiracy to murder. The trial lasted for nearly six months because the case encompassed a huge range of activities by the gang members.

R v Fletcher – organised crime conspiracy to murder in Bradford.

Fraud and Financial Crime

R v John Hardy – John Hardy, a former sergeant major, in Operation Elveden who was accused of selling stories about Prince William and Prince Harry to The Sun. He is the only source to be acquitted by a jury in those trials. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/11461461/Sun-payments-trial-Four-journalists-cleared-of-paying-public-officials.html>

R v Richard Dixon – Successful defence of national car hire director upon charges of fraudulent trading.

R v GP (Operation Bamburgh) – Ongoing, defence of director in one of the largest ever mortgage fraud prosecutions.

R v AO (Operation Savate) – Ongoing, defence of businessman in CIS fraud.

R v Umair Nazir - Operation Inertia MTIC.

R v Godley - allegation of abuse of process by SFO in respect of breach of promise.

R v Davies – MTIC fraud involving copper cathode and scrap.

R v Chohan – Hundi/Hawala banking: international money laundering and fraud.

R v Young – Multimillion VAT fraud on imported luxury cars.

R v K and K – Leading for the respondent in a Prosecution appeal against a terminating ruling. This followed the successful defence of an accountant for international money laundering. The Court of Appeal certified a point of law for the House of Lords but leave was refused.

R v Peacock – a series of substantial mortgage frauds.



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Organised Crime

R v Arran Coghlan – A substantial drugs prosecution by QC and two juniors, together with two QC special counsel, of the businessman labelled the “Teflon Don” by the media. The case collapsed during a disclosure application. <http://tinyurl.com/6pjhwej>

R v Longden – the UK’s biggest ever drugs supply case at the time involving over £200 million worth of Class A drugs.

R v Kelly – Salford team of organised Post Office robbers.

R v McVay – substantial drugs supply case involving successful stay as a result of breach of promise.

R v Greaves – the first ever successful application for special counsel to review PII material to enable English law to comply with Article 6. Appeal allowed in Court of Appeal owing to allegations of corruption against police officers in Lancashire Constabulary.

Operation Safe – called to the bar in the Isle of Man to defend in an undercover drugs supply case.

R v Singh – kidnapping for a substantial ransom of a Burnley “businessman” This became the leading case upon implied assertions following the introduction of the CJA 2003, R. v. Sukadeve Singh [2006] 2 Cr.App.R. 12.

R v Zalavari – a substantial heroin distribution case in which the defendant was acquitted by reason of the extremely difficult defence of duress.

R v Taberer – blackmail of international money launderer who was being pursued by the Serbian and Russian mafia.

R v Pearson – a substantial police corruption case involving the sale of sensitive material to active criminals.

R v Damian O’Connor – Defence of a man heading a major importation and supply chain whilst on the run in Belgium. This was a major international SOCA investigation with substantial intrusive surveillance.

R v Charles Wright – SOCA investigation of the planned importation of a huge quantity of cocaine from Trinidad.

R v Kaleem Akhtar – one of the biggest firearm distribution cases ever in the UK. The appeal against sentence is now the guideline case for firearms offences.

R v Paul Berry – Acting for the head of a conspiracy involving Liverpool and Milton Keynes criminals involved the large scale distribution of cocaine from Liverpool to the Home Counties.

R v Sun Ping Ng – defence of a man involved in a huge cannabis cultivation conspiracy involving at least 33 converted properties.

R v Casey Miller – defence in a robbery trial which attracted national publicity because it involved the theft of nearly £2 million of Lowry paintings that have not been recovered.

R v Arshad Khan – defence of a man accused of a substantial and sophisticated heroin importation direct from Afghanistan. The case was dramatized for television.

R v Hanif – a major drugs prosecution which involved complex issues relating to the interception of telephone calls.

R v Miah – A substantial drugs prosecution which collapsed at the retrial following my successful application to exclude all the telephone evidence in the case. The submission concerned the influencing of experts with sensitive material and the manner in which the prosecution liaised with the Attorney-General’s office over special counsel.



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