



Simon Gurney

Call to the Bar: 2006

Simon is ranked as a leading Junior in both the leading legal directories: The Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners.

The Legal 500 (2017 Edition) identifies Simon as a leading Junior, recommended in the fields of criminal law and professional discipline. The editors say that he is "intelligent, persuasive and diligent." Previous editions have commented that "he shows excellent analysis of the evidence, and delivers relevant, well-presented closing speeches" (2016); "he is confident on his feet and a strong cross-examiner" (2015) and that "his grasp of the detail is outstanding" (2014).

Chambers & Partners (2018 Edition) includes Simon as a ranked Junior in the field of professional discipline. The editors describe him as "an advocate with strong expertise in representing police officers and healthcare professionals before their regulatory bodies... experienced in everything from FTP hearings to High Court and Court of Appeal advocacy." Referees commented on his strengths: "That he is an exceptionally good advocate" whose "legal knowledge is amazing." He is described as "very professional and very knowledgeable, with a very clear analytic mind to deal with the matters in hand."

Simon is a versatile practitioner with an extensive practice that combines serious criminal litigation and professional disciplinary / regulatory proceedings. He has substantial expertise in defending professionals and public sector employees accused of criminal offences in the course of their employment or profession, and in misconduct proceedings brought by professional regulators. His areas of expertise complement one another, enabling him to offer a comprehensive service to professional clients seeking advice and representation.

He is sought after in cases of the utmost gravity, sensitivity and complexity.

In the criminal jurisdiction he is instructed across the spectrum of serious criminal offending, principally to defend but also on behalf of the prosecution. He has appeared in recent high profile cases, including R v Archer (murder by arson) and R v Dale Cregan and others (murder of two police officers). He is particularly sought after in cases involving voluminous material and cases with a financial/business or technological aspect. He has particular expertise in defending allegations of historic sexual abuse, health and safety and other regulatory cases (including fatalities) and substantial drugs conspiracies. Simon also has experience in cases concerning forfeiture and asset restraint.

Simon is currently instructed to defend in a VHCC prosecution brought by the Serious Fraud Office at Liverpool Crown Court, in which the trial has been ongoing for four months.

In the field of professional discipline, Simon's extensive experience encompasses proceedings instigated by regulators including the GMC, NMC, GPhC, HCPC and the SRA and police misconduct hearings, not only at first instance but also in appellate proceedings, whether before the Police Appeals Tribunal, the High Court or the Court of Appeal.

Simon was recently instructed to defend a Consultant plastic surgeon before the High Court and Court of Appeal in what is now the leading case in healthcare regulation concerning the exercise of the discretion to proceed in the absence of a practitioner (GMC v Adeogba [2016] 1 WLR 2867).

He also has experience of pursuing applications for judicial review, in relation to the issue and execution of search warrants and decisions of inferior tribunals and public authorities.

Simon has also appeared in a number of significant cases in relation to allegedly fraudulent reclaims of input tax, before the First Tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber), Upper Tribunal and the Court of Appeal.

He has a particular interest in cases that raise issues concerning human rights and civil liberties and regularly advises on civil actions against the police.

The success of Simon's practice is founded upon his ability to build a good rapport with clients and tribunals alike. He has built a strong reputation with a wide range of clients who value his intellectual ability, tactical acumen and outstanding attention to detail. His client care skills are much praised. He brings diligence, sound judgment and tenacity to every case to ensure the best possible result for his clients.

Simon prides himself on offering a first-rate service and maintaining a close working relationship with those who instruct him, whether a professional client or lay client instructing him directly. He is always contactable, at any time of day, to provide advice or guidance.

Simon is a member of Chambers' practice teams in: Criminal Law; Business Crime and Financial Regulation; Professional Discipline; Judicial Review; Tax Appeals; Civil Police Actions; and Prison Law.

He is licensed to provide advice and representation under the 'Public Access' scheme directly to members of the public.



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Criminal Law

Simon has a busy practice encompassing all areas of serious criminal litigation. He is instructed nationwide in cases involving organised crime, murder and serious violence, rape and other sexual offences and the importation and supply of controlled drugs. He is sought after in cases concerning financial / business crime such as fraudulent trading and money laundering.

Cases in which Simon is currently instructed to defend include:

Operation Abode (VHCC) at Liverpool Crown Court, listed for a 4 month trial in April 2018, in which Simon is instructed (with Guy Gozem Q.C.) for one of seven defendants accused by the Serious Fraud Office of a conspiracy to defraud, valued at £13million.

Operation Comfort at Nottingham Crown Court, listed for a 3 month trial in March 2019, in which he is instructed for one of eight defendants alleged to have conspired to commit fraud and fraudulent trading in relation to the sale and renewal of energy contracts.

Operation Friction at Manchester Crown Court, listed for a 6 week trial in August 2018, in which Simon represents one of 20 defendant alleged to have conspired to supply Class A drugs and to launder the proceeds.

Operation Atrium at Carlisle Crown Court, listed for a 3 week trial in September 2018, in which he is instructed for the lead defendant in a 38-handed 'crash for cash' and money laundering conspiracy.
Operation Cadence at Liverpool Crown Court, listed for trial in November 2018, in which Simon represents a director of a recruitment company accused of a VAT fraud.

R v MB at Shrewsbury Crown Court, listed for a 3 week trial in October 2018, in which he is instructed to represent one of three defendants prosecuted by the Security Industry Authority in relation to their alleged involvement in the forging of assessment documentation.

Whilst the majority of his practice is comprised of defence instructions, Simon is an experienced prosecution advocate, receiving instructions to prosecute serious, complex and multi-handed cases. Simon has been appointed a Level 3 Prosecutor by the Crown Prosecution Service and is a member of the specialist CPS Proceeds of Crime Panel.

Notable Cases

Organised Crime

Dale Cregan & Others – instructed (with Rick Holland) to represent one of ten defendants in this high profile murder trial (which lasted 3 months) amidst unprecedented security and media scrutiny (instructed by Saeed Hafezi, Stephen Lickrish & Associates)

Operation Natals – instructed (with Jim Pickup Q.C.) for one of five defendants who conspired to export substantial quantities of controlled drugs via the anonymous dark web online marketplace 'Silk Road', conducting over 6,000 drugs transactions and generating income in excess of £1million (instructed by Gary Broadfield, then of Cartwright King Solicitors, Manchester)

Operation Monaco – instructed to represent the lead defendant in a 14-handed prosecution concerning an alleged conspiracy to supply Class A drugs around the North West of England. Simon's client was accused of heading the OCG orchestrating the supply of drugs and using serious violence against rival gangs, including the use of firearms (instructed by Fida Hussain of Jon Mail Solicitors)

Operation Sprint – instructed (with Tim Storrie) to represent the lead defendant in an international people trafficking ring who was alleged to have raped and imprisoned his victim (instructed by Dylan Bradshaw, Waddingtons Solicitors)

Operation Alamos – successfully represented a young man with learning difficulties who was accused of conspiring with fifteen others to import substantial quantities of heroin into the UK (instructed by Geoff Ireland, NGA Solicitors, Burnley)

Operation Victor – secured the acquittal, after a 9 day trial, of a client charged with money laundering as part of a multi-handed conspiracy to import controlled drugs (instructed by Nick Dearing of Donald, Race and Newton Solicitors)

Operations Vertex I and II – instructed for one of 20 defendants alleged to be members of an Organised Crime Group involved in the national distribution of in excess of 15 kilos of cocaine (instructed by Fida Hussain)

Operation Everyman/Fergate – instructed to represent one of seven defendants accused of masterminding the importation of 47kgs of cocaine from Ecuador. As a result of successful negotiations with the Crown, Simon's client pleaded guilty to importing just 2kgs, resulting in a substantially reduced sentence (instructed by Saeed Hafezi, Stephen Lickrish & Associates)



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Sexual Offending

R v SM – instructed (with Andrew Thomas Q.C.) in a national test case in which a young man of good character was accused of rape on the basis of an active deception as to his HIV status and causing grievous bodily harm. This was the first prosecution of its kind in the country. Following submission of an application to dismiss and application to stay the indictment as an abuse of process, the Prosecution elected not to proceed and the client was cleared of all charges (instructed by Samantha Smith, then of Mary Monson Solicitors)

R v LC – successfully defended at trial at Croydon Crown Court a young defendant with mental health difficulties, accused of historic sexual offending against three distant relations, including the alleged rape of his three year old cousin (instructed by Colleen Dickinson-Jones of Roebucks Solicitors)

R v KM – successfully defended at trial a young man accused, with three others, of engaging in sexual activity with a child in a case arising out of the Rochdale child sexual exploitation investigations (instructed by Noel Trussler of Connor, Ross, Brown Solicitors)

R v ME – successfully represented at trial a young man of good character accused of raping and sexually abusing a teenage girl who he had abducted from a city centre street in Liverpool (instructed by Samantha Smith at Mary Monson Solicitors)

R v AA – successfully represented one of five defendants charged with conspiring to rape a 15 year old girl during Eid celebrations in Rusholme, Manchester. Simon persuaded the Crown that there was insufficient evidence to proceed against his client and, on the day of the application to dismiss, the Crown offered no evidence (instructed by Ellie Akhgar, then of Mary Monson Solicitors)

R v LR – successful defence at trial of a young defendant with complex personal difficulties, who had been accused of historic sexual and physical abuse of a family friend, when he was just 16 years old, including the rape of the Complainant when she was 10 years old (instructed by Sam Smith, then of Mary Monson Solicitors)

R v RL – successfully defended at trial a client accused of rape and assault by penetration of the teenage girlfriends of his two nephews (instructed by John Greenwood, Stephenson Solicitors)

R v RE – secured the acquittal, after a 7 day trial, of a client accused of historic sexual abuse against the children of three family friends between 1970 and 1998 (instructed by Ellie Akhgar, then of Mary Monson Solicitors, Manchester)

R v SS – following submissions on an application to dismiss, Simon secured the dismissal of charges alleging participation in the gang rape of a 14 year old boy (instructed by Garry Leaver of Farleys Solicitors)

R v AJ – represented at trial at Nottingham Crown Court a man accused of serious sexual offences over 30 years earlier when he was just 14 years old – secured his acquittal in respect of the allegations of rape, albeit convicted of indecent assault, but which resulted in a non-custodial sentence (instructed by Graham Rishton of Mary Monson Solicitors)

R v MU – Simon secured the acquittal of an 82 year old man accused of sexually assaulting a 13 year old girl (instructed by Ellie Akhgar, then of Mary Monson Solicitors, Manchester)

R v PD – successful submission of no case to answer following detailed cross-examination of the computer expert called by the Crown in the case of a mental health nurse accused of making child pornography (instructed by Kristian Cavanagh of NGA Solicitors)

Business Crime/Fraud/Regulatory

R v JH – instructed to represent the lead defendant in a private prosecution brought at Newcastle Crown Court by the FA Premier League alleging conspiracy to defraud, arising from the importation and distribution of over 8,000 IPTV boxes which enabled users to stream licensed content from the internet without payment. The loss estimated was in the region of £4million (instructed by Gary Broadfield, then of Cartwright King in Manchester)

R v RH – instructed to represent the owner of a roofing business who faced health and safety / work at height charges following the death of one of his employees who fell from a roof whilst working under the Defendant's management. Simon negotiated a favourable basis of plea and secured a non-custodial sentence (instructed by Tim Andrew of Burton Copeland Solicitors)

R v Oasis Lounge – instructed to represent one of six defendants charged with breaches of fire safety regulations arising from the operation of the Oasis Lounge shisha bar in Manchester. On the day of trial, Simon's client pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the Crown against her co-defendants, following receipt of careful and considered advice. Ultimately, Simon's client retained her liberty whilst those against whom she gave evidence were sent to prison (instructed by Nasir Hafezi of Stephen Lickrish & Associates)

R v SM – secured the acquittal of one of four defendants accused of involvement in a 'boiler room' fraud, heard at Cardiff Crown Court (instructed by Geoff Ireland of NGA Solicitors)

R v FE – secured the acquittal at Isleworth Crown Court of a staff member at L'Oreal's Head Office accused of stealing over £40,000 worth of products (instructed by Alex Chaudhary of Mary Monson Solicitors, London)

R v SB – successful defence at trial of a logistics employee accused of stealing over £10,000 worth of computer games from Tesco Plc (instructed by Graham Rishton of Mary Monson Solicitors)



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Offences Against the Person

Operation Thames – instructed as junior Counsel for the Prosecution in the trial at Manchester Crown Court of Stephen Archer, convicted of the murder by arson of his sister, who he doused in petrol before setting her alight (instructed by CPS Manchester)

R v PH – successful representation of a prisoner at HMP Manchester accused of causing grievous bodily harm with intent when he caused permanent damage to a fellow prisoner's eye using a broom handle (instructed by Richard Holliday of Olliers Solicitors)

R v AN – successfully defended at trial a local Lancaster businessman accused of assaulting a local business rival outside a bar in Clitheroe, causing a broken ankle (instructed by Garry Leaver of Farleys Solicitors)

R v VL – instructed to represent a young man of good character accused of causing grievous bodily harm to a soldier whilst at home on leave during a scuffle in the street on a night out. The soldier suffered a permanent brain injury. On the day of trial Simon persuaded the Crown that they had no realistic prospect of conviction and the case was dropped (instructed by Damien Pickup of Farleys Solicitors)

Professional Discipline

Over a number of years Simon has built a busy and successful practice defending professionals, including police officers and medical practitioners, accused of professional misconduct, both in disciplinary and criminal proceedings. He is acutely aware of the particular significance to professional clients of allegations of serious wrongdoing.

Simon advises clients regarding such matters (often at an early stage in an investigation) and accepts instructions to appear before misconduct hearings / fitness to practise panels where allegations of gross misconduct have been made and before the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court where a criminal offence is alleged to have been committed.

Simon is an experienced direct access barrister and is happy to advise professionals who contact him directly regarding their cases.

Simon has extensive experience appearing in cases brought by the General Medical Council, the Nursing & Midwifery Council, the Health and Care Professions Council and the General Pharmaceutical Council and would be happy to accept instructions from other professionals who face allegations of a similar nature, either in the criminal arena or before their own professional disciplinary tribunals. He has an impressive record when appearing before interim orders panels and in substantive fitness to practise hearings, but also in persuading regulators through written representations to terminate investigations before any hearing is convened. He also accepts instructions to advise and represent professionals faced with regulatory issues, such as a refusal by a regulator to register a practitioner with a license to practise or a decision to revoke a licence because of problems over revalidation.

Simon also has experience in appellate disciplinary proceedings, both substantive appeals against findings of fitness to practise panels (in the High Court and the Court of the Appeal) and opposing applications by the regulator in the High Court to extend interim orders.

Simon is regularly instructed to represent police officers of the Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Merseyside and North Wales Constabularies. Simon has successfully represented officers appearing before the Crown Court accused of offences across the spectrum, including dangerous driving, assault, data protection offences and possession of extreme pornography. He has a strong track record representing officers before misconduct hearings and also has experience conducting appellate proceedings before the Police Appeals Tribunal.

Notable Cases

GMC v Dr Adeogba [2016] EWCA Civ. 162; [2016] 1 WLR 3867; [2016] All ER (D) 165 Mar; 150 BMLR 57– Simon appeared in what is now the leading case in the field of healthcare regulation on proceeding in the absence of the practitioner when they fail to attend or engage with the regulatory process. Simon was instructed on a direct access basis by his client, a cosmetic plastic surgeon, on an appeal to the High Court from the decision of a MPT to erase his name from the medical register. Simon was successful on appeal; however the GMC took the case to the Court of Appeal. During the intervening 18 months between the appeal hearings Simon ensured his client was able to continue to practise by deploying a novel legal argument before the Interim Orders Panel, which resulted in no order restricting his practice. The GMC was ultimately successful in overturning the decision of the High Court.



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GMC v Dr NS – Simon was instructed for a Consultant Gynaecologist (and Clinical Director of the local NHS Trust) who faced allegations of impaired fitness to practise arising from (1) a caesarean section during which she allowed the patient's husband to participate during the surgery; and (2) her provision of employment references on behalf of underperforming staff, which were alleged to be dishonest. The case involved substantial expert and factual evidence. Following a four week hearing, all the contested allegations were found not proven and the Doctor received a warning. Simon also drafted a Rule 7 response to a second set of allegations concerning clinical misconduct, which resulted in the case being terminated without a hearing (instructed by James Cassidy of Clyde & Co Solicitors, London)

Dr Arunachalam v GMC [2018] EWHC 758: instructed to represent a Trust Grade doctor of 20 years' experience erased from the medical register following a contested hearing before a MPT (at which he was represented by other counsel), which found proven allegations of sexually motivated conduct towards two junior female colleagues. Simon advised on appeal and drafted grounds upon which to challenge the sanction: focusing on inadequacy of reasoning, failure to evaluate mitigation; and disproportionality in sanction. Resulted in a successful appeal against sanction and led to the imposition of an order of suspension (instructed by Alison Marriott of Stepnsons Solicitors, Wigan)

GMC v Dr B – instructed to represent a Consultant Ophthalmologist who faced allegations of the utmost seriousness, arising from his conduct as the Chairman of a chain of private cosmetic hospitals across the North West. When Simon was instructed, Dr B was suspended from practice and had been for nearly 2 years. Simon successfully opposed an application to extend the interim order in the High Court. Simon challenged the GMC's approach to disclosure of digital material and was successful in securing an order requiring the GMC to disclose material that Dr B and his Solicitors had been seeking for several years. Ultimately Simon represented Dr B during a 5 week hearing, during which Simon pursued an application that the Panel recuse itself because of its exposure to prejudicial material. The Panel refused the application. Simon drafted grounds for judicial review and permission was granted by the High Court, following which the Panel recused itself in the interests of justice. Following his cross-examination of one of the GMC's witnesses, the GMC withdrew a number of the allegations from the Panel. The remaining contested allegations were found not proven by the Panel at the end of the case. The Panel made no finding of impairment and even decided not to impose a warning. As a result Dr B was exonerated after 5 years subject to investigation (instructed by Paul Grant of BSG Solicitors, London)

HCPCC v ML – instructed to represent ML, a social work team manager previously employed by Manchester City Council, who had been called before the Conduct and Competence Committee of the HCPCC over allegations that she had failed adequately to safeguard children in her care. Following successful cross-examination, Simon made a submission of 'no case to answer' with which the Committee agreed. The case was stopped from going any further and without calling on ML to give evidence to defend her reputation. ML's fitness to practise was confirmed by the Committee meaning she is free to return to social work without any blemish on her professional reputation (instructed by Sarah Sharpe of Slater & Gordon Lawyers)

GMC v Dr RC – instructed on a direct access basis to represent a junior doctor who had been referred for a hearing before a MPT in relation to allegations of dishonesty concerning his annual leave. He had compounded his position by proffering a dishonest explanation to his employer and to the GMC in his Rule 7 response. With sensible and sensitive advice, he was able to admit his ongoing dishonesty, which decision ultimately led to a successful outcome. At the hearing, the Tribunal was persuaded not to erase him, but rather to suspend for a period of 2 months without any review.

GMC v Dr Suntha [2014] EWHC 3534 – instructed to oppose the GMC's application for an extension of an interim order in respect of Dr S. Simon opposed the application on the grounds that Dr S had no intention of practising as he had retired and so an order was not necessary. He relied on a very recent case from the High Court concerning interim orders made by the NMC. Simon advised and assisted in the drafting of a witness statement which persuaded the Judge that no order was necessary, so the GMC's application was refused (instructed by Carl Johnson of Stepnsons Solicitors)

Merseyside Constabulary v PC Kelly – instructed to represent PC Kelly, who had been dismissed after a finding of gross misconduct in relation to her conduct in the arrest of a member of the public who alleged that PC Kelly had assaulted him, without reason or provocation, by tasing him a number of times in the back of a police van. The original decision to dismiss PC Kelly was widely publicised at the time, in the national press and by the IPCC. Simon successfully appealed the decision to the Police Appeals Tribunal, arguing that the decision was unreasonable and a result of an unfair procedure. The Tribunal overturned the decision of the misconduct panel and ordered that PC Kelly be reinstated, which ensured that Simon's client was able to resume her career as a police officer with her reputation restored (instructed by Alan Greenidge of Slater & Gordon Lawyers)

Confiscation/Asset Recovery

Simon has been instructed in many of the leading confiscation cases on Circuit over recent years and, as such, has extensive experience in that area of law. He has built a strong reputation and has particular expertise in proceedings concerning confiscation, asset recovery, cash forfeiture, restraint and contempt.

He is regularly sought by Solicitors to resist applications for confiscation orders worth in excess of £1million and he has been led in two separate complex confiscation cases in which the Prosecution sought to confiscate in excess of £50 million. He also has experience making applications for certificates of inadequacy in the High Court and resisting detention/forfeiture applications in the Magistrates' Court. He also receives instructions to appear in the High Court to conduct restraint and contempt proceedings and proceedings relating to interests in land.

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Simon was recently instructed to represent a successful businessman whose substantial personal and company assets had been restrained following an ex parte application by the local authority that was conducting a number of investigations into his activities. The restraint of his assets prevented him from operating his businesses, meaning he was unable to pay his staff. Simon drafted an urgent application to discharge the confiscation order which was heard on the final sitting day before Christmas. The order was duly discharged and the Prosecution ordered to pay the Client's costs.

Notable Cases

Operation Holdback (R v Bagnall) [2013] 1 W.L.R. 204 – instructed (with James Pickup Q.C.) in confiscation proceedings concerning over £52million alleged to be the proceeds of an MTIC VAT fraud wholly unrelated to the crime of which the Defendant was convicted. Following the Court of Appeal hearing, the case is now pending before the European Court of Human Rights (Instructed by Shah Ali, of Osborne Knight Solicitors).

Operation Flamage – Simon was instructed by Graeme Tindall of SFN Solicitors to act on behalf of a defendant resisting an application for a confiscation order in excess of £2million. Simon argued abuse of process on the grounds that the Defendant could not be afforded a fair hearing, as guaranteed by Article 6 ECHR, owing to his ill health. Following submissions the Judge stayed the proceedings.

Operation Capote – instructed by John Greenwood of Stephenson's in confiscation proceedings following convictions for conspiring to import 40kg of cocaine and heroin. The Crown sought a confiscation order in the sum of £1.3million. Simon pursued a preliminary legal argument which saw the benefit figure reduced to no more than £70,000.

Alta Gas Plc Fraud – Simon appeared (with Guy Gozem Q.C.) for a defendant who faced complex confiscation proceedings following his conviction for fraudulent trading relating to the collapse of his multi-million pound company. The Crown alleged a benefit of £50million. This case involved complex accounting issues and obtaining evidence outside the jurisdiction (instructed by Saeed Hafezi of Stephen Lickrish & Associates).

Tax Proceedings

Simon has a growing practice appearing on behalf of companies appealing to the First Tier Tribunal (Tax Chamber) against decisions of the Commissioners for HM Revenue and Customs. Building on his experience defending in criminal proceedings concerning alleged fraudulent trading, specifically MTIC fraud, Simon is a popular choice for Solicitors with clients who have been the subject of adverse VAT decisions arising from allegations that they have been involved in fraudulent or contrived trading.

Simon has recently been instructed in three substantial cases in which his clients have been refused repayment of input tax by HMRC on the basis of the test set out by the European Court of Justice in Kittel, namely that their transactions were connected with the fraudulent evasion of VAT and they either knew or should have known of that connection. Simon has experience appearing in interlocutory applications and final hearings in the First Tier Tribunal and conducting appeals to the Upper Tribunal and Court of Appeal.

Simon is instructed (with James Pickup Q.C.) by Martin O'Neill of Cubism Law to represent CCA Distribution Limited, a company which was successful in its appeal to the FTT in relation to the decision of HMRC to withhold repayment of c.£10million of input tax, but found that decision overturned by the Upper Tribunal on the appeal of HMRC. Following an unsuccessful appeal to the Court of Appeal ([2018] STC 206), Simon is currently preparing to represent CCA in the re-hearing before the FTT to be heard in Summer 2019.

He was also instructed by Simon Ellis of Freeths Solicitors (with James Pickup Q.C.) to represent two companies (BTS and NTS) which were denied repayment of over £15million of input tax by HMRC. At first instance the case was heard over five weeks between November 2013 and January 2014 ([2015] UKFTT 0137) and concluded with a finding against Simon's clients. Permission to appeal was granted by the Upper Tribunal but the appeal was refused ([2017] UKUT 159).

Simon was also instructed by Bark & Co. Solicitors in London to represent two companies which had been denied repayment of over £13million of input tax by HMRC. The appeal was due to be heard between January and February 2015 however, owing to the ill health of the director of the Appellant companies, the appeals were withdrawn. The case did result in an interlocutory appeal to the Upper Tribunal of some importance concerning the scope to strike out cases under the FTT Rules (HMRC v Fairford [2015] STC 156).



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Judicial Review/Police Actions/Prison Law & Human Rights

Simon has experience in the field of public and administrative law: cases in which an individual seeks to challenge a decision of a public body by way of an action for judicial review. He advises on the powers of public authorities and the rights of vulnerable people whose lives have been affected by the decisions of such authorities.

Simon can provide representation before the Administrative Court in Manchester, London or any other regional centre. Simon's practical experience of the criminal justice and professional discipline systems gives him an informed perspective on challenges to decisions made in those areas. He receives instructions in judicial review proceedings and appeals by way of case stated, arising across the broad spectrum of the criminal justice system, e.g. the issue and execution of search warrants; and any challenges to the decisions of the CPS, Magistrates' Courts and the Crown Court, the Parole Board and the Ministry of Justice.

Because of his knowledge of the criminal justice system, Simon is also regularly instructed to advise clients who have been mistreated by officers of the State, usually by the Police, as to whether they can pursue a civil action for damages.

Notable Cases

R (F) v Manchester Crown Court and HMRC [2018] EWHC 1866 – instructed with Jim Pickup Q.C. to represent real and corporate claimants, who were successful in securing a declaration that warrants issued to search their premises had been granted and executed unlawfully (instructed by Simon Harrison of RH Law).

R (M) v Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Magistrates' Court [2009] EWHC 2874; (2010) 174 J.P. 102 (Admin) – Simon was instructed to represent two children against whom ASBOs had been sought by their local authority. He successfully challenged the decision to hear the application in the children's absence (instructed by John Nuttall of NGA Solicitors).

Jones v Director of Public Prosecutions [2011] EWHC 50; (2011) 175 J.P. 129; [2012] R.T.R. 3 – Simon was instructed to represent a serving police officer charged with exceeding the speed limit on duty, driving at 90mph. Simon pursued an appeal by way of case stated against the decision of the Crown Court at Caernarfon (instructed by Slater & Gordon Solicitors in Manchester).



CONTACT DETAILS

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PRACTICE AREAS

Criminal law
Business crime & financial regulation
Professional discipline
Judicial review
Tax appeals
Civil police actions
Prison law

Authorised to accept
'Public Access' instructions

MEMBERSHIPS

Criminal Bar Association
Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary
Lawyers
Liberty
Amnesty International
The Northern Circuit
Inner Temple

POSITIONS

Member of the Inner Temple Bar Liaison
and Circuits Committees
Board of Governors of Egerton High School
in Urmston

AWARDS

Richard Isaacson QC Memorial Scholar
Manchester Law Society Prize
College of Law Pro Bono Prize
Finalist in the Legal Professional of the Year
category at the Manchester Young Talent
Awards 2014

EDUCATION

University of Manchester - Law & Politics
First Class Honours (Top of Class)