

# Simon Gurney KC

Call to Bar: 2006

King's Counsel: 2026



**“Simon is an exceptional barrister. His written submissions are outstanding, making points concisely and persuasively, and his knowledge of the law is exceptional. He is an extremely persuasive advocate.”** (Legal 500 - Crime, 2026)

**“Simon is a gifted barrister with all the attributes, including incredible intelligence and identifying key areas of very voluminous and complex cases.”** (Chambers & Partners - Crime, 2026)

**“Simon is an absolutely exceptional barrister. He is very astute.”** (Chambers & Partners - Crime, 2026)

**“Simon is simply fantastic. A go-to barrister who ticks all the boxes, his preparation is excellent, his written work brilliant, and he is a fantastic advocate.”** (Legal 500 - Crime, 2025)

Simon Gurney KC is a specialist in serious criminal litigation. He is instructed nationwide in cases across the spectrum of serious criminal offending and is involved in cases of the utmost gravity, sensitivity and complexity. He is renowned as an excellent lawyer and a talented jury advocate.

For many years, Simon has been recognised consistently by Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500, acknowledged for his expertise as a leading practitioner in criminal law.

Simon has a formidable reputation for his exceptional intellectual ability, diligence, tactical acumen and meticulous preparation. He is an outstanding and skillful advocate who brings sound judgment and tenacity to every case to ensure the best possible result for his clients.

He has particular expertise in defending allegations arising from the activities of alleged organised crime groups (involving murder and serious violence, terrorism, the discharge of firearms and the importation and supply of controlled drugs) and defending allegations of historic sexual abuse. He is often instructed in cases involving fatalities arising from the use of motor vehicles and has experience of manslaughter by gross negligence and diminished responsibility.

## Contact details:

[Simon.gurney@lincolnhousechambers.com](mailto:Simon.gurney@lincolnhousechambers.com)

## Clerk Contact details:

[Dwright@lincolnhousechambers.com](mailto:Dwright@lincolnhousechambers.com)

David Wright – 0161 832 5701

## Practice areas:

Crime & Fraud  
Pre-Charge  
Financial & Regulatory Crime  
Murder & Manslaughter  
Sexual Offences  
Professional discipline  
Health and safety  
Trading Standards  
Tax appeals  
Judicial review  
POCA, Confiscation & Restraint

Licensed to provide representation under the 'Public Access' scheme directly to members of the public

Simon has an outstanding track record in securing successful outcomes in serious and complex cases.

He is particularly sought after in cases involving voluminous material and cases with a technological aspect.

He has a particular interest in cases that raise issues concerning human rights and civil liberties.

Simon is often engaged privately by clients pre-charge, in substantial cases, to advise upon challenges to search warrants by way of application for judicial review; applications to discharge restraint orders and resisting applications for forfeiture of assets. He is currently instructed to advise a politician under investigation for allegations of corruption. He is also often instructed to draft pre-charge representations with the aim of avoiding a charge. He was recently instructed to draft such representations for a senior police officer under investigation for misconduct in a public office arising from the Stephen Lawrence murder investigation.

Simon has built a strong reputation with a wide range of clients who value his pro-active, strategic approach and his outstanding attention to detail. He 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. The success of Simon's practice is founded upon his ability to build a good rapport with clients and tribunals alike. His client care skills are much praised.

He has substantial expertise in defending professionals and public sector employees accused of criminal offences in the course of their employment or profession. His expertise in professional discipline complements his experience in crime, enabling him to offer a comprehensive service to professional clients seeking advice and representation.

Whilst the majority of his practice is comprised of defence instructions, Simon is also an experienced prosecution advocate, receiving instructions to prosecute serious, complex and multi-handed cases. Prior to taking Silk, Simon was instructed as a Level 4 Prosecutor by the Crown Prosecution Service and was a member of the specialist CPS Counter Terrorism, Serious Crime and Proceeds of Crime Panels.

## Notable Cases:

### Homicide

**Operation Almanac** – instructed to defend a client charged with the murder of his flatmate in a frenzied knife attack. Despite reluctance, the Client was persuaded to engage with psychiatric assessment which led to an acceptable plea to manslaughter by diminished responsibility (instructed by Jared McNally of Clifford Johnston Solicitors)

**Operation Colindale** – instructed to defend one of seven people accused of involvement in a drive-by shooting in Blackburn that caused the murder of Aya Hachem (instructed with Paul Keleher KC by Urfan Mahmood, Shafi Solicitors)

**Operation Auckland** - instructed to prosecute the alleged murder of a three week old baby, involving complex expert evidence concerning non-accidental head injuries (instructed with Tim Storrie KC by CPS Manchester)

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

**Operation Somnus** - instructed to prosecute two paramedics accused of gross negligence manslaughter arising from the death of a patient whilst under their care (instructed with John Harrison KC by the CPS Special Crime Division)

**Operation Thames** – instructed to prosecute in the trial of Stephen Archer, convicted of the murder, by arson, of his sister, who he doused in petrol before setting her alight (instructed with Mark Kellett by CPS Manchester)

**Operation Landseer** - instructed to defend one of five defendants accused of the murder of Cole Kershaw, in a drive-by shooting in Bury (instructed with Tim Storrie KC by Matt Corn, Olliers Solicitors)

**Operation Zebra** – instructed to prosecute in the trial of Vincent O’Kane, convicted of the murder of a vulnerable friend by stamping on his chest in a drug-fuelled rage (instructed with Guy Gozem KC by CPS Manchester)

**R v Stewart Diamond** [2008] EWCA Crim. 923: instructed for the Prosecution in an appeal against conviction for murder, re the admission of evidence of psychiatric illness after conviction where the issue was not raised during the original trial (with Tony Cross KC).

Organised Crime / Terrorism

**Operation Reddition** – instructed to defend a client accused of preparing acts of terrorism in concert with Jihad Al-Shamie, the man later responsible for the attack on the Heaton Park Synagogue (instructed by Usama Patel of Good & Co Solicitors)

**Operation Stargew** – instructed to prosecute Zac Coyne, the designer and administrator of LabHost, an online subscription-based phishing service, through which he encouraged and assisted thousands of criminals to defraud one million victims of in excess of £100million (instructed by the CPS Serious Economic Organised Crime and International Directorate)

**Operation Noble** - secured the acquittal on a half time submission of a client accused of conspiring to fire a shotgun into the home of a member of a rival organised crime group (instructed by Vaqas Latif of Rees Clayton Solicitors)

**Operation Bullfist** - instructed to prosecute Muhammad Billal, convicted of planning an act of terrorism in the UK and then arranging to travel to Syria to join an ISIS training camp (instructed by the CPS Special Crime and Counter-Terrorism Division)

**Operation Bootyless** - instructed to defend a man accused of garnering support for and fundraising for Hamas, a proscribed terrorist organisation, in the wake of the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 attacks (instructed by Imteyaz Ali, Abbeys Solicitors)

**R v Patrick Djembe** – instructed to prosecute a Home Office employee for alleged misconduct in a public office. The allegations arise from his use of confidential information to interfere with the presidential election in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2023 (instructed by the CPS Special Crime and Counter-Terrorism Division)

**Operation Venetic** – instructed in a series of cases in courts across the country arising from the high profile hacking of the Encrochat server by the French authorities. Most notably instructed by Middleweeks in Operation Embossed – the lead case to determine the admissibility of the evidence.

**Operation Natals** – instructed 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 (instructed with Jim Pickup KC by Gary Broadfield, then of Cartwright King Solicitors, Manchester)

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

**Operation Bellow** – instructed to represent one of seven defendants in a 6-week trial, accused of planning and executing the kidnapping at gunpoint of a rival gang member (instructed by Max Saffman of Olliers Solicitors)

Sexual Offending

**R v SM** – instructed in a national test case in which our client was accused of rape on the basis of deception as to his HIV status. 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 with Andrew Thomas KC 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 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 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 SF** – successfully defended at trial a young man accused of sexually abusing his younger sister, when she was aged just four years old, despite having written a letter of confession and failing to attend his trial (instructed by Ellie Akhgar of One Legal 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 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)

Judicial Review claims arising from criminal investigations / proceedings

**R (X and AB Ltd) v IOPC [2022]** - instructed to settle grounds for judicial review on behalf of real and corporate claimants seeking to challenge the IOPC in relation to its approach to complaints made about criminal investigations into the Claimants by Merseyside Constabulary (instructed with Chris Daw KC by Oliver Wright, JMW Solicitors)

**R (F) v Manchester Crown Court and HMRC [2018] EWHC 1866** – instructed 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 with Jim Pickup KC by Simon Harrison of RH Law)

**Jones v Director of Public Prosecutions [2011] EWHC 50; (2011) 175 J.P. 129; [2012] R.T.R. 3** – 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)

**R (M) v Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Magistrates' Court [2009] EWHC 2874; (2010) 174 J.P. 102 (Admin)** – 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)

## Directory Quotes:

"Simon is an exceptional barrister and a pleasure to work with. He works incredibly hard for clients and has one of the sharpest legal minds and is a real standout." (Chambers & Partners – Crime, 2025)

"He is a superb advocate, with fantastic court presence, and his speeches and submissions are a work of art. His preparation is meticulous and he is superb with clients." (Chambers & Partners – Crime, 2025)

"His written work is brilliant. He's a fantastic lawyer and one of the stars on the circuit." (Chambers and Partners – Crime, 2024)

"Simon Gurney is first-class and intellectually top-drawer." (Chambers & Partners – Crime, 2024)

"Simon is an extremely impressive barrister who has a rapidly expanding reputation in regulatory work... he is a first-class barrister, a quick thinker, and a persuasive advocate." (Legal 500 - Crime (General and Fraud), 2024)

"...A first-class choice for heavyweight fraud cases. A peerless lawyer who finds the defences everyone else has missed. Tenacious in fighting for his clients, he puts a huge amount of work into case preparation." (Legal 500 – Crime (General and Fraud), 2023)

"Simon possesses meticulous attention to detail and excellent advocacy skills." (Chambers & Partners – Crime, 2023)

"He is very effective. He has such an encyclopaedic knowledge of his own case that in court he can focus on the finer details." (Chambers & Partners – Crime, 2023)

"Simon is a hugely impressive advocate, whether he is arguing a complex issue of law before the Court of Appeal or arguing a case before a jury." (Legal 500 - Crime (General and Fraud), 2022)