

**"John Harrison KC is a well-respected silk who is recognised for his strong criminal defence practice. He acts in a wide range of cases including those involving investment schemes, money laundering and tax fraud."** Financial Crime - Chambers and Partners 2024

**"He is a well-rounded financial crime silk - approachable, technical and consistent."** Financial Crime - Chambers and Partners 2024

**'Bribery and corruptions cases are a particular speciality'**, 2020

**'Recommended for prosecution and defending serious criminal matters'** 2019

**'Highly regarded for white-collar crime work'**, 2015

**'Particularly experienced in white-collar fraud' 'His practice includes a mix of health and safety cases, inquests and environment-related regulatory work'**, 2014

John Harrison was called to the bar in 1994 and was made Queens Counsel in 2016.

John is a criminal law and regulatory specialist and has a specific expertise in regulatory areas including Health & Safety, Environmental Law & Trade Descriptions. He has a particular interest in financial regulation, particularly regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

John is an extremely popular barrister who has earned a reputation of being both a master tactician and an outstanding trial advocate. He is well known for his capability to handle the most complex of cases with a clear, pragmatic approach. John's background in civil litigation and commercial law makes him particularly well placed to assist clients in a huge range of litigation areas. He is a particularly popular choice for cases involving substantial factual and legal complexity.

Although his Chambers are based both on the Northern and North Eastern Circuits he has a national practice. For further information or to instruct John Harrison KC please contact the Director of Clerking, David Wright.

## Crime - fraud

**R v. Sorby** – Defence - SFO prosecution. Sorby was the retired managing director of Sarclad Ltd who traded internationally in steel manufacturing equipment. The company had entered into a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) with the SFO, after undertaking an internal investigation. The DPA was anonymised to XYZ. Sorby was prosecuted by the SFO following the outcome of their investigation, which was in reality, an adoption of the investigation carried out by Sarclad's solicitors. After a lengthy trial Sorby was acquitted by the jury casting doubt over the DPA process itself. Satellite litigation included SFO v. XYZ.

**R v. Wharton** – Defence - Operation Circus, the lead defendant in both international property investment and ponzi investment frauds.

**R v. Patterson** – Defence (VHCC), Operation Bamburgh 1, North East Property Buyers fraud involving mortgage, re-sale/re-mortgage and property investment scheme frauds.

**R v. Frisby** – Defence (VHCC) - Operation Armadale, fraudulent trading and property investment schemes.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## PRACTICE AREAS

Fraud

Murder and Serious Violence

Drugs

Private Client

## MEMBERSHIPS

Criminal Bar Association

Town & Country Planning Association

British Russian Law Association

## EDUCATION

BA (Hons) Law

LLB (Hons)

MSocSC

**R v. Smith** – Defence (VHCC) - Operation Savate, VAT and direct tax fraud using the Construction Industry Scheme.

**R v. Marr** – Defence - Operation Bamburgh 2, conspiracy to defraud, property development and mortgage fraud, electronic presentation

**R v. Akegware** – Prosecution - Conspiracy to defraud, identity and credit fraud, company identities stolen and used to purchase or lease computer equipment

**R v. David Roberts** - Defence – Fraudulent trading and money laundering in relation to the selling of utility company contracts and the failure of the company involved.

**R v. Sargent & Brownhill** – Prosecution - NHS fraud and false accounting, diversion of funds from service users of care homes by managers of those care homes.

**R v. Kiani** – Defence - Conspiracy to defraud and fraudulent trading offences prosecuted by the SFO. Defending a complex asset stripping fraud involving 'white wash' company purchases, inter company loans, and the use of factoring agents.

**R v. Khan** – Defence - Identity theft conspiracy involving malicious computer hacking, dissemination and sale of stolen credit card account numbers, compromised bank account information, counterfeit currency, counterfeit cheques, and counterfeit identity documents. Defendant involved as a 'moderator' within the 'shadowcrew.com' website. Defending an international conspiracy involving internet theft and fraud.

## Crime – murder & manslaughter

**R v. Musgrave** - Defence - Alleged group attack by way of summary justice in Hartlepool, acquitted after trial.

**R v. O'Donnell** – Defence - Conspiracy to murder in Bolton, acquitted of conspiracy to murder after trial having admitted conspiracy to commit robbery.

**R v. Culley** – Defence – Alleged murder of husband by wife, complex background involving detailed medical and psychological analysis and evidence, plea to manslaughter accepted.

**R v. Ghazanfar** – Defence - Group revenge attack on several other young men, one of whom was killed.

**R v. Goodall** – Defence – Operation Troop - (defence) – Substantial Moss Side gang related murder involving numerous defendants. Joint enterprise and bad character both major factors in the case.

**R v. Liam Johnson** – Defence – Conspiracy to murder, two brothers paid to kill complainant, attacked with axe and knife, complex issues witness intimidation & cut throat defences.

**R v. Callaghan, Ojengbede & Others** – Defence – Attempted murder, shotgun used, drug turf war, complex factual case with extensive bad character issues.

**R v. Barker-Jones & Others** – Defence – Aggravated burglary and double attempted murder, revenge attack on father and son, complex issues as to defendants mental state.

**R v. Onfroy & Hollis** – Prosecution - Murder to steal drugs and money, convicted after trial.



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## Crime - Drugs Conspiracy

**R v. Frazier & Others** – Defence - Drug supply conspiracies, defendant with previous conviction for murder, complex legal issues as to bad character and cut throat defences.

**R v. Skelhorn & Others** – Prosecution - Drug supply conspiracies and money laundering, ring and bring organisation, complex factual and evidential issues.



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