

# Richard Butcher

Call to Bar: 1985



Richard was called to the bar in 1985 and is a highly experienced Crown Court barrister specialising in defending in serious and complex criminal cases.

Over the past 30 years, Richard has established himself as a proven trial lawyer in a vast range of complex cases from MTIC and VAT frauds, to gun running, serious drug cases and cases of extreme violence and murder. He has experience in multi-handed cases and cases presented electronically, possessing the ability to deal with complex factual cases quickly and with precision.

Richard has often been praised for his ability to process large amounts of factual information quickly and efficiently and his forensic judgment. He believes that there are no short cuts when defending in criminal trials. It's all about preparation, knowing what the prosecution can prove and more importantly what they can't prove.

**“Criminal cases often operate on fine margins. My experience over the years has led me to the firm conclusion that no criminal trial is ever hopeless. There is always something that can be exploited and turned to the defendant's advantage. The skill lies in being able to identify that weakness at a sufficiently early stage to make the difference.”**

Richard has always been prepared to travel to courts all over the country. He has practiced now on three different circuits and is a well respected figure with judge's and opponents alike. He enjoys the challenges and demands placed upon skillful advocates. He has now attended at every Crown Court in England and Wales except one... Merthyr Tydfil.

## NOTABLE CASES

### Murder, Manslaughter & Extreme Violence

**R v A** – Drug related murder in Birmingham. Defendant acquitted after enhancement of the CCTV proved conclusively that he was not responsible for delivering the fatal stab wound, and had sought to prevent the assault.

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## Practice areas:

Criminal Law  
Regulatory

## Professional appointments:

Criminal Bar Association

**R v E** – Wolverhampton Crown Court – Defendant acquitted of attempted murder after complainant admitted in cross examination that he had sought information as to the identity of the attacker on the internet thereby compromising his ID procedure, and subsequently lying about it.

**R v S and Ors** – Fatal stabbing on a petrol station forecourt. Defendant acquitted after careful analysis of the CCTV evidence proved he did not participate until after the fatal stab wound had been administered.

**R v T and Ors** – Youth charged with attempted murder. All defendants were acquitted after proving that the complainants had instigated the violence.

## Drug Supply Conspiracies

**R v A and Ors** – Exeter Crown Court – Large scale drug supply case involving multiple defendants supplying vast quantities (200 KG +) of cannabis to organised crime groups in the West Country. Complex telephone attribution.

**R v R and Ors** – Birmingham Crown Court – International heroin importation of cocaine in clothing products sourced from Pakistan.

**R v K & Ors** – Bristol Crown Court – Large scale drugs conspiracy involving Russian mafia links supplying cocaine to dealers in Gloucestershire.

**R v B & Ors** – Salisbury Crown Court – Heroin and cocaine supply from Liverpool/Birmingham to Gloucester.

**R v P & Ors** – Warwick Crown Court – Instructed for main defendant in “county line” drug supply from Wolverhampton to Stratford. 42 attributed drug Phones.

## Fraud and Money Laundering

**Operation Venison** – R v A & Ors Southwark Crown Court – Landmark case involving a large scale MTIC fraud stopped as an abuse of process - important case on the duties of Crown disclosure.

**R v A** – Knutsford, Southwark, and Manchester Crown Court – 3 complex trials, twice acquitted on the most serious charges. Convicted of only relatively minor offences on the third. The trials were for conspiracy to defraud via exploiting the Nat West banking scheme in which some £15 million was fraudulently obtained and transferred to Bank accounts in Latvia. The defendant was the only one acquitted. The second trial was a large MTIC fraud, again acquitted. The third trial involved insolvency offences and fraud.

**R v J & Ors** – Mold Crown Court – Acting for the main conveyancing solicitor in what was reputed to be the largest mortgage fraud prosecuted in Wales.

**Operation Vaultier** – R v B & Ors – Kingston Crown Court – Complex VAT fraud, involving 17 defendants with a purported loss to the revenue of £40 million.

**R v E** – Norwich Crown Court – Complex fraud involving the theft from investors of some £20 million, laundered through a web of international accounts.

**R v G and H** – Liverpool Crown Court – Complex MTIC fraud in which defendant was acquitted on one count and convicted of another. After 3 visits to the Court of Appeal conviction finally quashed due to prosecution lack of disclosure not revealed until much later.

**R v F and Ors** – Central Criminal Court – Cash for crash fraud. My defendant was acquitted after being able to show that he had been the subject matter of duress and intimidation from the main defendant.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### Gun Running & Firearms

**R v A & Ors** – Manchester Crown Court – Represented the only defendant to have the case stopped against him on a charge of conspiracy to supply a Skorpion sub machine gun, after his closing speech.

**R v Stephenson and Ors** [2016] EWCA Crim 54. – Leading case on firearms sentencing. The main defendant was the “Godfather” of the notorious Burger Bar gang. He and his accomplices were sourcing and distributing firearms to criminal gangs throughout the country by converting antique and obsolete firearms and manufacturing bespoke ammunition. Sentence was referred as unduly lenient to the Court of Appeal.

**R v X** – Birmingham Crown Court – Youth acquitted of possession of a firearm with intent. The Crown's eye witness was discredited in cross examination and careful use of CCTV footage provided an alibi

### Human Trafficking

**R v B and Ors** – Newcastle Crown Court – Polish forced labour case involving multiple complainants and interpreters.

**R v P and Ors** – Nottingham Crown Court – Forced labour case at Sports Direct. Multiple identity fraud and passport offences.

### Police Corruption

**R v H & Ors** - Birmingham Crown Court - 2 serving West Midlands police officers providing sensitive police information to local drug dealers, and plotting to steal Class A drugs from staged police raids. Kidnap

**R v A and Ors** – Wolverhampton Crown Court – Revenge kidnap and assault on man suspected of sexually abusing daughter of one of the kidnappers.

**R v T.H.** – Birmingham Crown Court – Gang related drugs kidnap and assault. Originally charged as an attempted murder.

### Regulatory Offences

Experienced in a wide variety of directors disqualification and related cases. Currently advising on a number of cases in which the Crown are seeking to re visit Proceeds of Crime orders in the basis of new information as to the defendant's benefit.

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