

Curriculum Vitae

Stephen Leslie, K.C.

King's College, London, LLB

Called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn (Thomas Moore Scholar)

King's Counsel 1993

Bencher, Lincoln's Inn 2001 - current

Leader, South Eastern Circuit 2009-2010

Expertise

Background and reputation

Stephen Leslie, K.C. is a former Leader of the South-Eastern Circuit following a 2-year term that ended 31/12/2010.

Stephen Leslie, K.C. has focused almost exclusively on criminal work, both defending and prosecuting throughout his career. During that time, he has built an outstanding track record, noted for being able to easily deal with vast quantities of information, specialising in complex and serious cases including murders and other homicides, financial frauds, and other grave crimes.

Details of specialist practice areas

Stephen Leslie, K.C. has conducted criminal cases before United Kingdom Crown Courts, and the Court of Appeal. In the Privy Council he has appeared for several Appellants from the West Indies pro bono in their appeals against conviction for murder who had been sentenced to capital punishment. He has also appeared before Courts Martial in Iraq to defend a UK soldier charged with homicide. He has represented Defendants in the Canary Islands and in Hong Kong in substantial fraud cases. He is widely experienced in defending the whole range of other criminal offences including terrorism, serious sexual offences, grave offences of violence and major frauds.

Homicide

Stephen Leslie's has an extensive track record of defending in cases of homicide and other violent crime. He led Junior Counsel in four murder trials before taking Silk. His high-profile cases include the widely publicised and notorious Hungerford Bridge murder, where he represented the sole female defendant. In an eight-week gangland shooting trial he appeared for the main defendant. In another multi handed, high profile gang murder trial at the Old Bailey he appeared for the principal defendant, where the jury failed to agree. Recently he has represented a juvenile defendant in a significant multi handed gang murder trial at the Old Bailey where there were 'cut-throat' defences advanced. Stephen Leslie, K.C. also recently appeared in a nationally publicised double murder trial where the defendant had killed his wife and a young child.

These cases are but a brief snapshot of Stephen Leslie, K.C.'s comprehensive and heavy weight practice.

Fraud, corruption and financial crime

Since Mr Leslie led in his first serious fraud trial he has, as King's Counsel, appeared in numerous high profile fraud cases including a 15-month SFO prosecution, R v Pound, defending an architect in a multimillion-pound charities fraud and a 3-month single handed SFO prosecution defending a sales director of a multi-national company. Since then he has appeared in almost every type of fraud including boiler room, advance fee, mortgage, charity fraud, computer and letter of credit frauds, money laundering and insider dealing. Memorable high-profile trials have included R v Wilkins – an acquittal in an SFO case, and he has also appeared in a high-profile SFO case representing Lord Edward Davenport. Stephen Leslie, K.C.'s experience of corruption trials encompasses cases against the police and public officials. Recently he represented an Defendant in the Commercial Court of the High Court in relation to a proposed Civil Contempt Proceedings. This turned upon a £165,000,000 Banking Fraud regarding the Otkritie Bank.

General skills and experience

Stephen Leslie has for many years worked digitally with paperless briefs and very experienced with dealing with all information stored electronically.

Stephen Leslie is an accredited facilitator for the Vulnerable Witness Training programme of England and Wales.

Notable Cases

A selection of Stephen Leslie, K. C's cases include: -

HOMICIDE

R v T

- Six -week Murder trial - Principal defendant - (Juvenile)
- Alleged drug gang murder
- Four handed cut-throat
- Central Criminal Court

R v B

- Double Murder centring upon psychiatric evidence
 - Bristol Crown Ct before May J
 - High Public Profile
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R v F

- Murder trial involving the stabbing of an associate.
- Issues relating to specific intent and self defence
- Issues involving toxicology and pathology

R v KJS

- 3-month high profile murder
- Acting for the first defendant and only one charged with murder in an 8 handed trial
- Case involved thousands of hours of CCTV and complex images
- Jury failed to agree

R v O

- 2-month-plus nationally publicised murder
- Acting for the principal defendant in an alleged gang assassination
- Highly complex and detailed analysis of mobile phone evidence

FRAUD, CONSPIRACY

O v U and another

- A very complex Civil Commercial Contempt trial to be listed for 20 days in the High Court in front of a High Court Judge.
- The alleged Contempt [4 in all] arose out of a 47-day High Court Action where there were findings against U.
- Complex legal issues in relation to contempt.
- The case had a complex and wide ranging factual basis, electronic and paper, involving well over 100,000 pages, having to identify the relevant documents, from the totality, and prepare the case for trial not having been in the original trial.

R v

J

- Complex Benefit frauds involving innumerable allegation over 8 plus years
- Large number of lever arch files containing various different frauds with varying names
- Defendant was involved in sacking 4 previous teams and we were able to conclude trial with overall length of some 10 working weeks having taken it over mid trail and with minimum time to prepare and continue without complaint from the defendant during trial.

R v M

- \$100+ million international boiler room fraud (said to be largest ever), involving four continents
 - Representing the accountant, who moved the funds across the world
 - 3-month trial prosecuted by the SFO
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FSA v D

- Complex boiler room fraud representing the internal company accountant who was alleged to have run numerous bank accounts.
- International high-profile fraud involving six different countries.
- £28m involved through different companies, some of which had the Defendant as Company Director/Secretary • Virtually paperless case
- 4-month trial after which every other co-defendant convicted on all counts, but Dingley acquitted of all counts.

SFO v D

- Advance fee fraud c.£12m, rent fraud, ramping fraud and money laundering
- Representing the main defendant
- 4-month trial prosecuted by the SFO
- Largely paperless case where extensive material kept in encrypted form

Contact Details

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Offices in Cardiff, Swansea, Pontypridd, Cheltenham, Darlington & London. Available to meet solicitors and clients at any convenient location.