Christopher Whitehouse



YEAR OF CALL 1997

'A compelling advocate with a fiery intellect... A formidable opponent' - The Legal 500.

Chris is a leading junor who was shorlisted by the Legal 500 for crime junior of the year 2026. He is instructed in the most serious and heavyweight criminal cases including murder, serious volence, fraud and drug conspiracies. He has given lectures at HM Treasury on topics of fraud, crypocurrency and data encryption in organised crime.

LEADING JUNIOR Legal500 NITED KINGDO 2026

Chambers RANKED IN UK Bar 2026 Christopher Whitehouse

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A 'powerful and commanding advocate... with a quick sense of humour and wit' (Chambers and Partners) and an 'exceptional advocate' (Legal 500), Chris has a strong reputation for winning cases against the odds.

His caseload includes substantial recent cases involving cryptocurrency fraud, money laundering and international drug smuggling.

He is ranked as a leading junior in both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 for seven succesive years:

- “Christopher does a lot of good work and has great client handling skills. He’s very persuasive in court.”
- “Chris is a hardworking barrister with a thorough and meticulous approach to complex cases.” Chris is also ranked in Fraud and white-collar crime.
- 'Chris has a devastating command of the details in cases... A real class act'
- 'Chris is a magnificent advocate who commands the respect of the court and grips jurors attention in a way that irresistibly invites justice for his client.

- 'Chris has an unruffled approach that stands him out from his peers, and his tactical abilities during a trial are first-rate.'
- 'Persuasive, intelligent and at the top of his game.'

Chris's cases often turn upon expert evidence such as DNA, fingerprinting, telephone cell-site, cryptocurrency and computing.

He is known for his client care and his dedication to defending minority groups, especially members of the LGBT+ community. He has turned his experience in Mental Health Tribunals to the service of those with complex needs or suffering mental impairment.

Area of Practice

- Murder and serious gang violence
- Fraud, especially digital fraud
- Money-laundering, including cryto assests
- Large scale drugs conspiracies
- Court of Appeal cases, including historic miscarriages of justice.

Notable Cases

Murder and serious violence

R v K - Luton Crown Court - attempted murder

Leading counsel for the first defendant in an alleged revenge attack where the victim was targeted, isolated and a stabbed nine times with samuri swords. The issue was idenfitifcation and Chris successfuly argued that cell-site evidence should not go before the jury due to late-service by the prosecution.

R v R - Kingston Crown Court - attempted murder

Chris secured the only not guilty verdicts in a joint enterprise machette attack between rival gangs. The 16-year-old defendant was the only one of six defendants to be acquittal of all charges, despite being the only one arrested at the scene. He could be seen on CCTV chasing a rival gang member before he was stabbed, and fleeing with the attackers. The defendant's case was that he did not know what his co-defendants had planned.

R v F – Snaresbrook Crown Court – attempted murder

Chris secured the acquiital of the defendant of attempted murdered, where he gave evidence that the victim must

have received his injuries at the hands of unknown strangers just moments before the defendant arrived at the scene.

R v S – Central Criminal Court – multi-handed murder

The trial of a multi-defendant revenge murder, heard at the Old Bailey over three months. The killing was the tragic culmination of tit-for-tat incidents over many months between rival groups.

The case involved complex issues of DNA and telephone cell-site, which placed the defendant at the scene.A former co-defendant ('M') turned Queen's Evidence before trial and testified against his co-accused. Chris and Queen's Counsel managed to unearth sections of CCTV which had been entirely missed by the murder squad. These were deployed in cross-examination to destroy M's alibi, showing that M had in fact been following the victim prior to the murder.Read BBC articleRead Mirror articleRead news article

R v N – Central Criminal Court – gangland attempted murder

A multi-defendant revenge attack where the defendants were alleged to have been on a 'ride-out' with a car full of deadly weapons, including a shot gun, axe and zombie knife. A high speed chase took place in which three SO19 firearms officers alleged they had been fired upon. Attempted murder charges were dropped when it was proved that the shotgun had not been fired.The trial on conspiracy to commit GBH revolved around expert evidence of gang culture and postcode rivalries, drill-music lyrics and YouTube videos.Read BBC articleRead the Standard article

R v A – Central Criminal Court – attempted murder

Attempted murder trial where the victim was stabbed eight times in a confrontation at a private party. The defendant (who was trans) had previously been the victim of anti-trans violence and had bought the knife for their own protection.

R v G and others – Central Criminal Court – multi-handed murder

Multi-handed 'revenge' murder, raising complex issues of legal privilege and joint enterprise (pre-R-v-Jogee).

Financial Crime

Operation Eider 2 - Southwark Crown Court (ongoing)

Three month fraud trial where HMRC is said to have been defrauded by £30million in unpaid VAT and CIS (construction industry scheme) payments.

Operation x (ongoing)

International operation (FBI, NCA etc) into child sexual abuse material on the Dark Web, engaging mutiple jurisdirtions,

crytocurrency tracing, VPNs and digital encryption.

Operation Dalmas – Kingston Crown Court – £12m tax fraud

Leading counsel in this four-month, multi-defendant trial alleging tax fraud and money laundering.

Operation Mutisia – Central Criminal Court – £6m diversion fraud

Leading counsel in an international diversion fraud and money laundering conspiracy prosecuted by the National Crime Agency.The defendant was alleged to have been the leading figure in a criminal conspiracy covering multiple jurisdictions and at least 12 corporations over three years.The case involved expert computer evidence, use of VPNs (Virtual Private Networks), telephone, Whatsapp, Skype and social media messaging evidence. Read the Standard article

R v K – Southwark Crown Court – BBC Panorama immigration sting

Instructed for the first defendant in a multi-handed fraud which arose from BBC Panorama's investigation of industrial-scale immigration fraud (aired on TV in 2018).The prosecution alleged that the defendant and his company had manipulated hundreds of immigration tests for money. The case involved undercover footage at examination centres where fake exam-sitters were used in place of the real applicants, and where multiple-choice answers were provided to applicants as they sat the tests.The jury failed to agree on the defendant at his frist trial, leading to a second trial at Southwark Crown Court before a fresh jury.

General Crime

Operation Dybek - Encro and international drug-trafficking conspiracy (7 months)

Leading counsel in this seven-month international drug trafficking case which involved quantities of class-A drugs in excess of one tonne.

The trial incldued mutiple arguments on the admissibility of Encro evidence and of late-arising telephone evidence.

R v D- Modern Slavery trial

Leading counsel in this 3-month modern slavery / human-trafficking case where five victims were alleged to be held in servitude for up to five years whilst working in plain sight at MacDonalds.

R v D - Court of Appeal - conspriacy to supply drugs

Chris successfully overtunrned the defendant's conviction for conspiring (with others who were also convicted) to

supply cannabis across the north of England. Other counsel had represented the defendant at trial. Chris secured his release on bail and the matter was set down for a re-trial.

When the case was heard before a fresh jury at Middlesbrough Crown Court, Chris secured a uninimous not guilty verdict.

R v D and others - Central Criminal Court – people-trafficking

A high-profile people-trafficking consiracy heard over two months at the Old Bailey. The group were alleged to have conspired to bring scores of illegal migrants from France to the UK in small boats. On one occasion, a boat carrying 18 Albanian migrants got into trouble and had to be rescued by the coastguard. Read BBC article

R v X - Central Criminal Court – blackmail

A case that involved the attempted blackmail of a sitting Crown Court Judge, where electroninc threats had been concealed behind a wall of VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) and which led to a National Crime Agency investigation in multiple jurisdictions.

The trial was presided over by a High Court Judge at the Central Criminal Court and involved complex argumentts on Abuse-of-Process and Fitness-to-Plead. The defendant, who was highly vulnerable and suffering from PTSD, was found unfit to stand trial. At a trial of issue, Chris secured a unanimous verdict from the jury that the defendant had not been responsible for the threats.

R v W - Blackfriars Crown Court – robbery/firearms

A unique and complex robbery case where the defendant and their girlfriend [sic] were alleged to have lured a man to their shared home using an internet dating site. They drugged him into unconciosuness, took his car (and his identity) and used them in an aborted plan to commit a late-night revenge attack on a third-party. When stopped by police, the car contained home-made balaclavas, plastic wrist-ties and a stun gun disguised as a torch.The case involved a complex cut-throat defence between defendants but also invovled sensitive issues of sex, consent and trans-gender identity.

Memberships

Professional Memberships

- Gray's Inn
- Criminal Bar Association

- Justis
- Amnesty International

Education

- University of East Anglia (1992-1996) LLB Degree (2:1)
- Masters in International Law and Human Rights (LIM) - University of Lund, Sweden 1997

Other Information

Lectures and articles

“Fraud, Defence and Disclosure” : lecture delivered to the Cabinet Office in HM Treasury.

"Controlling or Coercive Domestic Abuse" : On-line talk delivered to Top Tier family law firm Rayden Solicitors with Michael Herford of Legal Lifelines.

He has published articles on 'Witnesses and Victims of Crime: A Survival Guide" (2020) a short guide to police stop and search powers.