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Call 1992

Personal

I was born in 1962. I was raised and educated in Liverpool until I went to Oxford at 18. I had 3 hugely enjoyable years there including captaining my college football team for 2 out of the 3 years. Whilst at Oxford, I contemplated a career in teaching law. However, at the end of my time there, I found myself seduced by the City and became a Eurobond fund manager with the merchant bankers Robert Fleming and Co (then the second largest UK fund managers and owners of the Save and Prosper Group). It struck me as bizarre then, and strikes me as even more bizarre now, that a 21 year old whose only financial experience was in running up his own huge overdraft should be trusted to invest millions of pounds of other people's money. Nonetheless, trusted I was, and on one glorious afternoon got to spend over £250,000,000 of someone else's hard earned cash as I converted a percentage of all Fleming's UK pension funds into deutschmarks to protect against the imminent collapse of the pound. This was the City at the height of the 80s boom and was a very exciting time for everyone, not least the young Tim Evans. However, unlike Nick Leeson, I had enough financial foresight to recognise that the markets would probably prosper more without me.

I left the City to do a research degree at UEA, having kept my hand to some extent 'in' with academic law by studying for an LL.M part time at UCL. After a City salary, the research grant of a few thousand pounds and the miserly payment for teaching part time on the LL.B degree were a bit of a shock to my financial system. Playing football successfully for the university first team was some compensation. I suppose that being able to research full time on 'proprietary estoppel and the constructive trust as flexible equitable remedies' also softened the blow (although I have to say that looking back I can't quite see how). By the time my year at UEA was coming to a close, I realised that I enjoyed teaching - which is I suppose advocacy of a sort - and began to look for lecturing jobs.

I was soon offered a job at Liverpool University and taught law there from 1987-1991. My subjects were land law, equity and trusts, intellectual property, English legal system and tax. I had numerous articles on esoteric topics published by magazines such as the Conveyancer. I enjoyed the teaching immensely but, despite being in the early stages of negotiating a book contract with a publisher, realised that research and writing were not really for me. Brian Leveson QC (as he then was), who I regularly met and occasionally sparred with at Law Faculty Board Meetings, suggested that I should go to the Bar.

Chambers may well have taken me under false pretences. At a time when Chambers were developing what is now an immensely powerful commercial team, it may be that I might have allowed people to form the impression that I was keen to become a commercial barrister. In stressing my chancery academic background, I may perhaps have implied that I was keen immerse myself in that sort of work at the Bar. If so,

some people may well have been shocked when at the end of my pupillage I came clean and admitted that what I really wanted to do was crime. Henry Globe, now His Honour Judge Globe Q.C., Recorder of Liverpool, was my pupil master and must shoulder some of the blame. It was after all he who showed me just how exciting a top-drawer criminal practice could be. Some people might, I suppose, call getting into Chambers under semi-false pretences a deception or a trick or worse. Personally, I have always preferred to call it advocacy.

It may be that advocacy also helped me woo and marry Caroline, my wife (and if so, it is by a distance the best work I have ever done). We have 2 daughters - Laura born in 1997 and Louisa born in 1999. We live in a 17th century house in a small village. I serve that village, and a number of others like it, on a District Council which is one of the few independent controlled councils in the country. Local politics is to some extent a hobby (albeit one I take very seriously), along with walking and cycling with my family, gardening, very occasional games of golf and eating out.

I regard myself as lucky to be a barrister in the sense that there can be few more challenging and stimulating careers. What was said about the plays of Shakespeare is certainly true of a career at the criminal bar:- all human life is here. And, it has to be said, quite a lot of inhuman life as well...

Practice

My practice is now exclusively in crime. I both prosecute and defend and regard it as very useful to do both.

I have both prosecuted and defended most of the offences in the criminal calendar, and specifically amongst others, murders, attempted murders, manslaughters, rapes and other serious sexual offences, firearms offences, frauds, major car ringing and car clocking cases, all varieties of arson, major drugs importation and supply cases, major 'bootlegging' cases, causing death by dangerous driving, serious assaults and major public order offences. I have prosecuted for HM Customs and Excise, the Department for work and Pensions and the DTI, amongst others. I have conducted health and safety prosecutions involving deaths (including one particularly complex case for Liverpool City Council involving asphyxiation by nitrogen scheduled to last 6 weeks). I have wide experience of video link trials. I have experience of prosecuting silks.

I firmly believe that both lay and professional clients should receive clear and firm advice and that they get it from me. I will, nonetheless, whatever my views of the merits of a particular case, always pursue the instructions I receive with vigour. I hope that as an opponent I am hard but fair. I believe my record shows me to win significantly more cases than I lose. Whatever the case, whatever its strengths and weaknesses, losing a trial is not an experience I enjoy.

I am happy to discuss cases and give advice over the telephone, in conference or in writing. I am also happy to discuss any aspects of my practice or experience, or anything contained in the above profile. Should you wish to discuss any matters with me, I would be grateful if you would in the first instance make contact with me through my clerks at Chambers.