

John Richard Jones QC

Call 1981 | Silk 2002



Clerks' Details

 Nick Buckley
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 Kate Masher
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Appointments

- Recorder
- Visiting lecturer at the University of Lancaster

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Northern Circuit

Education

- LL.B (University of Liverpool)
Middle Temple

Health & Safety CV

Overview

From the foundations of a well-established criminal practice, John has developed a strong professional disciplinary and regulatory practice with particular expertise in the health and safety field.

His work in the regulatory field includes environmental work in defending prosecutions brought by the Environmental Agency for illegal waste management and damage to water courses.

John represents employers, companies, directors, individuals and public bodies on the full spectrum of health and safety matters, including:

- Advice following work-related deaths;
- Response to investigations by HSE, Department of the Environment and Local Authority enforcement for environmental, health & safety issues;
- Statutory powers under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA) and pre-charge advice;
- Breach of HSWA and associated health and safety regulations;
- Trading Standards work for individual and corporate clients;
- Oppressive sales methods, misleading pricing and CPUT breaches;
- Corporate Manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter; company, directors, employer and employee criminal liability.

John is an incisive advocate known for his formidable ability in the courtroom. He is equally at home with detailed cross examination as he is in ensuring the jury fully understands with complete clarity, the issue he is raising. He is a calm, yet persuasive presence who, through years of heavyweight, hard-hitting advocacy is widely respected by opponents, juries and judges alike.

He is the only Silk to be ranked in the practice area Regulatory, Health and Safety, and Licensing in the Northern Circuit in The Legal 500 2021 Guide.

Recommendations

“John Jones QC is regularly instructed by the Firm because he is an effective and powerful advocate representing our clients in the most serious of cases to be heard throughout England and Wales.

John’s approach to preparation is meticulous, thorough and methodical, identifying evidential weaknesses in our opponent’s case to be pressed home by him to win the trial.

John’s client care is second to none, with regular and meaningful conferences with our clients, proceeding to navigate them through the complexity of the evidence and law in an easy to understand manner but moreover so the client is best prepared when giving evidence at trial.

It is not surprising that John’s caseload in recent years has included representing client’s faced with Murder, Terrorism and high value Money Laundering allegations.

John excels as Queen’s Counsel for all the above reasons but also because his character and personality always shine through. He is naturally committed and hardworking with a genuine interest in working for our client as well as being incredibly easy to work with, being approachable and accessible by phone or in person.

You want Queen’s Counsel and you want the best – choose John Jones QC.”

Nasir Hafezi LLB MA

Solicitor at Robert Lizar Solicitors

“John scores on every front. His paperwork is absolutely first class; logical, lucid, well presented, well ordered and above all totally to the point. His thorough preparation is evidenced by a relaxed but highly effective courtroom presentation. Be it in forensic cross examination of experts, or chatting things through with the jury, his sheer command of the English language is a joy to witness. All in all a sound choice, but with an added advantage, which any solicitor will understand he is a natural team leader who takes the time to listen.”

Mike Mackey, Senior Partner, Burton Copeland

“John is a superb advocate and his case and trial preparations are exceptional and very thorough. His interest and commitment to the client’s cause always shines through. John is never afraid of giving difficult advice to a client and he doesn’t shy away from issues which need addressing. John thinks strategically from the outset and always ensures that my clients understand any difficulties they may face and they are thus able to make decisions based on the very best advice available.”

Jason Cropper, Partner, Regulatory Investigations and Prosecutions, TLT LLP

Consistently ranked in the legal directories, Chambers UK and the Legal 500, John is described as a “heavy hitting silk” and is praised for his “formidable reputation as an advocate”. Sample references from the directories include:

“He is brilliant - extremely thorough and so clever.”

“He is brilliant, extremely thorough and so clever.” “John has an excellent manner and builds up a rapport with the client. He is proactive and delivers outstanding closing speeches.” “He is hard-working and gets good results.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“Has an excellent manner and builds up a rapport with clients. He is proactive and delivers outstanding closing speeches.” “A pugnacious advocate, the proverbial iron fist in a velvet glove.”

“A top-drawer silk with a very strong work ethic.” “He lives and breathes financial crime.” “A meticulous barrister and an excellent jury advocate. He’s very personable and is someone who can bring himself to the jury’s level and explain things in a non-technical way, while getting across some very pertinent and technical points.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“He’s very thorough, hard-working and gets good results.” “He works tirelessly to achieve the best results for his clients; he’s a very clever advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“He’s an excellent advocate who has an outstanding command of the courtroom. He’s diligent in his preparation for complex and lengthy trials.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“Specialises in serious crime and fraud work, with particular expertise in money laundering, drugs and sexual offences. Regularly involved in cases arising out of domestic terrorism.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“A really powerful trial advocate. His attention to detail is remarkable and he has a very caring approach to the lay clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

“Handles serious fraud and money laundering defence work. Solicitors appreciate his meticulous approach” “He is very good on his feet and commands a lot of respect from Barristers and Judges” “He is extremely hardworking and good with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2014

John is cited as a “leading Silk” in both crime and regulatory work in the Legal 500 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018/19, 2020 and 2021.

Crime:

“A formidable advocate whose attention to detail is second-to-none.”

The Legal 500, 2021

“Very hard-working and always gives good turnaround of instructions.”

The Legal 500, 2020

“A specialist in criminal law.”

The Legal 500, 2018/19

“An iron fist in a velvet glove.”

The Legal 500, 2017

“Experienced in fraud and all other white collar crime.”

The Legal 500, 2016

“His advocacy is calm and precise, and his gravitas with the judge makes him very persuasive.”

The Legal 500, 2015

Regulatory/Health and Safety/Environment work:

“Has the ability to lead a team whilst listening to instructions given. Excellent with clients. Extremely hard working, an effective advocate who is also lucid in his written submissions.”

The Legal 500, 2021

“Very hard-working and always turns around work in good time.”

The Legal 500, 2020

“Very experienced across a range of health and safety cases.”

The Legal 500, 2018/19

“A formidable lawyer.”

The Legal 500, 2017

“Defends actions brought by regulators, including the H.S.E and the environment Agency”.

The Legal 500, 2016

“He adopts an utterly fearless and robust approach.”

The Legal 500, 2015

Cases

HSE v Liverpool City Council and Tarmac PLC - Retained by the local authority in a case involving the death of a pedestrian attempting to cross the highway during the time a road was being re surfaced. LCC were the highway authority who had appointed Tarmac as their authorized contractor. Complex issues of causation due to the speed of the car that struck the pedestrian whilst travelling through the road works. CDM issues.

R v Valmet Limited - Case involved multiple deaths of workers whilst repairing machinery. Deaths caused by failures to adequately isolate power sources. Complex case due to the multi-faceted causation of the accident with devastating results and multiple deaths. Case required particularly sensitive handling due to the emergence of evidence to the effect that the workmen involved had been specifically warned as to the need for isolation of machinery. These warnings were of particular significance given the fact that other methods of power isolation were proven to be ineffective.

HSE v L and J - Prosecution of two charitable foundations and Church institutions in consequence of their alleged failures in the supervision of a young man killed in a fall from height in an accident at their premises. Complex issues of charitable governance and corporate responsibility. Legal issues including the reverse burden of proof.

HSE v E and F - Defence of two serving police officers in consequence of an incident during a training exercise when a colleague was accidentally shot and killed. Their Chief Constable was also prosecuted. Prosecution under the Health and Safety at Work Act on the basis that the rehearsal of the tactic, the subject of the training exercise, was conducted in an unsafe way due to the use of live ammunition in combination with role players in circumstances where the participants in the exercise would or could lapse into a state whereby the training exercise became, in their minds and perception, a circumstance of reality. The case was one of considerable complexity in consequence of the anonymity of the defendants and witnesses and the need to conduct a significant proportion of the case in the absence of the public and media due to the sensitivity of the issues in the case, the tactics used and the material under review. The analysis of post and pre-accident tactics and behaviour was a cornerstone of the case.

R v Renton - The case involved the death of a young man who had been lifted on the forks of a fork lift truck (a flexi truck). The purpose was to check the stock and positioning of pallets in the warehouse. The correct procedure was said to be to lift down each and every individual pallet rather than lifting up a man to check the individual racks upon which the pallets were placed. The young man so lifted on the forks was crushed against a protruding steel member in a suspended roof. Defendant charged with manslaughter. Evidence showed he was merely following a condoned but bad work practice which was originally said by the Prosecution not to have existed but which disclosure and evidence revealed to be present and adopted by more senior members of the employers' staff. Case dismissed at preparatory hearing.

TRADING STANDARDS WORK

Dudley Trading Standards v Summit Roof guard – prosecution of alleged offences of fraud committed by a company, its directors and employees arising out of the sale of double glazing and associated roof line products. The allegations concerned pricing and the sales methods used. Case was dismissed upon a submission of no case in consequence of the inability of the prosecution to prove dishonesty notwithstanding the fact that the sales methods may have been aggressive and/or unacceptable.

Dudley Trading Standards v Sarah Beadle - Prosecution of the director of a double glazing and roofline company for alleged breaches of the CPUT Regulations. Having failed against the company the Prosecution mounted a case against certain directors and sales people. Reverse burden of proof case. Case only partially successful and director's acquitted of significant counts in what was said to be the largest prosecution of its type.