

Ian Harris

Call 1990



Clerks' Details

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Appointments

- Crown Court Recorder with Class II (Serious Sexual Offences) Authorisation
- Part-time Judge of Mental Health Tribunal with additional membership of Restricted Patients Panel
- Legal Aid Agency Independent Financial Adjudicator

Beyond the Bar

Married with three children Ian's interests include reading, theatre, travel, cycling and skiing.

Criminal Overview

A highly experienced and highly acclaimed junior by Chambers and Partners as a leader in the criminal field, Ian is used to handling heavy and complex cases across the entire criminal spectrum, often leading second juniors in both prosecution and defence trials. He is briefed in many drugs, fraud and violence cases and has acted in many murder and gangland conspiracies, as well as serious sexual offences.

He is regularly briefed in the Court of Appeal and has represented the prosecution on murder appeals (most recently in 2015 when a hearsay point between co-defendants was argued) and many appellants on conviction and sentence appeals.

Ian's regulatory work involves representing solicitors. He has extensive experience of the workings of solicitors' practices, having originally qualified as a solicitor in 1979 and working for different firms before becoming an equity partner for 8 years.

Recommendations

Legal Directories

“Ian Harris is particularly active on large-scale fraud matters, often tackling cases with a significant amount of highly technical and complex evidence to be considered.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“He’s well liked by judges and is a very impressive advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“Ian is brilliant with people and has a wealth of experience. He is a master craftsman in the court room and is an exceptional jury advocate.”

The Legal 500 2021

“Very good on his feet and always well prepared.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“He has significant experience of advocacy at the appellate level.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“Ian has excellent client care skills and a high standard of advocacy.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“Particularly active on large-scale fraud matters, often tackling cases with a significant amount of highly technical and complex evidence to be considered.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“He prosecutes and defends the full scope of criminal offences, and has appeared as lead junior in significant cases.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

Regularly acts as lead junior in complex criminal cases. He is recommended for matters involving drugs conspiracies and murder. Expertise: “He is a senior junior who comes with the gravitas you would expect. He’s not fazed by any particular issue and has a good eye for detail.” “He is thorough and conscientious, presents brilliantly in court, and has a lovely way with the jury.”

Chambers and Partners 2015

“Ian Harris has impressed solicitors with his work handling legal and factually complex cases. He was able to predict the Crown’s approach to the case, and effectively negate their points before they could become a problem.”

Chambers and Partners 2014

Client Testimonials

I have instructed Mr Harris for over 20 years as a highly experienced junior barrister who often leads in significant, complex, multi-defendant cases reflecting a high standard of advocacy and case preparation. Ian has an ability to assimilate and understand the significance of vast quantities of document exhibits, and is equipped to deal with the requirements of representing lay clients who face long and complex trials. He is one of the best barristers I know.

Edward Jones, Crown Court manager at Cobleys

What a fantastic result! Thank you so much for all your efforts on our client's behalf. I am well aware that you have worked night and day on this and really have gone the extra mile to ensure you knew the case inside out. I am sure that is why you have achieved the result you have today and I am delighted!

Rachel Adamson, Slater & Gordon (following acquittal in Land Banking Fraud)

We regularly instruct Ian in a variety of serious criminal cases, including sexual offences, heavy drugs and robbery conspiracies and murder. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience and an eye for detail even in the most complex matters. He is extremely accessible and has an excellent rapport with clients, providing clear and cogent advice in a sympathetic manner. He is trusted by the Judges and has an excellent jury style, evidenced by the results he gets.

Julie Murphy, Senior Advocate at ABR Solicitors

Cases

SEXUAL OFFENCES

R v G (2018) – alleged campaign of historical rapes of daughter going back 30 years. Detailed disclosure applications led to over 14 years' medical, social service and psychiatric records being disclosed. After an abortive first trial, defence expert evidence showed that complainant 'significantly unreliable'. Crown eventually offered no evidence and Judge directed an enquiry into CPS approach to disclosure.

R v W (2017) – successful defence of Polish National charged with raping a street worker.

R v G (2016) – successful defence of man charged with indecently assaulting a child; various defence applications obtained disclosure of CCTV that excluded G from any criminal involvement.

R v C (2017) – client acquitted of historic indecent assault allegedly when he was babysitting.

R v B (2018) – Male client acquitted of raping employee. Diversity issues required very sensitive handling. Applications for disclosure of medical records allowed and cast doubt on complainant's version of events. Successful applications made to adduce complainant's character; leave granted to cross-examine her on previous sexual history (pursuant to s. 41 YJCE 1999).

ANONYMISED CROWN COURT WORK IN RECENT YEARS INCLUDES:

R v W (2016) - Acted for defendant in multi-million pound 'Land Banking' and money laundering conspiracies. Acquitted by judicial direction following successful submission of no case to answer after several weeks of evidence.

R. N (2015) - Acted for company director in conspiracy to defraud local Councils of monies for educational purposes. Following detailed disclosure requests prosecution offered no evidence against him during first week of potentially lengthy trial.

R. v E (2014/15) - Acted for company director in multi-million pound conspiracy to defraud (pension monies); Judge stopped case following defence submissions. Appeared in CA when prosecution appealed this ruling which was upheld and defendant acquitted.

R v W (2014) - Acted for defendant in lengthy multi-handed case of conspiracies to assist prisoners to escape (armed escape from prison vehicles) and to possess firearms. Acquitted of firearms conspiracy.

FRAUD (EXAMPLES OF VERY HIGH VALUE ALLEGATIONS)

May 2016 – R v DW and 10 others - acquittal on submission of no case to answer 'land banking' fraud; acted for director of various companies allegedly involved in complex multi-million pound conspiracy.

R v B and others. Defence leading junior, MTIC 'carousel' fraud.

R v T and others. defence leading junior, diversion fraud. 3 month trial.

R v M and others. Defence leading junior, VAT fraud. Significant diversity issues, necessitating expert evidence relating to the travelling community. VHCC regulated.

R v E and others. ('Cockle pickers'). Led defence junior, category 2 fraud; defendant a businessman facilitating illegal immigration; extensive research into business and accountancy records involving experts and international considerations. 6-month trial, subject to VHCC regulations.

R v C and others. Leading defence junior. ILA (individual learning account) fraud on Government. VHCC regulated.

R v F and others. Leading defence junior, fraud on Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council. VHCC regulated.

R v E and Others. Defence junior in pension fraud. Submission of 'no case' allowed by Judge, and Prosecution appeal under S. 58 C3A 2003 dismissed by Court of Appeal.

R v C and others (2015) Defended in 9 week tachograph fraud – defendant acquitted.

R v N and others (2015) Education and tax fraud

HOMICIDE

R v S. Led junior in triple murder by burning. R v J. Led junior, double murder.

R v Q. Murder and dismemberment of wife, followed by television appeals for her return. Led junior.

R v D. Prosecution; murder of pensioner by her carer. Led junior, significant scientific and financial evidence requiring meticulous preparation and presentation. R v F. Junior alone, manslaughter, Crown Court and Court of Appeal.

R v F. Prosecution – murder and attempt murder, led in Crown Court, alone in CA re tariff for knife killings.

Rao – prosecution double murder, significant psychiatric issues; junior alone, section 37/41 Restriction Order imposed.

R v B and others (2015) three handed led prosecution murder for gain, body never found. Preparation and presentation of many years of very detailed financial evidence of all relevant parties and presentation of case unled in CoA.

DRUGS

R v W and others. Prosecution. Class A importations from Dominican Republic. R v K and others. Defence. Class A importations and firearms. VHCC regulated.

R v B & others. Defence. Class A importations. Leading junior, in Crown Court and retrial, and conviction appeal in Court of Appeal. Contested confiscation proceedings. VHCC regulated.

R v T and others. Prosecution. Turkish Class A conspiracy, significant international elements in consequent contested confiscation proceedings.

R v T and others. Class A conspiracy, importations from Holland and Turkey. VHCC regulated.

R v B. Prosecution of serious class A dealers and linked money laundering trials.

Operations P 1 and 2 (2014/14). Leading junior in multi-handed drugs/money laundering prosecutions.

Operation C (2013/14). Prosecution of series of multi-handed class A & class B conspiracies.

VIOLENCE

R v B Prosecution of Premiership footballer for assaults in Liverpool.

R v M. Prosecution of former deputy leader of Sefton Council for attempted murder, both in Crown Court and Court of Appeal.

R v Y. Defence of adult defendant who perverted course of justice following the shooting and killing of the child victim of the Norris Green and Croxteth gang wars. R v H. Defence of man charged with series of 'first division' armed robberies.

R v J. Defence of man charged with organising grenade attack on a prosecution witness's house.

R v W. Defence of defendant charged with conspiracies arising out of armed attack on prison van to facilitate escape of 2 dangerous prisoners.

R v W and others; Defended in 3 handed cut-throat attempt murder. Client convicted of s. 20 wounding and received 2 years' imprisonment; co-defendants convicted of attempted murder - 'assassins trying to take over rival's drugs business' – per HH Judge Thomas QC – sentenced to life imprisonment.

R v W (2015) Successful defence of only acquitted defendant in attempted murder cut throat case.

PSYCHIATRIC ISSUES

R v C. Defence murder, preparation of psychiatric and psychological evidence for special measures for severely disabled defendant.

R v J; defence of psychiatrically damaged individual charged with £ ¼ million 'insider' fraud on Building Society.

R v B. Prosecution of trial of issue of fitness to plead and trial of acts of defendant charged with armed kidnapping.

R v R as (as above)

R v G. Junior for defence of man who killed his mother having been released from a previous sentence imposed for manslaughter of his father (diminished) and wounding his mother. S. 45A (hybrid) Order imposed.