

Michael Lavery

Call 1990



Clerks' Details

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Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association

Criminal CV

Overview

Michael has an established, heavyweight and successful criminal practice which involves representing those accused of the most serious of offences including murder, fraud and large scale drug conspiracies.

He is predominantly instructed for the defence, although he is a Category 4 and specialist rape prosecutor.

He has been appointed as Leading Counsel in numerous cases and has been involved in some of the most notorious cases nationally, from the Strangeways riots of the early 90's, numerous 'Gunchester' murder trials, to the infamous serial killer Dale Cregan. He recently defended Thomas Mair, the killer of the MP, Jo Cox.

Michael presents a straightforward view of each case, quickly bringing the real issues into sharp relief, and advising accordingly.

Michael is an expert in cases where fraudulent activity is alleged. He has extensive experience in defending clients charged with fraud and has been instructed on MTIC, eBay, reverse transaction and Ponzi frauds.

Current instructions include:

- Acting in a high-profile fraud case where the fraud exceeds £150m;
- A further Ponzi style fraud worth in excess of £250m;
- A £25m racketeering fraud involving the formation of dummy companies;
- Leading Counsel in a substantial 6 month fraud trial later in 2017 where the value of the fraud runs into many millions of pounds;
- Acting for a Solicitor charged with fraud;
- Defending a corporate financier alleged to be involved in the largest HMRC prosecution in respect of Tax evasion schemes, trial listed for 8 months

Recommendations

“He is extremely good with clients and very astute.” “He is a true advocate.” “Very pleasant to deal with.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“He is a real people person; he is great with a jury and very good in conference too.” “Very good with the clients, realistic and a safe pair of hands.” “He is just excellent in relation to serious and complex crime cases. He is down to earth and very efficient.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“He’s a fantastic jury advocate.” “A fantastic barrister - he is incredibly practical and very, very sharp in identifying the weaknesses in a case.” “He’s a lovely advocate and is very jury-friendly. He is so organised and he reacts to things extremely quickly.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“He has the ability to deal with difficult clients and is down to earth but tactically astute.” “He is an excellent junior. He is very good with both clients and juries.” “He is excellent; he has a real attention to detail, is very polished and confident in court and puts clients at ease. He’s a top-notch barrister.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“He works very well with those instructing him to ensure his client’s interests are always served through his robust advice.” “Michael has exceptional knowledge and has an ability to relate to his clients which immediately puts them at ease.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“A very smooth speaker and operator, he is very client-friendly and very engaging.” “A no-nonsense and very able barrister.” “Charming, hard-working and diligent.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“He does the heavyweight work.” “I would be happy to have him representing me, he’s a well-respected junior.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

“Unflappable with outstanding judgement. Michael carries the confidence of client and solicitors at all times.” “Michael is extremely approachable with clients; he knows how to put them at ease and he has great empathy with them. His knowledge of the criminal law and procedure is second to none and he thoroughly prepares all cases. He is a force to be reckoned with in a court room.”

The Legal 500 2022

“He is excellent with attention to detail, very methodical, approachable and hands on. Very good with clients, down to earth and gives pragmatic and honest advice even in difficult situations. Always ready for trials, organised and builds good Solicitor-Counsel

relationships.” “A real people person, which translates effectively in his performance before a jury.”

The Legal 500 2021

“Always goes the extra mile for his clients.” “Technically excellent but also able to give pragmatic advice to clients.”

The Legal 500 2020

“Recommended for a wide spectrum of regulatory matters.”

The Legal 500 2018/19

“He puts the client before everything.” “An impeccable courtroom performer.”

The Legal 500 2017

“At the forefront of regulatory/health and safety work on the Northern Circuit.”

The Legal 500 2016