Richard Littler KC

Call 1994 | Silk 2019

Clerks

Nick Buckley
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Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- ARDL
- PPA

Education

- LLB Manchester University
- Inn: Grays

Criminal

Richard is a criminal silk described by Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 as “exceptionally bright”, “a stand out name”, “ a leading name in his field” and “ has a wonderful calming manner with clients.” He is simply outstanding in front of a jury, has exceptional advocacy skills and his wealth of experience is clear to see. He is Head of Manchester Exchange Chambers Criminal Department.

Criminal Cases

Notable cases in silk include the largest rape case in world history (Sinaga), the largest Drug Importation in UK history (Peers), the largest Money Laundering Case in UK history (Frankel) and the largest HMRC tax avoidance case in legal history (Hirst).

R v RM (2026) – Securing another acquittal for murder in a multi handed joint enterprise trial concerning a juvenile defendant involved in the chase with the stabber whilst wearing balaclava and holding another machete.

Representing A. Murphy (2024) – Secured not guilty verdict for a man charged with possession of an explosive substance with intent to endanger life.

In the matter of the murder of Brianna Ghey (2024) – Defended 16-year-old Eddie Ratcliffe.

Sadiq Al-Lami case (2024) – The acquittal of his client on murder and manslaughter charges.

R v Jonathan Hirst (2019-2024) – Defended and dismissed the largest HMRC tax avoidance case in legal history.

R vs James Johnson (2023) – secured an acquittal for his client on murder and manslaughter charges.

R vs Lynette Myers (2023) – secured the only acquittal in a multi-handed murder, rape and false imprisonment trial lasting 7 weeks.

R v Herish Zandi & Others (2023) 5 defendants charged with the murder of one man and a separate causing of grievous bodily harm to another man in a rival business feud. Mid trial after effective cross examination of prosecution witnesses and negotiation between prosecution and the Herish team, not guilty verdicts were returned for both murder and separate s18 matter. Instead this defendant accepted manslaughter on a carefully agreed "loss of control" basis. The result was a comparatively modest sentence.

R v TK (2023) – defending a student in a complex consent rape trial and acquitted.

R v Gregory Frankel (2023) – defending main defendant Mr Frankel in a £260m Money Laundering trial involving Natwest and the son in law of Bernie Ecclestone. Attracting considerable national publicity. Hung Jury following 8 month trial and re-trial now October 2024. This case was vastly complex concerning the gold industry and AML regulations. The case has been described as the largest international money laundering case in UK legal history.

R v Mark Peers (2021-2022) – Defending in the largest Class A importation case in UK legal history. Ongoing.

R v Pharrell Roberts (2022) – defending multiple defendant joint enterprise murder trial lasting for 17 year old defendant in complex cut throat case. The only defendant
acquitted.

R v Anthony Atha (2021) – defending in multi hander murder trial at Bradford Crown Court and again the only one to be acquitted.

R v Denver Walton (2021) – defending 18 year old in a murder trial concerning the fatal stabbing of best friend. Issue self-defence. Acquitted.

R v Reyhnard Sinaga (2020) – defending the world's most prolific sex offender. Success in Appellate court resisting Whole Life Order.

R v Ray Green and Claire Warren (2020) – defending two directors and two companies in a Trading Standards prosecution alleging Fraudulent Trading in a multi-million pound case alleging Directors complicit in misleading consumers nationally in Bi-Fold Industry. Both acquitted.

R v Gabbana (2020) – instructed by the Special Crime and Counter Terrorism Division of the CPS in a complex Appeal Conviction concerning a high profile execution murder in Liverpool and successfully argued against the conviction being unsafe due to a suggested Gateway F bad character misdirection.

R v McKeon (2019) defending Detective Constable in Merseyside Police charged with unauthorised use of the police computer systems for private purpose during her duties in the Major Crime Unit investigating the Kinsella/Paul Massey Murder case. Acquitted.

R v Sinaga 2019 – Leading silk. Largest rape trial in UK history. Defendant received life sentence and the longest sentence in UK history to date for any sexual crime.

R v Forster 2019 – [Murder]. Leading silk client charged with murder and and securing acquittal client having accepted manslaughter.

R v Adriesse Gray 2019 – [Murder]. Leading silk. Guilty plea to murder for Defendant with ADHD arguing mental age of client necessitated a non adult sentencing regime.

R v Christopher Coakley 2019 – [Murder]. Leading Silk securing not guilty to murder client having already accepted manslaughter.

R v Denver Walton 2019 – [Murder] Leading silk in 6 week murder trial and secured an acquittal. This case followed on from and shared many characteristics of the Yousif Maki case.

Recommendations

What do Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 have to say?

“Richard is a very able advocate. He is strong, forceful and does not miss legal points.”

“He’s a super jury advocate.”

“Richard Littler is a first-rate criminal specialist. He’s good with clients and proactive. He’s a calm individual.”
Chambers and Partners 2026

"He is able to get on well with difficult clients and inspires confidence."
The Legal 500, 2026

"Richard has a fabulous manner with his clients and is able to adapt his style from the formality of the court room to that of the conference, communicating advice to client in a practical, understandable, and direct manner. He is a fearless and compelling advocate and does not shy away from making the tough submissions."
The Legal 500, 2025

"Richard is a passionate advocate with a true commitment to those he represents."

"Richard is very easy to work with, provides a great service and gets good outcomes."

"He is very friendly, approachable and has a good manner with clients. He listens and his advocacy in court is fantastic."

"An outstanding advocate, he is extremely hard-working, easy to work with and has great client care."

"Richard is an excellent silk. He is accommodating and approachable with the most vulnerable clients."

"Richard is very friendly and approachable and has a good manner with the client."

"Richard is a very impressive jury advocate, and he is able to take difficult circumstances and make it sound persuasive."

"Richard is a passionate advocate with a true commitment to those he represents."
Chambers and Partners 2025

"Richard is a very hard working silk – his advocacy, both written and verbal, are excellent. He is an excellent advocate that juries warm to, and clients are delighted to have him on their side." **The Legal 500, 2024**

"His attention to detail is great and his advocacy is amazing. He has incredible knowledge of the law." **Chambers and Partners 2024**

Ranked Tier 1 for Professional Disciplinary Law Ranked Tier 2 for Crime (General and Fraud) **The Legal 500, 2023**

"He has a wonderful calming manner with clients." **Chambers and Partners 2023**

"An exceptionally bright KC." "He is a brilliant advocate with an excellent manner with clients." **Chambers and Partners 2022**

"Richard Littler KC is another stand-out name and displays expertise in cases involving terrorism, organised crime and fraud." **The Legal 500, 2022**

"A leading advocate in the criminal and regulatory arena." "His broad practice includes cases of serious violence and terrorism." **The Legal 500, 2021**

"His broad practice includes cases of serious violence and terrorism." **The Legal 500, 2020**

What others say about Richard?

"I have worked with Richard for many years, dealing with some of the most serious and complicated cases. He is fearless in his defence of clients, meticulous in preparation and consistently gets brilliant results." **Damian Wall Senior Partner & Criminal Defence Lawyer Complex Crime.**

"..his attention to detail has been exceptional. The hard work and commitment he gives to the cases is proven by the great results that he receives. His client care is wonderful and the clients not only want to use him again but recommend his services to others, which in itself is a sign of the quality of his work." **Kerry Morgan Senior Partner & Criminal Defence Lawyer Complex Crime.**

Beyond the Bar

Richard has written many published legal articles, regularly presents lectures to fellow professionals, attends schools and universities to meet with students and is currently part of a professional committee advising and contributing towards a government report on ADHD in the Criminal Justice System: A case for Change (a topic Richard has a strong personal interest in).

He is also a keen musician and has played lead guitar in a number of bands performing at venues such as Kendal Calling Festival, the Cavern, Band on the Wall, the Deaf Institute and other well-known venues. He and the charity punk band Red Corner raised money for important charities and performed at the Manchester Legal Awards Ball in 2018.