



Practice Profile

Gregory Fishwick is a leading junior in serious and heavy crime and represents those eligible for public funding and on a private basis. He has been described as an exemplar of the criminal bar and was once told by a client on acquittal that he had, in his words, "saved my life". Furthermore, he has been instructed by the CCRC to deal with cases and refer them to the Court of Appeal whether or not instructed by the lower court.

He has represented people charged with homicide cases that have ranged from gangland shootings to the death of an infant at the hands of a parent. He was instructed very early in his career to defend in the trial of those first accused of the murder of Damilola Taylor (Operation Seale) and obtained a not-guilty verdict.

In the area of serious financial crime, he has successfully defended those accused with boiler room, MTIC, advanced fee, benefit, mortgage and charity frauds as well as those prosecuted by other agencies such as local authorities and Trading Standards.

His practice also includes serious organised crimes from the importation of kilo quantities of drugs to robberies such as the high-profile £53 Million Securitas case, which is still the largest cash seizure in criminal legal history (Operation Deliver).

One of the most resounding comments given in feedback after cases he has been instructed in is that he can engage with any client, fearlessly defend in every case and will always go the extra mile.

Gregory's Privacy Policy can be downloaded [here](#).

Areas of Practice

- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Cyber Crime
- Financial & Corporate Crime
- General Crime
- Homicide
- Military Law
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Road Traffic
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Sexual Offences

Appointments / Memberships

- CBA
- South Eastern Circuit

- Central Criminal Court Bar Mess
- Kent and Sussex Bar Mess

News

Criminal Appeals Seminar

22 April 2024

5KBW Criminal Appeals Unit is delighted to present the first in a series of seminars on appellate matters:

The Criminal Appeal Office and Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) [CACD]

A practical approach to CACD procedure: **Master Alix Beldam KC**, Registrar of Criminal Appeals

Fresh evidence as a ground of appeal (now and in the future): **Paul Taylor KC**, General Editor of Taylor on Criminal Appeals

Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 6pm

Inner Temple Lecture Theatre

Master Beldam KC will discuss the work of the Criminal Appeal Office and the CACD, the procedural framework for launching and pursuing an appeal and the practical issues that often arise.

Paul Taylor KC will analyse the CACD's current approach to grounds of appeal based on fresh evidence. He will also consider potential changes in this area that may follow the recommendations of the Law Commission's Criminal Appeal Project (expected in 2025.)

Please [click here](#) to register your interest in attending this seminar.

Recent Cases

Operation Cullinan 2021

Multi-Company Boiler Room Fraud

Mark Heywood KC leading Gregory Fishwick defended in this multi-company boiler room fraud that sold diamonds as investments. The Crown's case was that a team of brokers including Lewis Bloor from The Only Way is Essex used false identities and pressure sales techniques to con elderly and vulnerable people from hundreds of thousands. The evidence against them included a purported confession that was excluded upon application by the Defence. The Crown also sought to include companies either side of the Indictment period as evidence of bad character but this again was successfully resisted. The Defence managed to show that the Crown's disclosure was fundamentally flawed. Having read the written submissions the Crown initially dispensed with their own expert who had valued the stones and nearly worthless. Having then considered the supplemental written submissions on disclosure the Crown had to concede that they could not continue to prosecute any and all of the Defendants. Instructed by Bark & Co.

BBC News Article.

R v. IT & anr [Woolwich] 2020

Kidnap

Gregory Fishwick acted for this Defendant who along with another had been charged with kidnapping a young investment guru, who had brokered multi-million pound deals with a number of people. The investors had seen no returns for their monies and had lost all their capital. The Defendant had taken on a near half million debt to collect and used social media and a honey trap to corner the complainant. The Crown applied under the bad character provisions of the Criminal Justice Act to play the jury an episode of TV journalist Donal McIntyre's criminal underworld programme that focused on this Defendant. This was resisted and rejected by the Judge.

Through persistent applications for disclosure of phone records, CCTV and most importantly bank statements it could be shown that the complainant was a serial fraudster who had lied throughout his account to the police and, most importantly, to the jury. Both Defendants were acquitted after a two-week trial within less than an hour. Instructed by Bark & Co Solicitors.

R v. SK & anr [Snaresbrook] 2020

Facilitating sexual activity with a child

Gregory Fishwick acted in this case that involved an allegation of facilitating sexual activity with a child by two Defendants. SK was a political asylum seeker who allowed his co-defendant to stay in his home office providing accommodation with two fourteen-year-old girls. It was alleged that SK engaged in sexual activity with both children and facilitated similar activity with his co-defendant. He was unanimously acquitted by the jury but his co-defendant was acquitted. Instructed by Emery Halil Brown.

R v. JO'C [Kingston] 2019

£1m Fraud

Gregory Fishwick acted for this Defendant who was one of three people accused of defrauding a vulnerable elderly male of his life savings and his home to a total value of over £1Million. His name had appeared on the original conveyance file as the purchaser at a significant undervalue (£20,000) and he was also identified as being involved in the later transfer of title. Despite both other Defendants pleading guilty during the course of the trial, Gregory secured a unanimous acquittal for his client. Instructed by Paul Martin Solicitors.

Rv. RB [Snaresbrook] 2019

Gangland Kidnapping

Gregory Fishwick acted in this case involving an allegation of gangland kidnap by a serious crime group from Eastern Europe. The complainant was said to have been taken from his car and bundled into another by a group of men. After a painstaking trawl of unused CCTV, it was shown that this simply could not have happened. Further, after a number of section 8 applications, disclosure was obtained that cast doubt on the complainant's veracity due to ongoing mental health problems. The Judge stopped the case at the conclusion of the Crown's evidence.

Operation Pescara [Blackfriars] 2019

Carbon Credits & Diamond Fraud

Gregory Fishwick was instructed to defend a senior broker in a financial institution who was accused with others of conspiracy to defraud. The allegation was that pressured sales techniques were used to convince generally elderly people to invest in firstly carbon credits and later diamonds. In fact, the investments were either worthless or significantly of a lesser value than indicated. Gregory lead a solicitor from the firm who instructed him and the Defendant was acquitted by the jury.

R v. Doherty & anr [Luton] 2017

Preventing lawful Burial

Ben Temple instructed by EHB Solicitors, acted for this 72 year old man at his trial who was charged with preventing the lawful burial of his sister in law and perverting the course of justice following the discovery of her body in a Luton Garden 12 years after her disappearance. The jury at his first trial was hung, Gregory Fishwick was Counsel at his Re-trial.

Daily Mail report.

R v. BM [Maidstone] 2017

Step-father accused of sexual assault upon his stepdaughter

Gregory Fishwick successfully represented this defendant whom was cleared of all charges of allegedly sexually assaulting his step-daughter over a 6 year period. The allegations were borne of revenge by his former wife following an acrimonious divorce. Instructed by Edward Hayes LLP.

Notable Cases

Operation Seale (Damilola Taylor Murder- trial 1) 2006

Damilola Taylor Murder Trial

Operation Deliver [C.C.C.] 2009

£53m Tonbridge Securitas Heist

Operation Devout [Birmingham] 2009

£82m Missing Trader Fraud

Operation Tangelo 2 2010

Alcohol Diversion Fraud

Alcohol diversion fraud. Highly complex, involving a large network of traders. Part 2 involved the setting up of a 'fraudsters' bank'.

Operation Steamroller [Southwark] 2014

£70m Spanish "Boiler" Room operation