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## Practice Profile

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***Jeffrey Israel is a leading barrister, listed in the Legal 500 directory as well as in Chambers & Partners, specialising in all aspects of criminal law. Jeffrey was shortlisted by the Legal 500 for Crime & Extradition Junior of the year 2022.***

Jeffrey has been instructed as both a leading junior and a junior alone in a wide range of serious criminal matters. He is admired for his robust handling of cases and his fearless approach in Court and is highly sought after by private clients, often on Bar Direct Access, enabling him to oversee every aspect of the case. This approach offers particular reassurance to his clients.

Jeffrey is best known for acting on a Bar Direct Access basis in the successful appeal of Alexander Blackman – known as 'Marine A', who was convicted of murdering a dying Taliban insurgent whilst on active service in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

As a result of that landmark success he is regularly instructed to conduct appeals in cases where he did not represent defendants at their original trials. Current Direct Access instructions include appealing the convictions for historic rapes of a highly successful music impresario, an appeal against a murder conviction, and an appeal against a drug importation.

Jeffrey is also highly sought after to represent those who are accused and facing trial. Current instructions include a businessman who is alleged to have caused GBH against his business partner, a city trader who is accused of assaulting a doorman, and a garage owner who is accused of laundering over £6m.

Past cases include defending the ex-boyfriend of Cara Delevingne's PA who was accused of assaulting her repeatedly, representing a former manager of Tottenham Hotspur FC for speeding, defending Tony Blair's private secretary accused of rape, and defending the vice-chairman of Tottenham for an alleged assault in Harrod's Food Hall.

In addition Jeffrey also accepts instructions on Legal Aid in serious cases. Recently these include representing a defendant in a large-scale drugs conspiracy, a woman accused of poisoning a 4 year old child, and a 'gangland' murder

Previously Jeffrey has defended in:

- The murder of a lorry driver in a drunken attack;
- An £8m conspiracy to supply heroin;
- A large-scale nationwide cocaine conspiracy involving 11 defendants;
- A conspiracy to transfer loaded machine-guns by defendants in prison;
- A multi-handed murder allegation arising out of a 'drug war' in a case that involved the US authorities;
- A multi-million pound SFO case involving the creation of false identities and bank accounts that are then used to defraud HMRC;
- The shooting at a uniformed police officer in the course of an armed robbery;

- Human-trafficking for the purpose of forced prostitution;
- A gang-related firearms case where over 100 guns, grenades, and live ammunition were being supplied across the country;
- A large-scale importation of cocaine from South America.

As well as being a specialist criminal defence barrister, Jeffrey has a particular interest in Civil Actions against the Police, Judicial Reviews and Public Inquests. He is regularly instructed to advise charities such as MENCAP, National Autistic Society and Guide Dogs for the Blind on matters of potential criminal liability, including in Court of Protection proceedings. He has lectured in this field on topics such as 'Capacity to Consent to Sex, a Civil and a Criminal Perspective' and as such has particular expertise in this field.

### **Marine A**

In March 2017 after a legal battle lasting almost 2 years, Jeffrey, led by Jonathan Goldberg QC and leading Senghin Kong, succeeded in winning on appeal the historic case of Marine A, Acting Colour Sergeant Alexander Blackman of the Royal Marines. He had been convicted by court-martial in 2013 of murdering a wounded Taliban terrorist on a battlefield in Afghanistan and had been sentenced to life imprisonment together with reduction to the ranks and dismissal from the Armed Forces with disgrace. An appeal against conviction brought in 2014 by his old legal team had failed completely.

Following a public campaign new grounds of appeal were submitted to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) in December 2015.

Once an appeal has been tried and failed, this body represents the only possible route to challenge a miscarriage of justice. However, the CCRC refer less than 3% annually of all the cases they receive back to the Court of Appeal for a new hearing, and therefore it is a formidable mountain to climb. The legal team identified six grounds of appeal and the CCRC upheld three of these grounds as constituting a real possibility that the Court of Appeal would overturn the murder verdict, and referred the case back to the Court of Appeal. Shortly thereafter an expedited hearing was ordered by the Lord Chief Justice.

They succeeded on the first ground argued to reduce murder to manslaughter, thus leading to the Sergeant's almost immediate release from prison and the quashing of his life sentence and there was no need to litigate the remaining grounds at all. In addition, his dismissal with disgrace from the Armed Forces was rescinded to simple dismissal, and his reduction to the ranks was quashed.

Jeffrey is able to accept instructions direct from the public in appropriate cases. For further information in this regard please contact the Senior Clerk.

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

### **Areas of Practice**

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

## What The Directories Say

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"He is a great jury advocate who's very hardworking, astute and strategic in the way he fights a case." *Chambers UK 2024*

"Jeff made a brilliant closing speech that woke everyone up. It was both effervescent and potent." *Chambers UK 2024*

"His strength is in his judgement, passionate advocacy and his ability to leave the client with the idea that everything possible has been done." *Chambers UK 2024*

'Jeffrey's jury-craft is superb. He grips your attention with sabre-like cross-examination and layers questions building to the skillful demolition of witness evidence.' *Legal 500 - 2024*

Excellent in all areas, his advocacy is excellent and precise.' *Legal 500 2023*

"He is incredibly robust and will fight all the way. You definitely want him on your side." *Chambers UK 2023*

'He has a track record of criminal appeals.' *Legal 500 2020*

'An excellent jury advocate with excellent client care who can take a sensible and pragmatic view.' *Legal 500 - 2019*

'A tenacious advocate, who is knowledgeable and very good with clients.' *Legal 500 2017*

## News

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### 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.

### **Encrochat Trial Acquittal**

22 March 2024

Following a 3-week 'Encrochat' trial Jeffrey Israel's client was unanimously acquitted of all 7 counts that he faced of conspiring to possess multiple firearms with intent to endanger life, ammunition, and cocaine. His client denied that the Encrochat telephone was his. Instructed by Ruth Harris of Hodge Jones & Allen

### **Acquitted for Firearms with Intent**

19 February 2024

Defendant unanimously acquitted in less than two hours of aggravated burglary, GBH with intent, and possessing a firearm with intent after a 7-day trial. Represented by Jeffrey Israel, instructed by Vanessa Wiggins of Bark & Co.

### **Client acquitted of all charges in £5m money laundering case**

21 July 2023

Jeffrey Israel, leading Phoebe Bragg, successfully represented their client who was the only defendant of 6 unanimously acquitted of all counts. The Defendants were accused of laundering the proceeds of frauds committed against a large number of victims in the UK and overseas over a 3-year period with a total loss in excess of £5M. Jeffrey and Phoebe were instructed by Hesham Puri of MK Law.

## **Recent Cases**

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### **R v AK [Southwark Crown Court] 2023**

Client acquitted of all charges in £5m money laundering offences

Led by Jeffrey Israel, Phoebe defended an Italian national charged with multiple money laundering offences alongside multiple co-defendants, many of whom had fled the jurisdiction. The defendant was acquitted of all offences following a six week trial at Southwark Crown Court.

### **R v DA [Cardiff Crown Court] 2023**

Kidnap, False Imprisonment & Blackmail

As led junior Phoebe defends in a 12 handed trial involving allegations of kidnap, false imprisonment and blackmail. The prosecution allege that a Harrow gang kidnapped a number of men in Wales and transported one back to London where he was held for ransom. Phoebe is led by Jeffrey Israel.

### **Operation Tennyson [Southwark] 2020**

## International 'Phishing' Fraud

Jeffrey Israel led Phoebe Bragg in this 5 month case involving over 250,000 pages of evidence. Defendants accused of international 'phishing' fraud and subsequent money laundering. Vast quantities of banking and telephone evidence as the monies were layered from the UK, onto Nigeria via China, giving rise to multi-jurisdictional issues and disclosure requests.

## R v. S [Westminster] 2018

Alleged assault of fashion designer to Cara Delevingne

Jeffrey Israel successfully defended a high profile case where it was alleged that the boyfriend of the fashion designer to socialite Cara Delevigne repeatedly assaulted her and controlled her. Following legal argument the case against Jeffrey's client was dropped and he was acquitted of all charges.

News report here

## R v. Kamara & anr [C.C.C.] 2018

Gang Execution

Jeffrey Israel instructed by Jon Ross of EBR Attridges, led by James Scobie QC secured the acquittal of Sidique Kamara who was accused of murder having allegedly executed a teenager by plunging a large knife into the victim's chest in revenge after a gang member was mocked for being caught by police with a samurai sword. The murder took place outside a Tesco Express in Southampton Way, Peckham in front of a number of witnesses.

Sidique Kamara was positively identified by the victim's friend who was next to him when he was killed. In addition the prosecution relied on telephone cell site evidence, gang membership evidence, extensive CCTV footage, as well as Sidique Kamara's 'no comment' police interview. The trial lasted 5 weeks.

There were two defendants and Sidique Kamara was accused of being the stabber and was the main defendant in the case. Both defendants were unanimously acquitted by the jury.

## R v. Buchler [Isleworth] 2016

Assault in 'Harrods' Food Hall

Jeffrey Israel, led by Jonathan Goldberg QC, represented David Buchler, the former vice-chairman of Tottenham Hotspur FC who was accused of breaking a shopper's nose in Harrods in a row over a croissant.

Daily Mail report here.

## R v. TN [Guildford] 2016

Multiple Date Rape Allegations

Jeffrey Israel defended in this case involving Multiple Date Rape Allegations.

## R v. S & ors [Snaresbrook] 2016

## Firearms

Jeffrey Israel was defence Counsel in this 3 month guns and ammunition conspiracy.

## **R v. X [Leamington Spa] 2016**

### Speeding

Jeffrey Israel defended a well-known football manager and television and radio pundit for speeding.

## **R v. TG [Manchester] 2015**

### Historic Sex Abuse

Jeffrey Israel defended a highly respected teacher who was charged with multiple historic sexual offences against a number of victims – a widely reported ground-breaking case in the ultra-orthodox Jewish community where complainants historically had not gone to the police.

## **R v. RS & ors [Snaresbrook] 2015**

### Firearms & Drugs Conspiracies

Jeffrey Israel defended in a number of linked trials that involve allegations of conspiracy to transfer guns and ammunition, as well as vast quantities of cocaine and heroin. Much of the evidence revolves around telephone schedules.

## **R v RW & ors [Bristol] 2014**

### £20m Conspiracy to Supply Heroin

Jeffrey Israel represented the main defendant in one of the largest ever UK conspiracies to supply heroin (80kgs) worth £20m.

## **R v. TB & ors [Isleworth] 2014**

### Aggravated Burglaries

Jeffrey Israel represented the first defendant in a case involving a series of targeted aggravated burglaries in which the victims were woken in the middle of the night at gunpoint and their infant children threatened at knifepoint before being tied up and the properties ransacked.

## **Operation Arrow [Bristol] 2014**

### Large Scale International Drug Importation

Jeffrey Israel was instructed for the defence in this 8 week trial involving the supply of huge quantities of cocaine at 98% purity, as well as possession of firearms. Instructed by Thos Boyd Whyte.

### **R v. AM [Snaresbrook] 2013**

Murder

Jeffrey Israel, led by Ian Glen QC defended a lorry driver accused of the brutal murder of a colleague following a drunken argument.

### **R v. DT & ors [Bristol] 2013**

Conspiracy to import cocaine

Jeffrey Israel defended in a large-scale nationwide cocaine conspiracy involving 11 defendants. The evidence comprised of telephone data from over 100 telephones and extensive covert surveillance.

### **R v. PG & anr [C.C.C.] 2012**

Murder

Jeffrey Israel defended the mother of a paranoid schizophrenic who randomly attacked and murdered a man in broad daylight. Jeffrey's client was accused of assisting him by hiding him, disguising him, and helping him try to flee the UK.

### **R v. AH [Wood Green] 2012**

Date Rape

Jeffrey Israel represented an international footballer who was accused of 'date-rape'

### **R v. DV & anr [C.C.C.] 2012**

Murder

Sarah Forshaw QC led Jeffrey Israel defending a man accused of the murder of 'the tattooed man' whose identity was unknown for months. The background involved a 'turf war' over the supply of crystal-meth.

### **R v. AN [C.C.C.] 2011**

Attempted Murder & Armed Robbery

Jeffrey Israel defended a man accused of shooting a police officer whilst fleeing from the scene having committed a violent armed robbery. The case turned on forensic evidence, particularly DNA and firearm residue

### **R v. JB & ors [Croydon] 2011**

People Trafficking

Jeffrey Israel represented a man accused of trafficking over 50 women from Eastern Europe under false pretences and forcing them to work as prostitutes.

### **R v. RP & 11 ors [Manchester] 2010**

Firearms

Jeffrey Israel defended a young defendant (15) who was accused along with 12 others of conspiring to supply over 100 prohibited firearms including machine-guns and hand grenades between criminal gangs up and down the country. Enormous amounts of telephone evidence, surveillance evidence, CCTV, and complex 'low copy' DNA evidence.

### **R v. JR & ors [Croydon 2009**

Manslaughter

Jeffrey Israel defended in a Manslaughter of a football fan following a large-scale violent disorder between Charlton Athletic and Tottenham Hotspur fans following a pre-season friendly.

### **R v. TM [Snaresbrook] 2009**

Stranger Rape

Jeffrey Israel defended in this stranger rape of an 18 year-old virgin by a man hiding in the bushes who was accused of violently attacking and then raping her just yards from her front door.