

# Ben Holt

Call: 2006



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Ben Holt is a specialist criminal barrister, with a reputation for skilful handling of complex cases, astute tactical decision-making and attention to detail. His relaxed and unstuffy manner in court appeals to juries and judges alike though he can be ferocious in cross-examination where appropriate.

Ben has been instructed as leading and led junior for the prosecution and defence in the full range of criminal cases and has extensive experience dealing with homicide cases and allegations involving organised crime groups. He was appointed Junior Treasury Counsel, based at the Central Criminal Court, in April 2024 by the Attorney General.

Ben regularly receives instructions from the full range of specialist units within the CPS; both as led and leading junior. He is frequently instructed by the Homicide Unit, Special Casework Units [London and the South-East], the Serious Economic, Organised Crime and International Directorate and the Counter Terrorism Division.

He has been instructed in a number of murder, attempted murder and road-fatality cases. In addition, Ben is instructed in substantial cases involving fraud and international money laundering; both for the prosecution and defence.

Ben has specific experience in dealing with complex disclosure issues. These have included the handling of particularly sensitive material and reviewing cases that have involved evidence from Covert Human Intelligence Sources and RIPA warrants. He has been instructed by the CPS to review disclosure on various matters and has worked together with the NCA and specialist units of the Metropolitan Police in this regard.

Ben has also advised on a wide range of cases pre-charge, including homicide, road fatalities and large-scale fraud investigations. Advice has included matters relating to Legal Professional Privilege (LPP) material.

As Treasury Counsel, Ben regularly advises the Attorney General's Office in relation to unduly lenient sentences. He frequently appears in the Court of Appeal; instructed by the AGO to argue the Reference.

Ben has spent a nine-month period of secondment with HSBC conducting a past-business review into mis-sold interest-rate hedging products.

## Expertise

## Business & Financial Crime

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### Cases

#### Operation Ananke [Southwark Crown Court]

Twenty One Hander Loan Fraud | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Locomotion [Southwark]

VAT evasion | [Read more](#)

#### R v S-P & T [Southwark]

Investment Fraud | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Northleigh [Isleworth Crown Court]

Fraud of the Grenfell Tower victim fund | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Baghrash [Bristol]

Conspiracy to defraud the N.H.S and D.o.H | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Banjax [Southwark]

£Multi-Million MTIC Fraud | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Major [Guildford]

Multi handed conspiracy to money launder and commit fraud | [Read more](#)

### Operation Pearland [Isleworth]

£7 million Ponzi Fraud Scheme | [Read more](#)

### Operation Tineid [Blackfriars]

Fraud | [Read more](#)

### Operation Scouttish [Kingston Crown Court]

Money Laundering | [Read more](#)

## General Crime

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### Cases

#### R v Charkaoui & Ors [Southwark]

Conspiracy to supply 250kgs of Cocaine | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Venetic [Southwark Crown Court]

Conspiracy to Supply Cocaine | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Localizer [Kingston Crown Court]

Seven-handed conspiracy to supply cocaine | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Antelope [Maidstone]

Aggravated Burglary | [Read more](#)

## Operation Photal [Central Criminal Court]

Attempted arson with intent to endanger life | [Read more](#)

## Operation Footprint [Central Criminal Court]

Buying a grenade over the 'dark web' | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tandil [Croydon]

Violent disorder arising out of an attack on an asylum seeker in Croydon | [Read more](#)

## R v Ahmed [Snaresbrook]

Attempted Murder | [Read more](#)

## R v Abdikarim [Isleworth]

Acid attack | [Read more](#)

## R v Daniels & Ors [Isleworth]

Conspiracy to steal motor vehicles | [Read more](#)

## Operation Manningtree [Inner London Crown Court]

13 handed Violent Disorder following illegal 'rave' | [Read more](#)

## R v S [St Albans]

Blackmail and misconduct in a public office | [Read more](#)

# Homicide (Murder & Manslaughter)

## Cases

### R v DW & Aor [Central Criminal Court]

Murder | [Read more](#)

### R v PY & 2 Ors

Murder | [Read more](#)

### R v TS & 6 Ors [Central Criminal Court]

Murder | [Read more](#)

### R v AS & Aor [Croydon]

Attempted murder | [Read more](#)

### R v SC & JL [Woolwich] []

Murder and attempted murder | [Read more](#)

### R v SP [Inner London Crown Court]

Attempted Murder | [Read more](#)

## R v S [Harrow Crown Court]

Death by Careless Driving | [Read more](#)

## R v BE [Wood Green Crown Court]

Murder | [Read more](#)

## Operation Westable [Central Criminal Court]

Murder & Prevention of Lawful Burial | [Read more](#)

## R v G [Croydon Crown Court]

Attempted Murder of Mother | [Read more](#)

## R v S [Isleworth Crown Court]

Attempted Murder | [Read more](#)

## R v S [Isleworth Crown Court]

Stabbing by 15 year old boy | [Read more](#)

## R v E [Wood Green Crown Court]

Homicide Allegation | [Read more](#)

## R v K [Kingston Crown Court]

One Punch Manslaughter | [Read more](#)

## Operation Melrose [Central Criminal Court]

People-smuggling gang linked to 39 migrant deaths in Essex | [Read more](#)

## R v O [Wood Green]

Attempted Murder of mothers partner | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tambo [Central Criminal Court]

Three Handed Murder | [Read more](#)

## R v B [Central Criminal Court]

Death by Dangerous Driving | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tembe [Wood Green Crown Court]

Two-handed Murder | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tambov [Iselworth Crown Court]

Murder | [Read more](#)

## Operation Docwu [Isleworth Crown Court]

Attempted Murder | [Read more](#)

## Operation Hillside [Central Criminal Court]

Attempted Murder of Police Officers | [Read more](#)

## Public Prosecutions

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### Cases

#### Operation Melrose [Central Criminal Court]

People-smuggling gang linked to 39 migrant deaths in Essex | [Read more](#)

#### R v Kersys [Kingston]

One Punch Manslaughter | [Read more](#)

#### R v S-P & T [Southwark]

Investment Fraud | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Photal [Central Criminal Court]

Attempted arson with intent to endanger life | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Footprint [Central Criminal Court]

Buying a grenade over the 'dark web' | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Northleigh [Isleworth Crown Court]

Fraud of the Grenfell Tower victim fund | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Hillside [Central Criminal Court]

Attempted Murder of Police Officers | [Read more](#)



## Operation Baghrash [Bristol]

Conspiracy to defraud the N.H.S and D.o.H | [Read more](#)

## Operation Italici [Central Criminal Court]

Importation of Anabolic Steroids from India & Singapore | [Read more](#)

## R v Ahmed [Snaresbrook]

Attempted Murder | [Read more](#)

## R v Abdikarim [Isleworth]

Acid attack | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tandil [Croydon]

Violent disorder arising out of an attack on an asylum seeker in Croydon | [Read more](#)

## R v Daniels & Ors [Isleworth]

Conspiracy to steal motor vehicles | [Read more](#)

## Operation Manningtree [Inner London Crown Court]

13 handed Violent Disorder following illegal 'rave' | [Read more](#)

## R v Oorloff & Dickinson [Guildford]

£2m 'Rare Earth Metal' Fraud | [Read more](#)

## Operation Tineid [Blackfriars]

Fraud | [Read more](#)

## Serious & Organised Crime

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### Cases

## R v JB & 3 Ors [Croydon]

Armed robbery | [Read more](#)

## Operation Elite [Kingston Crown Court]

Importation of Class A Drugs | [Read more](#)

## Operation Localizer [Kingston Crown Court]

Seven-handed conspiracy to supply cocaine | [Read more](#)

## Operation Melrose [Central Criminal Court]

People-smuggling gang linked to 39 migrant deaths in Essex | [Read more](#)

## Operation Italici [Central Criminal Court]

Importation of Anabolic Steroids from India & Singapore | [Read more](#)

## Operation Kennedy [Portsmouth]

Conspiracy to supply class A drugs | [Read more](#)

## R v T [Chelmsford]

Firearms and drugs | [Read more](#)

## R v Charkaoui & Ors [Southwark]

Conspiracy to supply 250kgs of Cocaine | [Read more](#)

## Operation Antelope [Maidstone]

Aggravated Burglary | [Read more](#)

# Sexual Offences

## Cases

### R v JN [Isleworth]

Rape of ex-wife and two daughters | [Read more](#)

# Criminal Appeals

As Treasury Counsel Ben regularly advises the Law Officers on unduly lenient sentences. Examples of cases he has appeared in the Court of Appeal on behalf of the SG/AG:

- Bonner and Thomas [2022] EWCA Crim 665
- Page [2022] EWCA Crim 902
- Stemp [2022] EWCA Crim 796
- Iqbal [2022] EWCA Crim 1156
- Buckley [2022] EWCA Crim 1820
- Denecker & Sala [2022] EWCA Crim 1815
- Kehoe [2022] EWCA Crim 1310

- Wilson [2022] EWCA Crim 1317

## Counter Terrorism

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### Cases

#### Operation Photal [Central Criminal Court]

Attempted arson with intent to endanger life | [Read more](#)

#### Operation Footprint [Central Criminal Court]

Buying a grenade over the 'dark web' | [Read more](#)

## Related expertise

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Business & Financial Crime

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Counter Terrorism

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Criminal Appeals

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Inquests & Inquiries

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General Crime

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Homicide (Murder & Manslaughter)

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Private Prosecutions

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Public Prosecutions

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Regulatory

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Serious & Organised Crime

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Sexual Offences

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## Other Information

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### Appointments

- Junior Treasury Counsel