

Paul Taylor KC

Call: 1989 | Silk: 2018



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Paul Taylor KC specialises in criminal appeals and is widely recognised as one of the leading authorities in this area.

In addition to being the general editor of [Taylor on Criminal Appeals](#) – the definitive practitioners' textbook on the procedural aspects of criminal appeals and review – Paul is head of the 5KBW Criminal Appeals Unit, and writes and lectures on appellate topics for lawyers in England, Northern Ireland and the Caribbean.

Paul's core practice involves advising and representing those appearing before the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), Northern Ireland Court of Appeal, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (in capital and other appeals from the Caribbean), and the local Caribbean appellate courts, as well as drafting submissions to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

He provides second opinions on the merits of a potential appeal where trial counsel has advised that there are no grounds or where the defendant seeks to instruct new counsel. Acutely aware of the potential cost of such reviews, Paul provides a staged approach starting with an initial review of case documentation, an outline of what further work would be required and an estimate for that work.

Paul has developed particular expertise in appeals involving fresh evidence, including expert forensic evidence relating to gun-shot residue, DNA, CCTV analysis, and psychiatric opinion. His approach involves meticulous analysis of the documentation, supervising the selection and instruction of experts, all within the context of an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the appellate legal framework. Paul takes a pragmatic and empathetic approach in dealing with defendants and their families and excels in leading a team of lawyers and experts.

Paul has lectured on appellate matters in England & Northern Ireland, and provided training in the Cayman Islands & Bahamas, and (virtually) to members of the Organisation of Caribbean Commonwealth Bar Association and the Law Association of Trinidad & Tobago.

In 2025 he assisted the Bar Council in drafting the response to the Law Commission's Consultation Paper on Criminal Appeals.

Paul is licenced under the [Direct Access Scheme](#) and accepts instructions directly from members of the public in appropriate cases.

He also hosts Appealcast5kbw, an occasional podcast dealing with appellate crime.

Expertise

Criminal Appeals

Cases

George Kirkpatrick (Deceased) [2025] NICA 5

Appeal against historic murder conviction - fresh evidence | [Read more](#)

James Smith [2023]NICA 31 ; [2023]NICA 86

Appeal against murder and firearms convictions – CCRC referral – fresh expert evidence | [Read more](#)

Roger Watson v The King (Bahamas) [2023] UKPC 32

Appeal against sentence - manslaughter | [Read more](#)

Adrian Jones (Deceased) [2021] EWCA Crim 929

Appeal against murder conviction – fresh psychiatric evidence | [Read more](#)

Roger Mootoo (& Others) [2021] Court of Appeal of Trinidad & Tobago

Appeal against manslaughter conviction – Non-disclosure and "lurking doubt" | [Read more](#)

Kenyatta Boynes v The Queen [2021]: Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (Court of Appeal: British Virgin Islands)

Appeal against murder and attempted murder convictions - identification evidence | [Read more](#)

Ahmed Williams v Supervisory Authority [Antigua & Barbuda] [2020] UKPC 15

Constitutional challenge to civil forfeiture regime | [Read more](#)

Related expertise

Criminal Appeals

Other Information

Appointments

- Recorder (Crown Court and Family Court)

Memberships

- The Bar of Northern Ireland
- Criminal Appeal Lawyers Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- Door tenant at Allum Chambers, Trinidad and Tobago

Publications

- Taylor on Criminal Appeals (General editor: 2022: Oxford University Press); Taylor on Criminal Appeals (Editor: 2012: Oxford University Press) and Taylor on Appeals (2000: Sweet and Maxwell) – This text has been cited in judgments of the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland, Final Court of Appeal in Hong Kong, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and the Caribbean Court of Justice.
- Editor of *The Appeal Brief* and *The Appellate Brief* – 5kbw Criminal Appeals Unit newsletters providing summaries and comments on recent domestic and Caribbean appeal cases
- Host of *Appealcast5kbw*, an occasional podcast dealing with appellate crime. See 5kbw.co.uk/practice-areas/criminal-appeal-resources
- Commentaries for the Criminal Law Review (see below)
- Training in the Cayman Islands and Bahamas, and (virtually) to members of the Organisation of Caribbean Commonwealth Bar Association and the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

Qualifications

- LLM, Downing College, Cambridge
- LLB (Hons) (CNAAB) (First Class), Polytechnic of the SouthBank

Case Commentaries

The following case commentaries were first published by Thomson Reuters (Professional) UK Limited in Criminal Law Review and are reproduced by agreement with the publishers.

- Taylor (Bonnett): Fresh evidence on appeal (Case Comment) [2013] Crim. L.R. 10, 844 – 848. Fresh evidence, whether Pendleton test applied correctly.
- R v Pope (John Randall): (Case comment) [2013] Crim. L.R. 421-425. Fresh evidence, safety of conviction – three trials – husband acquitted at first trial – appellant convicted at second trial following DNA evidence.
- R v McCook (Jason): (Case comment) [2015] Crim LR 350. Requirement of fresh appellate legal representatives to contact trial lawyers.
- R v Gray and others (Case comment) [2015] Crim LR 352. The Court of Appeal's approach to making loss of time directions and whether they are proportionate to the initial term of imprisonment.
- R v George (Dwayne) (Case comment) [2015] Crim LR 715 Admissibility of fresh expert evidence on appeal.
- R v McCarthy (Jamie) (Case comment) [2016] Crim LR 145 Challenging convictions based on guilty pleas; criticism of trial counsel.
Online book review of Lil Scherдин ed. Capital Punishment: As Hazard to a Sustainable Criminal Justice System? [Statute Law Review [2015] 1 July].
- R v Stromberg: Paul Taylor KC explains the practical effects of this case for those advising a defendant convicted after what are thought to be wholly flawed proceeding. This article was first published on Lexis®PSL Corporate Crime on 16 April 2018
- The Jogee Effect: Paul Taylor KC considers the evolution of the law on joint enterprise and impact on potential appellants convicted under the 'old law' (Counsel Magazine, September 2018).