



GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS

Mark Gatley KC

YEAR OF CALL: 1993 | YEAR OF SILK: 2022



Mark is an accomplished and highly regarded silk with a heavyweight criminal defence practice, specialising in serious and organised crime, and regularly acting for private clients. He has a reputation for combining impressive courtroom skills with an easy manner; for tactical acuity and thorough preparation.

"Mark is utterly charming and charismatic. He works really hard and is kind and generous with others. He is always well prepared, takes bold decisions and backs up his choices with bright and original advocacy."

LEGAL 500, 2024 (CRIME)

"He was tactically very good and had very smooth delivery as well."

CHAMBERS UK, 2024 (CRIME)

"A brilliant advocate who is an excellent all-rounder and a real star in court."

CHAMBERS UK, 2023

"Hard-working and very direct, he always keeps the client fully aware of the given situation."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 (CRIME)

"Mark has a calm, yet firm and determined approach to his advocacy which delivers results. His quiet charm can often disguise his formidable strength when challenging the Crown's case."

LEGAL 500, 2022 (CRIME)

"An exceptional advocate with a nice courtroom manner. He is well prepared and just a pleasure to deal with."

CHAMBERS UK, 2021 (CRIME)

If you would like to get in touch with Mark please contact the clerking team:

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CRIMINAL DEFENCE

Mark is an accomplished and highly regarded silk with a heavyweight criminal defence practice, specialising in serious and organised crime. He has a well-deserved reputation for the quality of his advocacy and his ability to win-over juries in the most difficult of cases.

NOTABLE CASES

Past notable cases can be viewed below. [Click here to see a list of recent notable cases.](#)

Murder

R v Younis

Defending the ‘freezer murderer’, a notorious double killing of two young women who were then kept for months in the defendant’s freezer. This case was reported widely: see [BBC](#), [Sky](#) & [The Sun](#).

R v B

Defending a 17-year-old accused of murdering a 15-year-old by stabbing him in the chest with a knife during a knife fight. Acquitted of murder on the basis of lack of intent; manslaughter verdict secured. This case was reported by, among others, the [BBC](#) and [ITV](#).

R v AK & Others

Defending one of three children accused of murder having ambushed the deceased and stabbed him to death in a pre-planned attack in revenge for the deceased’s having bullied them on a night bus earlier in the night.

R v D & Others

Gangland murder by drug dealers. Acquitted of murder. This case was reported by the [BBC](#).

R v Xavier

Defending at the Old Bailey a man accused of stabbing his young wife to death in the presence of their young baby, inflicting over 50 stab wounds in a frenzied and prolonged attack. The defendant admitted to causing only two injuries and ran lack of intent and loss of control.

R v Jones

Defending a man accused of the brutal murder of his disabled neighbour, where the defendant had a previous conviction for murder. This case was reported by, among others, [ITV](#) and the [BBC](#).

R v A & Others

Defending a young gang member accused of taking part in the attempted murder of a 13-year-old boy by shooting him with a slam gun. The victim, who was believed to be part of a rival gang, was shot in the back and paralyzed from the chest down. The case was reported by, among others, [the Independent](#), [BBC News](#), and [ITV News](#).

R v D

Defending a woman accused of attempting to murder her stepfather and stepbrother by encouraging her 15-year-old son to stab them. All defendants and witnesses suffering various levels of mental impairment.

Acquitted at half time.

R v M & Others

Defending at the Old Bailey a young man accused of participating in a pre-planned gangland shooting, where two children (aged 15 and 11) were shot in a hail of bullets from semi-automatic firearms.

R v Aurangzaib & Others

Defendant charged with conspiracy to rob on an indictment alleging murder; the victim having been shot dead during course of a botched robbery. Acquitted following a successful submission of no case to answer. This case was reported by the [BBC](#).

R v Norris

The Stephen Lawrence murder, through which Mark gained a particular interest in hair and fibre analysis. This case was reported globally. See for example reports by the [BBC](#), the [Daily Mail](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

R v Curran & Others

"Headless Corpse" case, involving a meticulously planned gangland abduction, murder and dismemberment. Acquitted. This case was reported by the [BBC](#).

R v H

Defendant acquitted of attempted murder, having stabbed the complainant in the heart. Mark detected that he might be suffering from PTSD. Psychiatric evidence confirmed this and the evidence supported a decisive argument that PTSD might have affected his perception of risk, so causing him to use substantial force in self-defence.

Guns

R v Cooney & Others

Defending in Operation Glassy: a six-handed Encrochat prosecution relating to the largest conspiracy to supply firearms and Class A drugs that UK law enforcement has ever encountered. Cross-examined Luke Shrimpton on reliability of Encrochat product. Acquitted of large conspiracy to supply MDMA.

R v M & Another

Defending man accused of robbing a brothel and shooting the brothel keeper in the chest with a sawn-off shotgun. Running self-defence. Acquitted.

R v R & Another

Defending man accused of armed robbery with a sawn-off shotgun which led to a police siege, culminating in the co-defendant shooting at police and being shot and paralysed in the return of fire. Acquitted.

R v Bailey

Defending the principal defendant in a gangland firearms case. Acquitted at half time following successful challenge to evidence of firearm discharge residue on the basis of likely cross-contamination from armed police.

R v Saffery

Defending first defendant accused of extensive internet trade in munitions, involving complex, technical explosives and firearms evidence. Tonnes of munitions amassed by 'militaria' dealer. Security Service link. Suspended sentence for s5 firearms and explosives.

Drugs

R v McCaffery & Others

Defending the principal defendant accused of corrupting a solicitor's clerk in order to gather information on a police investigation into a substantial drugs conspiracy in Manchester and the North East. Acquitted. This case was reported by [Manchester Evening News](#).

R v Schoon & Others

Defending the principal defendant in the Dutch Ambulance drug conspiracy, involving drugs worth in excess of £1.6 billion: one of the largest drug conspiracies in English legal history. This case was reported by [The Telegraph](#), the [Guardian](#) and [Sky News](#).

R v Alvarez

Defence of a Colombian with Cali Cartel connections accused of involvement in a conspiracy to import five tonnes of cocaine.

Sexual Offences

R v Bloomfield

Defending a man accused of drugging and raping a young female stranger on a Victoria Line Underground train. Consent defence. Acquitted. The prosecution, but not the acquittal, was reported by the [Daily Mail](#).

R v Mann

Defending a man charged with sexual activity with a person with a mental disorder impeding choice. The defendant fled the country during the prosecution case and was tried in his absence. Acquitted.

R v B

A rape trial at the Old Bailey which collapsed after the complainant admitted during cross-examination that

she had fabricated allegations of multiple rape.

R v N

Child sexual exploitation case in Oxford (Operation Kingfisher), involving multiple counts of sexual offences against vulnerable children, including gang rape. Expert cross-examination required of numerous child witnesses including an autistic teen-age complainant. Only defendant acquitted after cut-throat defence with several co-defendants. This case was reported by the [BBC](#) and the [Daily Mail](#).

R v J

Successful defence of a man accused of raping a hearing-impaired cerebral palsy sufferer, who could neither speak nor sign. Defendant was a stranger to her, and ran consent.

Cybercrime

R v W

Acting for a defendant accused of hacking Pippa Middleton's iCloud account, and offering stolen pictures of Kate Middleton for sale to the press in the name of the hacking collective the 'Dark Overlords'. Also accused of several international frauds. This case was reported in the UK ([Daily Mail](#)) and the US ([Bank Info Security](#)).

Mental health

R v M

Defendant accused of multi-kilo heroin importation found unfit to stand trial after contested hearing, then acquitted by a jury in the trial of issue.

R v A & Others

Defendant became unfit to plead on the eve of his multi-handed murder trial. The Court was persuaded neither to sever him nor to determine the issue of unfitness until half time, allowing for a submission of no case to be made. The submission succeeded and the defendant was acquitted.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND CONFISCATION

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Fraud

R v J & Others

Defending in large-scale 8-handed immigration fraud involving a fake Bollywood film production company. Cut-throat against main defendant alleging that he had put the client under duress. Acquitted; all but one of the other defendants convicted.

R v G & Others

Defending a company director accused of conspiracy to cheat the Revenue in a £34m MTIC fraud, with almost £100m having been laundered through his company account. The client did not give evidence and was acquitted.

R v L & Others

Defending the director of a company said to have perpetrated a multi-million pound VAT and MTIC Fraud.

R v E & Others

Conspiracy to defraud. Eight-handed £80 million mortgage fraud. This case was covered by the [BBC](#).

Terrorist Funding

R v O & Others

Defending in a case investigated by the Counter Terrorism Command Crime Disruption Unit, involving international fraud and money laundering.

R v A & Others

Defending the principal money launderer where funds were obtained through multiple 'vishing' frauds.

R v C

Defending money launderer in ["Bank of Terror" case](#)

Financial Services

R (FCA) v Sappal & Others

Defending an allegation of insider trading. This case was reported by [Reuters](#).

R v Sales

Boiler room fraud. An elaborate scheme, investors were persuaded to invest hundreds of thousands of pounds

in a non-existent technology company.

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Having had a background in financial regulation, Mark is developing a Health and Safety and regulatory practice.

NOTABLE CASES

Re Abu Mahfuz

Defence. Breach of FA Agents Regulations; authorised football agent accused of 'fronting.' FA Disciplinary Commission. This case was reported by [Sky Sports](#).

R (HSE) v Brooks Crownhill Patternmakers

Defended a metal working company in a prosecution involving multiple cases of hand-arm vibration syndrome, and secured a small fine. More information can be found [here](#).

BACKGROUND

After graduating Mark worked for a number of years at the then leading financial regulator the Securities and Investments Board. There, as well as being concerned with regulatory policy issues, he was asked to write speeches for senior staff which were delivered at conferences and events attended by leading City figures. This gave him the taste for advocacy and he came to the Bar. Since then he has been a tireless defender of people accused of serious crime.

Having mentored students at a South London academy for many years, Mark assisted with setting up Garden Court's award-winning 'Access to the Bar for All' long term mentoring scheme and is currently one of the mentors.

EDUCATION

UCL (Philosophy)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

The Fraud Lawyers Association

Criminal Bar association

LANGUAGES

French

Spanish

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