



PARK
SQUARE

BARRISTERS

Richard Wright QC

Call: 1998 · Silk 2013

Crime

Described by Chambers and Partners as a “Masterful silk and joint head of chambers, who has experience acting both for the prosecution and the defence in serious criminal cases. His broad practice also includes specialisms in fraud and homicide.”

Ranked in Tier 1 (The Legal 500, 2021) and Band One silk for Crime (Chambers and Partners, 2019).

Richard Wright QC is a criminal advocate who has defended or prosecuted many of the highest-profile cases in the North of England. He was described as “the standout junior” on the North Eastern Circuit (The Legal 500, 2011) and “in the ascendant” (Chambers and Partners, 2013).

He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2013 and, since taking silk, has been constantly in demand to act in a series of significant and complex cases.

“He is brilliant in cross-examinations and makes everything clearly understood. He’s also very persuasive and has a great manner in court.” “A very powerful silk. He takes control and is a masterful advocate.” – Chambers and Partners (2021)

“A first-class lawyer and a superb jury advocate.” – The Legal 500 (2021)

“Masterful silk... He is a top-quality advocate who is very efficient with his paperwork and very client-friendly” – Chambers and Partners (2020)

“He makes everyone else look like foothills compared to Mount Everest.” – The Legal 500 (2020)

‘He is a born leader and his star will continue to rise.’ – Chambers and Partners (2019)



Education:

1997 - University of Leeds, LLB

Career:

2004 - Junior, North Eastern Circuit

2013 - Silk

2013 - Head of Chambers at No 6, Leeds

2015 - No 6 becomes Park Square Barristers

2015 - Head of Chambers · Park Square Barristers

2020 - Leader of the North Eastern Circuit

Appointments:

2006 - Deputy district judge (magistrates’ courts)

2012 - Recorder of the Crown Court

North Eastern Circuit Executive Committee

Bar Council Advocates Graduated Fee Working Group

2017 - Elected as a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple

Memberships:

North Eastern Circuit

Liberty

‘An exceptional jury advocate.’ – The Legal 500 (2019)

“A go-to silk for serious criminal cases.” – The Legal 500 (2017)

“He is exceptional at what he does; he’s incredibly approachable, brilliant in court and fantastic with clients.” – Chambers and Partners (2017)

‘He has an ability to communicate difficult concepts with ease.’ – The Legal 500 (2016)

“He has a flair for advocacy and is a ferocious examiner. He is a strong choice for heavyweight work.” “He has a very relaxed, calm manner; nothing fazes him.” – Chambers and Partners (2016)

“Applies his intellect and attention to detail’.” — Chambers and Partners (2015)

‘He remains a leading counsel of choice.’ – The Legal 500 (2015)

Awards:

1998 - Middle Temple

Diplock Scholar

1997 - University of Leeds

Hughes Prize

In addition to his portfolio of legally aided cases, Richard regularly acts for companies and individuals on a private-fee basis in both criminal and regulatory cases (particularly environmental, health & safety and food-hygiene breaches).

As the only QC in England and Wales currently sitting as a deputy district judge (magistrates’ courts), Richard is often retained to act on a private basis in driving cases, of which he has acquired an extensive and specialist knowledge.

Approach

Richard is renowned for his dedication to his clients, his meticulous approach to case preparation, his keen intellect, and his effective, punchy advocacy.

Contact Richard’s clerks

Andrew Thornton on 0113 213 5202

Gina Hawkins on 0113 213 5205

Rebecca Wilson on 0113 213 5203

Hannah Dempsey on 0113 213 5211

Elaine Foster-Morgan on 0113 213 5217

Robyn Nichol on 0113 213 5253

Regulatory & Public

Richard Wright Q.C. is Head of Chambers and is Ranked in Tier 1 in The Legal 500, 2021 for Business and Regulatory Crime (including Health & Safety) and Band One silk for Crime (Chambers and Partners, 2019).

Described in legal directories as a “born leader” and “masterful silk” he has been instructed in a wide range of regulatory cases. His regulatory practice includes Health & Safety cases, those involving Environmental Waste, Fire Safety, Food Safety (particularly food allergen cases), Food Hygiene and Animal Welfare cases brought by DEFRA and he has been instructed in the highest profile Gross Negligence Manslaughter prosecutions.

*‘Richard is able to quickly grasp novel and complex legal issues in areas of law which are rarely encountered by most barristers ‘A first-class lawyer and a superb jury advocate.’
Legal 500 2021*

‘ Highly experienced in environmental and agricultural matters. ’ The Legal 500 (2020)

‘He makes everyone else look like foothills compared to Mount Everest. ’ – The Legal 500 (2020)

‘A masterful silk’ – Chambers and Partners (2019)

‘An exceptional jury advocate.’ – The Legal 500 (2019)

“A go-to silk for serious criminal cases.” – The Legal 500 (2017)

Richard also has particular expertise in Trading Standards prosecutions and his keen tactical judgement has led to him often being retained at an early stage in proceedings to provide advice to individuals and companies. This often results in the successful defeat of investigations before they result in charges. Richard also acts in professional disciplinary and misconduct cases.

His approachability to both his professional and lay clients combined with his keen intellect and his effective advocacy has meant that he has been constantly in demand to act in complex and high profile cases since taking silk in 2013.

“He is exceptional at what he does; he’s incredibly approachable, brilliant in court and fantastic with clients.” – Chambers and Partners (2017)

‘He has an ability to communicate difficult concepts with ease.’ – The Legal 500 (2016)

“He has a flair for advocacy and is a ferocious examiner. He

is a strong choice for heavyweight work.” “He has a very relaxed, calm manner; nothing fazes him.” – Chambers and Partners (2016)

Notable cases

- R -v- Mohammed Khaliq Zaman – Prosecuting the first successful prosecution for gross negligence manslaughter arising from a food allergy, and its subsequent successful defence in the Court of Appeal [2018] 1 Cr. App. R. (S.) 26
- Highbury Poultry Ltd –v- CPS – The Appellant Company had appealed by case stated and brought linked judicial review proceedings in respect of the interpretation of EU and national regulations governing the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter.
- R- v- Najib & Sons Ltd – Acting for the respondent in an appeal to the Court of Appeal involving EU law and its interplay with the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies sampling regime in slaughterhouses. The case has involved intricate knowledge and submissions on the statutory interpretation of the complex EU and national TSE Regulations – namely: the TSE (England) Regulations 2010 and surrounded the EU TSE regulation (Regulation (EC) 999/2001) and the DEFRA TSE sampling regime.
- R V Malcolm Mayes & Mandy Mayes (Operation Jaculus) – High value Trading Standards prosecution. One of the first successful prosecutions in the country for offending related to the commercial sale of IPTV boxes involving the Copyright, Designs and patents Act 1088. The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. The Fraud Act 2006 and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.
- EA –v- Maw – The defendant alleged that the EA had acted maliciously in their enforcement of the Regulations and subsequently in the prosecution. Charges of breaching a waste management permit as well as non-compliance with an enforcement notice. (Illegal dumping thousands of tonnes of waste where rubbish was piled 27ft (8.2m) high).
- R V Pogmore Adrian, Lucas Matthew, Walls Lee, Reeves Malcom, Loosemore Matthew – Following the crown court prosecution where Pogmore admitted to four charges of misconduct in a public office for his use of his force helicopter to film members of the public having sex. Richard is now instructed by South Yorkshire Police in the Police Misconduct proceedings of PC Lucas and PC Walls.

Contact Richard's clerks

Madeleine Gray on 0113 202 8603

Patrick Urbina on 0113 213 5250