



The Chambers of
Harendra de Silva QC



Simon Baker: Criminal Law CV

QUALIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

MA (Hons)(Oxon)

Called to the Bar by Inner Temple 1998

Member of the Criminal Bar Association & Lawyers for Liberty

Elected member of the Inner Temple Bar Liaison Committee

CRIMINAL PRACTICE

Simon has appeared in matters covering the full spectrum of seriousness & complexity, from cases of theft & assault through to fraud & murder. Simon has particular expertise in relation to money laundering, complex frauds and drug conspiracies, and in cases involving disclosure/public interest immunity issues and confiscation/asset recovery.

Although primarily defence counsel, Simon is also on the Attorney-General's B panel of advocates also prosecutes serious cases for the Crown Prosecution Service, the Department of Work & Pensions, the Department of Trade & Industry and H.M. Revenue & Customs.

Simon is also experienced in extradition and regulatory work.

Notable cases include:

- *R v Quarco*: Leading counsel in this highly publicised case defending an immigration officer charged with large-scale immigration fraud, facilitation, money laundering and misconduct in public office. The press described Mr Quarco as "*the most dishonest man in Britain*".
- *R v F & B [2008] EWCA Crim 1868*: Defence counsel in this case (an allegation of money laundering valued at almost £1.2 million) before the Court of Appeal and on the certified appeal to the House of Lords, on the question of whether the Crown are required to prove the underlying offence when prosecuting for money laundering for the House of Lords.

- *USA v Benbow & others [2005] EWHC 1051 (Admin)*: Defending in the leading authority on applicability of entrapment in extradition cases (application to extradite to the USA to stand trial for conspiracy to supply cocaine allegedly to finance the \$220 million purchase of Strontium-90 Metal from former Russian Intelligence Officers).
- *R v Sheen & others*: Leading defence counsel in complex confiscation proceedings, valued in excess of £3.7 million, relating to the laundering of the proceeds of a large-scale conspiracy to steal cars.
- *R v Kelly & others*: Junior defence counsel for the first defendant in the largest ever conspiracy to import cocaine (over 1.6 tonnes).
- *R v Pearce*: Junior defence counsel in a £75 million money laundering case connected to the London City Bond investigations (stayed as an abuse of process).
- *R v Cheeseman*: Successfully defended in a £2.8 million Conspiracy to Defraud trial.
- *R v Mitchell & others*: Junior defence counsel for the first defendant (out of 19) on a 59 count indictment featuring allegations of a wide-ranging mortgage fraud worth £6.5 million.
- *R v Amobi & Others*: Junior defence counsel in the Kings College NHS Trust fraud (the largest ever fraud perpetrated against the NHS).
- *R v Ram*: Defending in an extremely serious supply of Class A case (involving 6 kilos of cocaine and 20,000 ecstasy tablets to undercover police officers), involving complex abuse of process, entrapment and P.I.I. issues.
- *R v Tapping*: Defending in a multi-handed conspiracy to violent disorder trial relating to pre-planned football hooliganism.
- *R v Nally*: Defending in relation to the largest ever seizure of Ketamine in the UK (valued at over £4 million).

CIVIL & REGULATORY PRACTICE

In addition to his criminal practice, Simon also has substantial experience and expertise in regulatory, civil and administrative law, particularly in relation to matters arising out of fraud and criminal cases. This includes:

- Proceedings for the recovery or freezing of assets (including cash forfeiture proceedings)
- VAT tribunals
- Judicial Review
- Civil Actions Against the Police
- Prison Law

For further information, please see Simon's Civil & Regulatory law CV.