


Ian Whitehurst



Call 1994





Clerks

 Kate Masher
 0151 242 8841

 Denise Sheen
 0151 242 8874

 Suzanne Dutch
 0151 242 8873

 Graeme Hipkiss
 0151 242 8868

 Alex Downing
 0151 236 7747

Appointments

- Member of the Disciplinary Panel, Staffordshire FA
- Member of the Disciplinary Panel, Lancashire FA
- Member of the CI Arb's Business Arbitration Scheme
- List of Counsel at the International Criminal Court
- List of Counsel (Defence/Victims) at the Kosovo Special Chambers
- Level 4 Specialist Serious Crime Group Panel (CPS)
- Level 4 Prosecutor General Crime Panel (CPS)
- Level 4 Specialist Proceeds of Crime Panel (CPS)
- Level 3 Specialist Fraud Panel (CPS)
- Specialist Regulatory Panel (Level B)
- Disclosure Counsel for Serious Fraud

Overview

Ian is a Leading Junior in Serious Organised Crime, Financial Crime, Confiscation as well as Regulatory Law and is ranked as a leading individual in those practice areas in Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

His practice is nationwide and can be divided principally into 3 main areas but there is a considerable overlap between the practice areas that he specialises in.

Firstly, Ian has a heavyweight crime practice where he predominantly defends throughout the country with a particular emphasis on homicide, firearms and drugs conspiracies as well as cyber related criminality.

Secondly, in financial crime matters Ian has specialised for many years as Leading Counsel in the fields of MTIC VAT fraud, Direct Tax Fraud, Money Laundering, False Accounting and Corporate Misfeasance and is a member of the Revenue Bar Association.

With regards to his regulatory practice, Ian has been appointed to the Specialist Regulatory Panel of Counsel and prosecutes and defends in equal measure in the regulatory field, concentrating in particular upon health and safety, environmental and trading standards prosecutions.

Ian's international practice is concentrated upon advising individuals and companies on international criminal and financial matters with a particular emphasis on public international law and international arbitration matters.

Office (SFO)

- Licensed Advocate Isle of Man (2012)
- Visiting lecturer at the University of Lancaster
- Associate Lecturer at John Moore's University
- Advocate (the Pro Bono unit of the bar)
- Called to the Bar of Northern Ireland

Arbitrator Appointments:

Listed on the arbitration panels of the following arbitral institutions:

- Fellow at the CI Arb (FCI Arb)
- Arbitration Ireland
- The Arbitration Institute of The Stockholm Chamber of Commerce
- The Madrid International Arbitration Centre
- London Arbitration Centre
- Vienna International Arbitral Centre
- Danish Institute of Arbitration
- EBA Mediation and Arbitration Centre – Georgia
- Ljubljana Arbitration Centre, Slovenia
- Maldives International Arbitration Centre [secondary list]
- Hong Kong Maritime Arbitration Group [supporting member]

Academic Appointments:

- Honorary Lecturer in International Criminal Law – Aberdeen University 2023
- Honorary Assistant Professor – Nottingham University 2022
- Associate Lecturer – John Moores University 2020-2022
- Guest lecturer – Northumbria, Galway and Aberdeen Universities and Brooklyn Law School 2021 – present
- External member of the University of Northumbria's Centre for Evidence & Criminal Justice Studies

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Private Prosecutors Association
- Revenue Bar Association
- New York City Bar Association
- International Technology Law Association
- The Bar of Northern Ireland

Recommendations

Legal Directories

“Ian is a great team player and wants to collaborate rather than clash. He’s incredibly approachable and great in court and any client would be grateful to have him.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“Ian Whitehurst is excellent with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“Firm, clear and handles clients well.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“Ian’s support is impressive; he is calm and he gives great advice.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“He is excellent with clients and top notch at unusual cases.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“Ian’s attention to detail is superb and he is great with clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“One of the most experienced POCA advocates and a master at drafting effective skeleton arguments.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“Ian is conscientious and thorough. He is a safe pair of hands.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“Accessible, clear in his advice, and very experienced. He is someone who is not afraid to think laterally.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“Ian is a very strong barrister.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“A highly knowledgeable, robust and razor-sharp barrister.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

“Very pragmatic and personable, he gets on well with people. He makes no bad points and is a skilful and balanced advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2022

- Rights of Audience – AIFC [Kazakhstan]
- Chartered Institute of Arbitration

Education

- PgCert (merit) in international arbitration law – Aberdeen University (2023)
- Diploma in International Arbitration – University of Aberdeen (2023)
- University of Hull, LLB (Hons) (1993)

“Pragmatic and accessible, he displays a lot of grit and common sense.” “He’s an imaginative, talented and experienced defender.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“Always well prepared and really knows what he is doing.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“He has lots of common sense, is very pragmatic and is a good guy to work with.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

‘Ian is approachable, he has a good manner with lay clients which enables them to feel at ease, and he has an uncanny ability to break down complex concepts and issues in a way that is accessible to the the lay client. He is quick on his feet, he has a natural presence, and he commands attention in the courtroom.’
The Legal 500 2025

“Ian is an extremely able advocate. He is strategically tactful and personable, and immediately builds rapport whilst taking positions to robustly defend his client’s interests.”
The Legal 500 2025

“Ian is a good, solid advocate who puts in the hours and handles pro bono cases very well. He is very thorough in his approach.”
The Legal 500 2025

“Ian has a very strong presence in court and takes no prisoners when it comes to dealing with tricky judges or opponents. He has good legal and analytical skills, and his written submissions are of a very high quality.”
The Legal 500 2024

“Ian is excellent and recommendable.”
The Legal 500 2024

“Ian is a very assured barrister. His down-to-earth manner puts clients at ease. He is an excellent tactician and his written work and advocacy are second to none.”
The Legal 500 2022

“Tactically astute, applies vast experience to offer pragmatic solutions and excellent with clients.”

The Legal 500 2021

“He is at the very top of his profession and his knowledge is a valuable part of the team and is a tactical and astute thinker, always thinking a couple of steps ahead whilst never taking his eye of the big picture. He is excellent with clients who are won over by his down to earth manner. He always finds an angle that the prosecution has missed.”

The Legal 500 2021

“Approachable, pragmatic and good with clients.”

The Legal 500 2021

“A real fighter who makes really incisive legal points.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“A pragmatic advocate who is very good with clients. He is able to steer a case in a tactically astute way in order to achieve a good outcome for his clients.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“Approachable, pragmatic and good with clients.”

The Legal 500 2020

“A proactive barrister who gives clear advice.”

The Legal 500 2020

“He thinks outside the box, is tenacious in court, very experienced and has a good breadth of knowledge of serious white-collar crime.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“A pleasure to work with, he gets results.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“A very shrewd barrister.”

The Legal 500 2018/19

“Ian is a real fighter, but smart with it too.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“An approachable and practical criminal counsel.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“A brave and streetwise advocate.”

The Legal 500 2017

“A very good performer. He is fearless and defendants love him. He will get stuck in but knows when not to lock horns with witnesses. A very good tactician.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“Highly experienced in serious organised crime cases.”

The Legal 500 2016

“Has a long history of prosecuting and defending serious criminal offences before the court. His remit covers gang-related homicides, drug conspiracies and armed robberies, among other matters.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

“Combines extensive skill in serious organised crime with knowledge of a wide range of business crime offences. He represents both individuals and corporates and is well versed in tax fraud, money laundering, and accounting and banking fraud.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

Publications

Ian has written several articles on the issues of financial crime, the criminal justice system and more. Links to the full-text of all of these can be found using the links below:

Better days will return | COUNSEL | The Magazine of the Bar of England and Wales (counselmagazine.co.uk)

Gambling an 'easy target' for UK Government after coronavirus pandemic, say barristers (gamblinginsider.com)

Part 6 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 – the forgotten provision Police Professional | Search Results [ian whitehurst](#)

Unexplained Wealth Orders – A lost opportunity or a time to reboot? Police Professional | Search Results [ian whitehurst](#)

HMRC's use of criminal prosecution for fraud or illegal activity

Taking care of business: Private Prosecutions in a digital age

Investigatory Powers Act and the new oversight regime

Pension Liberation Fraud: New Kid on the Block

A Practical Guide to POCA & Unused Material: a defence perspective

Is a cheque book better than a defence statement

Law & Democracy

A Taxing Time Ahead The Reality Behind The Rhetoric

Beyond the Bar

Cinema, history and football.