

Benjamin Myers KC

Call 1994 | Silk 2014



Clerks' Details

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Memberships

- Northern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- JUSTICE

Education

- LLM – International and European Human Rights Law (Distinction) – University of Leeds
- BA – Joint Honours – University of Leeds

Appointments

- Master of the Bench – Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- Deputy Head of Chambers, Exchange Chambers

Criminal Overview

Benjamin Myers KC is a leading criminal silk. Described as 'brilliant', 'extremely astute' 'an exceptionally gifted lawyer – a fearsome advocate,' with 'an exceptional ability to digest complex cases', he appears in courts across the country and is ranked at the top of his field in crime and financial crime in Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession and in the Legal 500. He has been shortlisted as the Legal 500 Crime Silk of the Year 2022.

Ben handles cases in all areas of the criminal law including murder, manslaughter, high value fraud, money laundering, multimillion-pound confiscation under POCA, regulatory offences, drug trafficking, national and international organised crime, rape and historic sexual abuse. He deals with prosecutions by the CPS, the SFO, the OFT and other agencies and regulatory bodies. He is experienced in leading large teams in substantial, complex and sensitive cases, many of which have a high public profile. He has huge experience as a criminal trial advocate and appellate advocate, and is described as 'an excellent lawyer with great courtroom skills', who has 'an excellent rapport with juries.'

Recent cases include the defence of David Duckenfield, the police match commander at the Hillsborough Stadium tragedy, tried for gross negligence manslaughter; Operation Lunar, an investigation by HMRC into a £330 million tax fraud; and R v Barton, the leading Court of Appeal authority defining the test for dishonesty in English criminal law. He is currently representing Lucy Letby, a nurse accused of multiple offences of murder and attempted murder, in proceedings before the Crown Court.

Ben is highly regarded for his 'meticulous preparation' and his ability to formulate astute case strategy. He can be relied upon to 'put clients at their ease' and is attuned to the pressures upon them; whether that is because of their public status, the risk to their assets, their vulnerability and mental health, or more generally the impact of criminal proceedings on their personal or professional life. He has represented company directors, financial directors, investment managers, police officers, teachers, medical practitioners and public figures.

Ben is able to provide advice at all stages of proceedings, including pre-charge; challenging prosecutions from the earliest stages and thereafter. His work includes judicial review, privacy and media-related applications in the context of criminal law. He has a wide experience of appellate work and provides advice and representation on appeal.

Ben undertakes both legally aided and privately funded work.

Recommendations

Ben has been ranked consistently as a leading practitioner in crime in Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession and in the Legal 500.

Ben Myers KC has been shortlisted for 'Crime and extradition Silk of the year' at The Legal 500 Bar Awards 2024.

"Ben is exceptionally hardworking and time and time again masters the most serious and complex technical information. In terms of advocacy, Ben is a true heavyweight of the Bar and with good reason, as he is able to bear the immense pressure of some of the most daunting and distressing cases brought before the courts with unwavering professionalism and integrity."

The Legal 500 2024

"He is a superb jury advocate and lawyer."

"He is astonishingly hard-working and on top of the detail."

Chambers and Partners 2024

"Ben is a premier league silk who has prosecuted and defended many of the gravest criminal cases to come before the English courts. He has an exceptional eye for detail and pursues his client's case with vigour and integrity. He has an outstanding ability to explain complex legal and factual matters with seemingly effortless simplicity to judges and juries alike."

The Legal 500 2023

"Benjamin is very professional and conscientious and fights hard for his clients."

"He is absolutely excellent."

"He is extremely intelligent and excellent in court."

Chambers and Partners 2023

"He is phenomenally hard-working and inspires confidence in his clients and solicitors."
"He is down to earth and will leave no stone unturned in the defence of his clients." "He is brilliant."

Legal 500 2022

"He has an exceptional ability to digest complex cases, nothing is too much."

Legal 500 2021

"He is first rate - he has a good manner with clients and is very attentive and thorough in difficult circumstances." "His preparation and his court manner are absolutely brilliant."
"He is absolutely excellent - approachable and conscientious."

“He is well respected, a very safe pair of hands and a very pleasant advocate.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“A very impressive silk who can handle difficult clients in very serious cases extremely well.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“One of the most highly regarded young silks on the circuit. His client manner and meticulous preparation stand out.”

“He’s a wonderful advocate and very well organised.” “He is extremely astute and puts clients at their ease.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“Very popular with clients and has an excellent rapport with juries.”

“He is a really good technical lawyer and jury advocate - what more do you want?”

“Ben is excellent, professional and very good with clients. He is affable and experienced.”

“He treats clients with respect rather than being aloof.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“An excellent lawyer with great courtroom skills.” “He is a proper charismatic performer and comes across as genuine and thoughtful.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“He has an exceptional ability to digest complex cases, nothing is too much.”

Legal 500 2020

“A brilliant silk.”

Legal 500 2017

“An exceptionally gifted lawyer – a fearsome advocate, incredibly conscientious and hardworking.”

“He really goes above and beyond the call of duty.”

Legal 500 2016

“Highly regarded for his expertise in a wide range of serious crimes and is experienced in appellate matters.”

Legal 500 2015

Cases

MURDER AND MANSLAUGHTER

Cases have included:

R v JM: Multiple murder of family members by suffocation and poisoning. Complex medical forensic evidence requiring cross-examination of eminent experts across multiple specialisms including paediatrics, paediatric pathology, neuropathology, cardiology, immunology, histopathology, radiography, paediatric surgery, toxicology, pharmacology and genetics.

R v AP and Others: Multiple conspiracies to murder in the course of gang war, involving IT to perform tracking and surveillance of targets, and carefully planned attacks with firearms and machetes.

R v DD: Match commander tried for gross negligence manslaughter in relation to the 96 deaths at the FA Cup Semi-Final at Hillsborough Stadium in 1989.

R v SS: Paranoid schizophrenic tried for murder of his partner and two children. Complex psychiatric issues in relation to the law of diminished responsibility.

R v SW: Young woman in abusive and controlling relationship charged with murder of partner after argument.

R v RH and Others: Multiple shootings culminating in the shooting of unarmed police officers.

R v AK: 'Honour killing' by professional hit-man.

FRAUD AND FINANCIAL

Cases have included:

R v TR: £330 million tax fraud based upon claims arising out of film and pharma investment schemes.

R v CC: £160 million banking fraud. Prosecution brought by Serious Fraud Office.

R v MF: Multimillion-pound corporate banking fraud.

R v DB: Historic financial abuse of residents of care home in excess of £10 million. Issues relating to banking, probate and fraudulent financial instruments.

R v CP: Multimillion-pound mortgage fraud.

R v TL: £21 million pyramid fraud. Flagship prosecution by the Office of Fair Trading under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

R v NK: £40 million pound money laundering by businessman using via international money- transfers. Associated confiscation proceedings of £40 million.

DRUGS

Cases have included:

R v MP and Others: £500 million international conspiracy to import class A drugs.

R v CI: Multimillion-pound importation of class A drugs combined with money laundering operation. Use of road haulage systems to import drugs into the UK.

R v AM: Bulk supply of cutting agent on industrial scale. Complex legal issues relating to provisions of Serious Crime Act 2007.

SEXUAL OFFENCES

Cases have included:

R v MN: International trafficking, prostitution and rape of multiple victims by international crime ring. Largest operation of its type at time of prosecution.

R v JH: Multiple-rape of 3-year old daughter by father. Broadcast of associated images over the internet to paedophile ring.

R v ML: Alleged historic rape of music student by teacher.

R v AK: Violent rape of a student by a defendant suffering serious psychiatric abnormalities, raising complex psychiatric and neuropsychiatric issues.

FURTHER OFFENCES

R v AD: Coercive control of female partner in commission of probate fraud. Complex psychiatric and psychological issues and expert analysis of coercive control.

R v P: Misconduct in public office. Abuse of police data systems by serving police officers.

R v W: Conspiracy to possess firearms and use explosives. Use of this weaponry in excess of

20 attacks on city streets.

R v P and others: Importation of illegal firearms into UK from overseas. These included handguns, silencers and ammunition concealed in a motor vehicle and brought into the UK from Eastern Europe. Largest post-war importation of its type at time of prosecution.

R v IM: Explosive substances sent through the postal system. Detailed scientific forensic issues relating to explosives and DNA.

R v MG: Judicial review relating to search warrants and special procedure material.

R v RB: Death by dangerous driving. Technical issues relating to the law and science of alcohol analysis.

REPORTED CASES

R v Stewart and Others [2022] EWCA Crim 1063: the imposition of whole life orders when a mandatory life sentence is passed

R v Barton (David) 2020 2 Cr App R 7: the test for dishonesty in English criminal law, the constituent elements of conspiracy to defraud and the common law approach to precedent

Unsworth v DPP [2010] EWHC 3037 (Admin): Case stated regarding the parameters of lawful excuse as a defence to criminal damage under section 5(2) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

Benson, R (on the application of) v Secretary of State for Justice [2007] EWHC Admin 2055: Impact of Article 5 and common law due process when considering alleged breach of home detention curfew.

R v Rashford [2005] EWCA Crim 3377: Murder; extension of circumstances encompassing self-defence.

R v Bevan [1999] EWCA Crim 2172: Where disparity in sentence is objectionable.