

# Charles Bott KC

Call 1979 | Silk 2008



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Charles is a prominent and highly regarded advocate, who specialises in cases of serious fraud, money laundering and revenue evasion. He is also regularly instructed in serious criminal and regulatory cases of all kinds. He has been a Chambers and Partners top ranked silk (Band 1) in Financial Crime for the last 9 years.

He combines extensive criminal experience with a background in civil and commercial law and has also become a leading practitioner and recognised authority in the fields of civil fraud litigation, asset recovery, civil recovery and account freeing orders. He has recently led teams in the private prosecution of serious fraud and is currently instructed by a foreign government in relation to an alleged fraud on their public funds.

Charles has appeared in more than 90 serious fraud trials in his career including some of the leading cases of recent years and has advised many other clients under investigation. He has represented politicians, solicitors, accountants and prominent figures in the city and insurance markets. The Chief Executive of a leading psychiatric hospital, who he represented and who received a public apology after his acquittal, described Charles as, 'passionate and committed...(he) has natural talent of a very high order'.

Charles' recent work includes criminal aspects of insider dealing, rate manipulation, cross jurisdictional asset recovery, market manipulation and anti-competitive trading. He has advised banks and other financial institutions and has drafted asset recovery legislation for overseas territories and advised on the implementation of money laundering and mutual assistance regimes.

In criminal law, he also has extensive experience in cases of homicide, terrorism, serious violence and drug trafficking and has appeared in two major public enquiries.

Recent clients include News of the World news editor James Weatherup; James Gilmour inter-dealer broker acquitted in the LIBOR trial; JV, a prominent defendant in major European corruption trial; and IJ, accused of

corruptly influencing cricket matches.

Charles frequently contributes articles to Lexis on subjects relating to fraud and financial crime and has written for the Money Laundering Quarterly review.

He regularly speaks to audiences in different parts of the world on subjects relating to fraud, money laundering and international asset recovery.

## Expertise

### Crime

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Charles has substantial experience of defending in all forms of serious crime. He has appeared in many homicide trials and in a number of prominent cases of terrorism.

#### Notable Crime cases

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Homicide cases include:

R v S (2021)

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Another highly publicised case. Murder of Marks & Spencer employee

R v O (2021)

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Highly publicised murder of railway worker

R v H (2019/20)

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Complex murder trial

R v ER (2019)

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Prominent allegation of murder by fire attack

R v AV (2015)

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Foreman roofer accused of manslaughter by gross negligence

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R v SP (2014)

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Alleged murder of antiques dealer

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R v KD (2013)

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Polish revenge murder trial

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R v Zolotovskiy (2012)

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Russian double murder

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R v HEB (2011)

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Forensic Medical Examiner charged with manslaughter by gross negligence following the death of a prisoner at Chelsea Police Station.

[The Guardian.](#)

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R v C (2010)

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Dagenham sports club killing

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R v N (2010)

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Low intelligence as diminished responsibility

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R v C (2009)

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'Best friend' murder case

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R v Palmer (2009)

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Colchester train manslaughter case

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R v T (2007)

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The Woodhams murder

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R v P (2006)

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Teenage gang murder trial

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R v. Crawley (2004)

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The 'honeytrap' murder trial

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R v. Osborne (2004)

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Well publicised intruder murder case

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R v. P (2003)

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Conspiracy to murder

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R v RM (2017/8)

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Supplying electronic support for acts of terrorism

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Terrorism cases include:

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R v MHM (2017)

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Allegations of preparing serious acts of terrorism in the UK R v MD (1996) – Palestinian journalist accused of plot to bomb the Israeli embassy

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R v JJ (2014)

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Allegations of terrorism arising out of the conflict in Syria. Secondary School teacher accused of two section 5 Terrorism Act 2006 offences.

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R v HF (2011)

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Allegations of recruiting terrorists for Afghanistan

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R v MA (2007)

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21/7 terrorist case

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## Business Crime & Fraud

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Charles' experience in this field is very extensive. It includes serious fraud and money laundering cases of all types, including many of the leading fraud trials of modern times.

### Notable Business Crime & Fraud cases

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Fraud clients include:

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- **(R v. Borkum 1990)**  
a portfolio manager at BZW
- **(R v. Crowther 1991)**  
a senior bank manager at Nat West
- **(R v. Jumani 1990)**  
a leading importer of Indian films
- **(R v. Shand 2002)**  
the Chairman of Boodles
- **(R v. Felstead 1997)**  
the director of a re-insurance brokerage at Lloyd's
- **(R v. Hammond 1996)**  
the largest UK importer of tropical birds and parrots
- **(R v. Devlin 1997)**  
the director of a UK travel agency charged with defrauding German parent company
- **(R v. McHale 1999)**  
the principal sub-contractor on the Millennium Dome site
- **(R v. McMaster 1998)**  
a solicitor accused of laundering money for a major drugs syndicate
- **(R v. Lyons 2001)**  
an accountant accused of laundering money for a Colombian cartel
- **(R v. McKelvie 1997/8)**  
a retired police officer accused of substantial revenue fraud
- **(R v. Strachan 1997)**  
the managing director of a chain of employment agencies charged with fraudulent trading
- **(R v. Harrison 2003)**  
a solicitor accused of embezzling client funds on a substantial scale
- **(R v. Owide 2004)**  
the owner of the Windmill Club
- **(R v. Mills 2004/5)**  
the auditor of the Jubilee Line Extension fraud
- **(R v. Uddin 2006)**

- a Tower Hamlets councillor accused of financial corruption
- **(R v. F 2006-2008)**  
the director of a leading pharmaceuticals company
- **(R v. AB 2009)**  
the Chief Executive of a major psychiatric hospital
- **(R v A 2014)**  
an accountant accused of multi-jurisdictional fraud
- **(R v TK 2014)**  
a Customs officer accused of corruption and revenue fraud
- **(R v NWD 2015)**  
a prominent IFA who prompted film investment schemes
- **(R v Gilmour 2015-16)**  
an inter-dealer broker charged in the LIBOR rate manipulation case
- **(R v JB 2016-17)**  
an accountant employed in an ethical investment company
- **(R v JC 2017)**  
the director and founder of the UK's largest 'umbrella' employment agency
- **(R v JV 2018-19)**  
'Mr Lithuania' – a leading figure in a trail relating to bribery of Lithuanian government ministers and officials

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#### Large Revenue Fraud Cases include:

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- R v. Green (1991)
- R v. Boxall (1992)
- R v. Andrews (1995)
- R v. Lowen (1998)
- R v. Rose (2001)
- R v. Smith (2001)
- R v. Clodd-Broom (2003)
- R v. G Smith (2005)
- R v. Fisher (2004/5)
- R v. Jones (2006/7)
- R v Koser (2008)
- R v Mallourides (2010/11)
- R v Mohammed (2011)
- R v Turner (2011)
- R v PS (2012)
- R v H (2013/4)
- R v M (2013)
- R v NWD (2015)
- R v AA (2015/16)
- R v JB (2016/7)
- R v GC (2017)
- R v RC (2017)

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Other Fraud Work includes:

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- R v. Miller (1998) Prominent case about corruption in influential circles in the City.
- R v. Stepnika and others (2000): Substantial money laundering by former Czech police officers.
- R v. Colorado (2001) Vast Colombian money laundering case.
- R v. Headley (2002) Laundering the proceeds of Europe's largest armed robbery.
- R v. Zone (2003) Recent test case on abuse of Local Authority Right to Buy scheme.
- R v. Baldar (2005) Surgeon accused of obtaining 9 NHS posts by deception.
- R v. M (2007) FSA/French Stock Exchange insider dealing inquiry.
- R v. Thorne (2009) SFO Prosecution of leading UK car retailer.
- R v. R (2009) SFO Prosecution of investment fraud.
- R v H (2011/2012) SFO prosecution of Ponzi fraud.
- R v U (2012) Businessman acquitted in Ukrainian money laundering case.
- R v S (2012) The first UK prosecution alleging artificial trade in carbon credit permits.
- R v PM (2013) SFO prosecution of major investment fraud.
- R v AH (2015) Substantial mortgage fraud prosecution.

Charles is currently advising a range of clients who are the subject of major fraud investigations.

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## Criminal Regulatory

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Charles has represented large UK companies in regulatory prosecutions relating to Health and Safety and Environmental issues

### Notable Criminal Regulatory cases

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HSE v AWM Ltd (ongoing)

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Prosecution arising from industrial accidents

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EA v AWM Ltd

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Environmental prosecution

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## Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery

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Charles has conducted and advised in a wide range of civil cases relating to fraud and asset recovery. He is currently instructed in two of the leading account forfeiture cases.

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He speaks regularly on these subjects to audiences from both the professional and financial world. He recently advised on the introduction of civil recovery regime in dependent territories and drafted legislation.

Since 2016, he has represented a US pension fund in relation to a substantial international fraud enquiry .

He is currently representing account holders in relation to a major NCA civil forfeiture case based upon allegations of political corruption in former Soviet states.

## Notable Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery cases

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NCA v O,P and E (ongoing)

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Very substantial account forfeiture case

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HMRC v H (ongoing)

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Account forfeiture case arising from substantial tax fraud investigation

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HMRC v City Plant Ltd (2020- 21)

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PDL v Alexander Gutin and Crosspoint Ltd (2019)

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Sullivan and others v Briggs (2019- 21)

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Burnley FC v Lloyds Bank (2017)

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Trifanova v Kuznetsov (2015/16)

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## Public Law

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Charles has appeared in two public inquiries.

## International Law

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Charles has significant experience in international law, particularly in International Criminal Tribunals including appeals and in relation to extradition.

# Private Prosecution

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Charles has led teams conducting some of the largest modern private prosecutions in the area of serious fraud.

## Notable Private Prosecution cases

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ASM Ltd v Cable and Whaley (2016 - 19)

Geraud UK Ltd v Bonnet, Burnett and another (2016-18)

# Education

- Senior Governors Scholar, Hymers College, Hull
- Bryant Exhibitioner, Emmanuel College, Cambridge

# Memberships

- Bencher of Grays Inn
- Member of FA Rule K panel 2016
- Chaired Bar Council Investigation Committee 2011/12

# Publications

## Articles for Lexis

- [The Russian Laundromat 2017](#)
- [Joint Fraud Task Force 2016](#)
- [USA v Abacha Case 2014](#)
- [Decision of the Court of Appeal in R v Farooqi 2013](#)

## Conferences/Lectures

Charles is a regular speaker at both national and international conferences. They include:

- Chair of international Fraud and Asset Recovery Conference London 2014
- New York County LA: (i)Whistleblowers , Secret Swiss bank Accounts and Recovering Hidden Assets 2017

and (ii) The Libor Case 2015

*“CHARLES BOTT QC, Head of Carmelite Chambers, is one of the UK’s leading practitioners in all subjects relating to criminal and civil fraud.”*

- Fraud Masterclass Miami C5, 2012
- Bermuda 2012 – Civil Recovery
- Cayman Islands 2010 – Proceeds of Crime law

Numerous lectures in chambers and other venues , mostly on topics related to fraud

## Recommendations

### 2024

Chambers & Partners

*“Charles is an exceptional KC with superior expertise across the board.”*

Crime: Band 2

*“Charles is tactically astute, a very good advocate and a good leader who thinks of all angles.”*

*“One of the leading KCs for highly complex money laundering and crime cases – nothing fazes him.”*

*“Charles is outstanding in every way.”*

Financial Crime: Band 1

Legal 500

Crime: Tier 3

Fraud:Crime: *‘Charles is a magnificent barrister with the highest intellect imaginable. He is a kind and compassionate individual who is loved by his clients. His advocacy is remarkable and he is instructed nationally and internationally. There is no one better than Charles.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

Proceeds of Crime (POCA) and Asset Forfeiture

Ranked: Tier 3

### 2023

Chambers & Partners

Financial Crime: *“Charles is a remarkable lawyer.”*

*“He is a superb advocate and one of the finest silks at the Criminal Bar.”*

Ranked: Band 1

Crime: *“A technically brilliant advocate who is very insightful and sees things that other KCs don’t see.”*

Ranked: Band 2

Legal 500

Crime: Tier 3

Fraud:Crime: *Charles is brilliant at cross-examination. Magisterial with difficult clients'*  
Ranked: Tier 3

Proceeds of Crime (POCA) and Asset Forfeiture  
Ranked: Tier 3

## 2022

Chambers & Partners

Financial Crime: *"He is a Rolls-Royce silk; one of the most experienced financial crime silks. His knowledge and immediate understanding of a fraud case is incredible." "He has excellent communication skills and is very clever."*  
Ranked: Band 1

Crime: *"A robust and exceptionally experienced barrister."*  
Ranked: Band 2

Legal 500

Crime: *"An excellent silk."*  
Ranked: Tier 3

Fraud:Crime: *"Charles is extremely bright, very thoughtful and combines academic excellence with incisive and persuasive advocacy. He is undoubtedly in the top echelon of silks."*  
Ranked: Tier 3

Proceeds of Crime (POCA) and Asset Forfeiture: *"He is extremely bright, very thoughtful and combines academic excellence with incisive and persuasive advocacy. He is very patient and caring towards all his lay clients. He is undoubtedly in the top echelon of silks. Anyone who instructs him would agree he is a truly outstanding barrister."*  
Ranked: Tier 3

## 2021

Chambers & Partners

Financial Crime: *"A very careful and considered advocate. He works very hard and knows his case very well." "Immensely talented as an advocate, on paper and with clients." "Sharp and personable in equally high measures."*  
Ranked: Band 1

Crime: *"Really client-friendly and someone who finds new angles to cases by thinking outside the box." "A man with a burning intellect, he is a good jury advocate." "Charles is a good tactician whose advocacy is considered and precise. He has incredible experience of dealing with some of the most serious and infamous cases."*  
Ranked: Band 2

Legal 500

Crime: *"Clever but with a really lovely touch in front of a jury. Just effortless in being able to distil down complex factual and legal issues in a way that appeals to juries."*  
Ranked: Tier 3

Fraud:Crime: *"Still rightly viewed as one of the top Silks to defend in complex fraud. Clever but with a really lovely touch in front of a jury. Just effortless in being able to distil down complex factual and legal issues in a way that appeals to juries."*  
Ranked: Tier 3

Proceeds of Crime (POCA) and Asset Forfeiture: *"Very experienced in civil recovery and confiscation cases."*  
Ranked: Tier 3

## 2020

Chambers & Partners: *"A top draw silk, who is sharp witted and personable in equal measure. He has the nicest manner with clients ...works tirelessly."*

## 2019

Chambers & Partners: *"He has an extraordinary intellect and is a magnificent advocate. His written work is second to none...He is extremely bright and a good tactician... A very effective performer... brilliant and charming in the courtroom."*

## 2018

Chambers & Partners: *"Immensely impressive ...and tremendously hard-working."*

## 2017

Chambers & Partners: *"A lawyer with a brilliant mind and understated advocacy approach." "He's a devastating talent in and out of court."*

Legal 500: *"..he has a very attractive and understated way with the jury."*

## 2016

Chambers & Partners: *"A popular choice of silk for the defence of a variety of financial criminal charges, including those relating to rate manipulation, tax fraud and corruption."*

## 2015

Chambers & Partners: *"His attention to details marks him out, as does his measured style in court." "A highly regarded criminal silk who focuses his practice on serious fraud defence. Instructing solicitors value his adept handling of complex cases."*

Legal 500: *"His closing speeches leave you in awe." "He fights like hell for his clients because he really cares about them."*

## 2014

Chambers & Partners: *"A great strategist, with an exceptionally bright mind and great attention to detail." "He's incredibly clever and hard-working."*

## 2013

Chambers & Partners: *"He 'has a truly original mind and is destined to leave his mark at the Criminal Bar."*

## Awards



# Mountford Chambers



**Chambers**

**RANKED IN**

**UK**

**2023**

**Mountford Chambers**

