

Joseph Sinclair

Call 2020



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Joseph is developing a busy practice in all areas of Chambers' work and is regularly instructed to defend in the Crown and Magistrates' courts. He is increasingly instructed to defend allegations of serious drug, firearms and violence offences in the youth court, which often raise issues of gang affiliation, county lines, and modern slavery.

Joseph has advised those regulated by Social Work England, the Health and Care Professions Council and the General Medical Council. He has advised a third party in multi-million POCA proceedings which raise gender-based discrimination issues. Joseph uses his significant public, commercial and human rights law experience he gained prior to coming to the bar to take novel angles to difficult procedural and legal issues.

Before coming to the Bar, Joseph worked with a leading anti-corruption charity where he gained experience in financial crime proceedings and asset recovery, with a focus on freezing orders brought under the Criminal Finances Act 2017. As an immigration caseworker, he developed an expertise in nationality fraud and advising on issues of diplomatic law. He has significant public law drafting experience before the tribunals, Administrative Court, Court of Appeal, and the Privy Council.

As an associate researcher at an anti-corruption charity, Joseph gained experience in bribery proceedings, asset recovery, sanctions and mutual legal assistance, with a focus on freezing orders brought in under the Criminal Finances Act 2017. Before coming to the Bar, he was a specialist caseworker at a firm of immigration solicitors working on citizenship deprivation proceedings, complex appeals and advising on points of diplomatic law. At the Home Office, Joseph specialised in judicial review claims concerning allegations of tax and document fraud. As a barrister's assistant, he has drafted grounds of judicial review for claims before the Upper Tribunal and High Court, and grounds of appeal to the Court of Appeal. He has also provided research assistance in criminal and commercial matters before the Privy Council.

As a member of ALBA, Joseph was invited to assist in preparing its response to the government's proposed changes to judicial review. He has also been asked to comment in the press on asset recovery cases in the UK,

and has written articles on account freezing orders, whistleblowers, and legal drafting for a specialist immigration publication.

Joseph holds an LL.B (Hons) in Law & Sociology from Cardiff University and an MA with distinction in Corruption and Governance from the University of Sussex. He was awarded the Jules Thorn scholarship by Middle Temple to study a joint LLM BPTC. As part of his LLM, he represented clients in private child proceedings before the family courts. He was a director of Vocalise, the prison debating initiative run by Gray's Inn, and is currently a trustee of the refugee charity, RLS.

Expertise

Crime

Notable Crime cases

R v R - Luton Crown Court [2023]

Secured a short suspended sentence for HGV driver charged with an incident described by the judge as the "height of careless driving". The victim spent 4 months in hospital and was left with permanent life-changing injuries.

R v R - Winchester Crown Court [2023]

Secured suspended sentence for defendant involved in a serious violent disorder offence. R and others knocked the complainant out cold outside his room, and continued to punch and kick them for several minutes while they were unconscious.

R v Z - Medway Youth Court [2023]

Secured acquittal on modern slavery grounds for defendant charged with a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs. The Crown relied on, among other things, drill evidence to rebut his defence of debt bondage and exploitation. Joseph successfully resisted a bad character application concerning Z's alleged involvement in a gang-related revenge ride-out, where a shotgun had been fired at rival gang-members at several locations. Officers were cross-examined on the typology of county lines exploitation which was found to be consistent with Z's account.

R v B - Staines Magistrates' Court [2023]

B was accused of calling his partner in breach of a restraining order. Joseph successfully resisted an application

to admit like offences as bad character. B was acquitted after the investigating officer was cross-examined on investigatory failings.

R v O - Peterborough Magistrates' Court [2023]

O was seen on CCTV assaulting a prison officer when she attempted to restrain him. Proceedings were discontinued after Joseph drafted a defence statement, identifying excessive restraint and breaches of the relevant prison service order.

R v E - Stratford Magistrates' Court [2023]

E was charged with public order offences that took place at a football match and were caught on body-worn video. The matter was discontinued after Joseph raised disclosure failings. An application for a football banning order was also withdrawn.

Civil Applications

Police v H - Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court [2023]

Application for stalking protection withdrawn after Joseph prepared a skeleton argument which raised the collateral attack principle.

Police v P - Croydon Magistrates' Court [2023]

Successfully represented a police force in an application by P for the return of a significant sum of cash under s.1 of the Police (Property) Act 1897. Joseph persuaded the court that the application was premature and that the magistrates' court was an inappropriate vehicle to resolve complex issues of ownership.

Education

LLB (Hons) Law & Sociology, Cardiff University

BPTC LLM, University of Law; Jules Thorn Scholar, Middle Temple

MA Corruption & Governance, University of Sussex

Memberships

Attorney General's Junior Junior Scheme

Committee Member, TIPS Network

Committee Member, Association of London Welsh Lawyers

Criminal Bar Association

Young Fraud Lawyers Association

Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers

Constitutional and Administrative Law Bar Association

Publications

[How to write a pre-action letter that makes the Home Office change its mind](#)

[Is it time for a whistle blower visa?](#)

[Account freezing orders, what do immigration practitioners need to know?](#)

Press

[\\$23m of cash looted by Nigerian dictator recovered](#)

[Credit Suisse and Citco face £430m lawsuit over Chelsea property deal that lost Vatican £100m](#)