

Paul Mylvaganam

Call 1993



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Paul Mylvaganam was called to the Bar in 1993. He graduated from Pembroke College, Oxford and holds a Masters degree from Sussex University in International Criminal Law. He is regularly engaged by the United Nations and governments as a technical expert in multiple different areas of law that range between civil and criminal law matters. He is known for his ability to master new areas of law/fact at pace and for his ability to work in diverse teams of lawyers and civil servants.

Paul has acted in International Commissions of Inquiry, advised on the creation of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and acted in the most serious, complex and high-profile, public law and criminal cases.

He has experience of all levels of the legal system from pre-charge to appeal. He is known particularly for his expertise in cases involving novel points of law and disclosure issue, particularly where third party disclosure/data requests are involved and which have been litigated in the most serious police corruption cases. His strategic sense and judgement is the reason that his counsel has been sought by those in the highest levels of government and institutions.

Paul has acted in landmark cases and is often asked by academic institutions/ NGOs to prepare briefing documents to seek to inform MPs on new or complex legislation. Paul is often sought out when innovative, points of law are under consideration and he has had three reserved test cases before Lord Chief Justices. Paul is a barrister who is not afraid to push at the boundaries of the law. He is a passionate advocate who puts his professional and lay clients first. His collaborative attitude, combined with his warmth and work ethos, make him a sought after counsel to any legal team.

Expertise

Public Law

2015-2016

International Commission of Inquiry in Sri Lanka: Appointed as Liaison Counsel to the Inquiry

Working as Liaison Counsel to Inquiry in Sri Lanka, chaired by Sir Desmond de Silva QC and which included Rodney Dixon KC, David Crane (former Chief Prosecutor of Special Court Sierra Leone) and numerous international legal technical experts on IHL. Paul had a specific role on advising on the Truth and Reconciliation aspect of the report and liaising with the Govt of South Africa on aspects of a proposed TRC. This was a significant role that required liaison between the Sri Lankan judges and the international experts and Silks.

The skills that were necessary in his role included high ethical standards in dealing with issues of national security vis a vis the state; confidentiality to those who had disclosed information to the Inquiry; issues related to data storage; potential judicial reviews; the ability to work with the most senior judges, NGOs and military experts. Separately Paul has also worked extensively with UK civil servants between 2017-20 as a Senior Technical Advisor to the UK CSSF programme in South Asia and on secondment in North Africa.

Paul also acts in Inquests.

Notable Public Law cases

R v Ellis

(JR on Privacy reserved to Lord Chief Justice) led by Tim Owen KC.

Crime

He is recognised as a leading practitioner in cases involving public interest immunity issues, disclosure and sanctions.

Paul's practice is wide ranging and he is also in great demand in international cases where British nationals have been arrested abroad. He was one of a few counsel mentioned in the Chambers "Spotlight Section" of international criminal barristers.

Paul's experience in murder cases having worked on some the largest criminal cases at the Central Criminal Court that have involved high level police corruption and the where intelligence issues have led to tensions in the fair trial process.

Notable Crime cases

R v N

Old Bailey murder case involving complex mental health and psychiatric issues. Mother charged with double murder of two of her children and attempted murder of the third. She stabbed and slit the throats of her son, five; daughter, four, and her six-month-old baby girl. Following complex psychiatric and psychological reports obtained by the defence, the prosecution accepted, diminished responsibility responsibility and did not proceed with the murder charges. Counsel had to work extensively with the defence pathologist and the psychiatrists and mental health experts.

R v C

Old Bailey murder- Operation Trident – Yardie gang murder shooting.

R v C

Old Bailey murder – stalker murder of senior UK civil servant with complex psychiatric evidence involved.

R v D

Murder – Maidstone CC representing a woman on a murder charge. She was alleged to have paid her younger lover to have killed her husband. The case was about whether the defendants had manipulated her lover, due to his low IQ. Psychological evidence was key to the case.

R v T

Child cruelty case, involving cross examination of medical experts and the branding by use of metal iron of a child.

R v F

Child cruelty case involving child neglect.

R v N

Coercive control case/domestic violence case.

R v N

Old Bailey murder case involving gang member being attacked with a machete.

R v V

Old Bailey murder case Ukrainian national charged with stabbing.

R v L

Old Bailey, attempted murder case -involving former KGB Lithuanian hitman shooting another individual.

R v C

Oxford Crown Court – Murder – one of the most high profile Honour Killing cases in the country.

R v J

Old Bailey – murder case involving crack cocaine.

R v A

Old Bailey double murder case – involving Colombian cat burglar gang.

R v S

Old Bailey – murder case involving South Asian gangland stabbing.

R v K

Woman represented on a bigamy charge.

R v G

Pregnant woman represented with possession of half a kilo of class A drugs. Extensive medical evidence in issue.

Business Crime & Fraud

Paul has worked on a number of seminal international corruption cases over the last three decades. He has an excellent grasp of disclosure issues and the strategic skills necessary to navigate voluminous, multi-jurisdictional cases. He has also advised numerous govts, including HMG on corruption and sanctions issues and worked closely with the United States DOJ on investigation and training programmes.

Notable Business Crime & Fraud cases

Appeared as Counsel in Southwark Crown Court in the SFO prosecuted "Oil for Food Case". This was reported as being the largest corruption investigation in the world and involved illicit payments to the reime of Saddam Hussein. The investigation spanned from Iraq to the US, Europe and Australia and required a thorough understanding of govt procurement policies and complex PII and disclosure.

Instructed as Counsel in the "Missionpharma" United Nations corruption case. This Southwark case involved Dutch nationals that worked for the Global Fund conducting tender fraud against UNDP in the Congo. This case was highlighted in the OECD 2012 Annual Reports as one of the most significant European corruption prosecutions of the decade.

Instructed in a corruption case with Anthony Arlidge QC, to represent a senior UK civil servant from the MOJ who was charged with tender corruption.

R v S

This was a CIB3 corruption investigation, representing the first defendant, a Customs Officer charged with perverting the course of justice and orchestrating bogus corrupt payments to fellow officers to collapse multiple criminal trials.

R v K [2014]

£600 million money laundering fraud

R v K

Major CIB3 police corruption case involving police officers working for an Organised Crime Group.

Asset Forfeiture & Civil Recovery

Previously, Paul served as the Chief Learning Officer to Asset Reality, UK, where he led their program design, contributing to Law Enforcement training. Currently, he collaborates with them on an ad hoc basis, compiling reports and providing training for LEA's. Asset Reality's focus lies in the realm of cybercrime, data protection, and cryptocurrency training. Over the past two years, Paul has closely collaborated with numerous experts in this field, gaining insight from both governmental and private perspectives. Notably, he recently completed a significant report for GIZ (German Government) in conjunction with retired NCA officers and Asset Reality. Independently, he has also undertaken reports for the Attorney General of Belize and for the United Nations in Uzbekistan, focusing on cyber and cryptocurrency issues. This experience has equipped Paul with the ability to work seamlessly within large multinational legal teams on cutting edge issues of law.

In practice, Paul has been involved in a number of civil asset seizure cases involving companies and individuals and has worked on designing and implementing training programs for asset recovery with senior UK judges and Commonwealth judges.

International Law

Paul has a practice that is truly international. This year he has worked on an investigation based in Thailand as well as advising a client in a major trial in Belize and advising. He is often advising and creating legal teams for governments, or for individuals who are arrested abroad. He has worked for a three-year period between 2017-20 for Coffey International, a company that manages complex legal programmes abroad. This work involved liaising with senior ministers from several jurisdictions, civil servants and the senior judiciary both in the UK and abroad. Paul has developed the ability to understand and communicate complex political and legal issues to a high-level audience. There are few criminal barristers, over this last decade, who have been engaged in the breadth of international criminal law that his practice spans. He is conversant working within the fault lines of law, politics, and diplomacy.

Notable International Law cases

Work Abroad

2015-2016

Working as **Liaison Counsel** to Inquiry in Sri Lanka, chaired by Sir Desmond de Silva QC and which included Rodney Dixon KC, David Crane (former Chief Prosecutor of Special Court Sierra Leone) and numerous international legal technical experts on IHL. Paul had a specific role on advising on the Truth and Reconciliation aspect of the report and liaising with the Govt of South Africa on aspects of a proposed TRC.

2013-2015

Travelling to Nigeria as a Consultant to UNODC and training senior prosecutors in IHRL and IHL and in the second half of the program 'training the trainers'.

ICC v Govt of Comoros

Part of the team representing victims in a major Maritime engagement involving maritime law, illegal blockade, targeting, and the laws of war.

Led by Rod Dixon KC.

Memberships

Part of the international Working Trade Group of the Bar Council of England and Wales (International Committee).