



Peter Ratliff

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Profile

Peter is a highly regarded and sought after practitioner with a busy advisory and court practice. Peter specialises in investigations into business and corporate crime, and complex casework. He regularly advises multinational companies and company directors on matters arising from civil and criminal litigation. He has appeared for the Defence and Prosecution in many high profile criminal cases, and is ranked as a Leading Junior in Chambers and Partners.

Recognition



Expertise

Corporate Crime and Investigations

Peter has a breadth of experience of advising on corporate criminal matters. He represented News UK in respect of investigations into phone hacking and corruption. He is currently instructed by a leading American law firm to represent a corporate suspect in a high-profile SFO investigation, and by the SFO to advise in respect of a major investigation.

Peter has recently advised and represented an international airline in respect of a prosecution for offences relating to the safety of aircraft by the Civil Aviation Authority. He has particular experience of providing advice in complex corporate fraud investigations.

Peter has particular experience of protecting the rights of companies to legal professional privilege, commercially sensitive, journalistic source and private data in circumstances where they are the subject of investigation. Recently Peter was instructed by a well-known firm of solicitors to resist the execution of a warrant which purported to permit the Metropolitan Police to seize notes of conferences and proofs of evidence created between the solicitors and clients and witnesses.

Peter has experience of and interest in cases involving cybercrime. He has advised on the misuse of restricted computer systems, and has experience of using and presenting evidence relating to many of the commercial auditing systems used by complex and

secure computer networks.

Fraud

Peter has extensive experience defending allegations of fraud brought by the Serious Fraud Office, HMRC, the Department of Trade and Industry.

Peter recently secured the only acquittal of a defendant charged in respect of the DWP's largest investigation into fraud on the benefits system. He is currently instructed by HMRC to advise in respect of Civil Recovery, and to defend the first defendant in a major immigration fraud.

Peter recently concluded a case involving allegations of wide-scale fraud in the fishing industry following a complex investigation by the Marine Management Organisation. Peter has advised in respect of whistleblowing, powers of covert surveillance pursuant to RIPA, corruption of public officials and legal professional privilege.

Peter was instructed as sole Junior in respect of the SFO's widespread and complex investigation into criminality at Torex Retail PLC and advised as to corporate liability, the appropriate scope of the investigation and charges. Peter was led in the two subsequent trials which resulted in the conviction for offences of conspiracy to defraud of 5 of 6 company directors.

Peter was Junior Counsel for the Crown in the prosecution of the head of the UK's policing project in Afghanistan for offences of conspiracy to fraud relating to the provision of equipment to the Afghan police force.

Peter has experience of cases involving the freezing of assets and forfeiture proceedings, and has acted for the Defence and Prosecution in many high value confiscation hearings. He represented the UK at the 2010 Commonwealth Secretariat International Seminar on Bribery and Corruption.

Criminal Litigation

Peter has considerable experience in representing the Defence and Prosecution in high profile and serious cases. He was instructed by the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Cayman Islands to prosecute the country's first Premier for offences of misconduct in a public office, and recently conducted the successful prosecution of defendants charged in respect of the largest importation of firearms into the United Kingdom.

Other recent cases include the successful defences of a prison officer for offences of conspiracy to supply drugs, and of a well-known music producer accused of historic rape, false imprisonment, robbery and possession of a firearm. Peter prosecuted a member of a proscribed extremist organisation for an assault on Baroness Warsi. Peter was recently Junior Counsel for the Crown in the prosecution of a defendant for the murder of his wife for financial gain, and the prosecution of two men for the execution-style killing of another.

Peter was Junior for the Crown in the re-trial of Barry George, accused of the murder of the television presenter Jill Dando, and defended the musician Peter Doherty for offences of drug possession arising from an investigation into the death of a young woman associated with him, dangerous driving and other offences.

Peter is instructed to represent the Blue musician Lee Ryan in respect of offences said to have been committed following Mr. Ryan's appearance on the television programme

“Celebrity Big Brother”.

Media and Information Law

Peter represents a number of media clients, including Universal Pictures UK and the Northern and Shell Media Group, and has expertise in advising on libel, defamation, privacy and copyright.

Peter represented the interests of a number of individuals in respect of the investigations into corruption of public officials (Operation Elvedon) and telephone hacking (Operation Weeting). He has particular experience in dealing with special and excluded material sought by prosecuting authorities, including journalistic source material.

Appointments

- Serious Fraud Office Panel of Counsel (List B)
 - The Attorney General's Panel of Approved Prosecutors
 - Crown Prosecution Service (London) Grade 4
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Other

Peter is qualified to accept instructions direct from corporate entities under the Bar Council's Public Access Rules.

Education

University of Sheffield, 2.1, Law LLB (Hons).