



Stephen Harvey QC

Year of Call: 1979

Year of Silk: 2006

Email Address: stephen.harvey@3pb.co.uk

Telephone: 020 7583 8055

Overview

For the first 8 years, Stephen had a general common law practice. It developed into a heavyweight criminal practice and, in 1990, he joined the Attorney-General's Chambers where he spent the following 20 years prosecuting and defending in serious criminal cases of all types.

Over the past 12 years his practice has expanded into other areas where he has utilised his tactical and forensic skills. He receives instructions from throughout the UK and abroad.

Stephen has interests in witness familiarisation training and in lecturing upon a variety of legal topics, particularly in relation to the expert witness.

Direct access practice:

Stephen is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme. He is one of the few members of the Bar authorised to conduct litigation. Direct Access represents the biggest change in how legal services are delivered for decades with the growing awareness of the ability of the public to go directly to a barrister.

Litigation:

Stephen is approved by the Bar Standards Board to conduct litigation.

Areas of practice:

- Criminal law – all areas
- Business crime – trading standards, food and safety, pollution, health and safety, fire safety
- Appeals in all criminal matters
- Private prosecutions
- Compliance and corporate governance – financial regulation, data protection, trademark and copyright breaches, bribery and anti-corruption
- Public law and regulatory
- Planning enforcement
- Inquests
- Inquiries
- Disciplinary tribunals

- Military law and Courts Martial
- Sports law
- Direct access.

Recommendations

Stephen has been rated by both of the two main professional directories:

Chambers & Partners states that 'Stephen is a meticulous and confident performer who is both charming and hardworking'. He is active in a wide range of areas, and has notable specialisations in fraud and copyright theft'.

'...(he) honed his skills in engineering and financial services before coming to the Bar. He wins acclaim for his charming manner and clear-headedness'.

Legal 500 particularly refers to his, '...wealth of experience in the cross-examination of experts (in a variety of fields) and (he) has lectured...on the topic of 'The expert witness'.

Academic qualifications

- LLB(Hons)(Lond)

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Associate Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Professional bodies

- The Criminal Bar Association
- The Proceeds of Crime Lawyers Association
- The British Academy of Forensic Sciences
- The Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- The Health and Safety Lawyers Association
- The Public Access Bar Association.

Expertise

Crime

The following are examples of the cases in which Stephen has been involved: -

Criminal law:

Sexual offences:

- PG – Secured the discontinuance of all charges in respect of a man charged with repeated, serious sexual offences.
- R v B – Defended in a case in which a 16-year-old was charged with serial rape involving teenage girls.
- R v H – Represented a top lawyer charged with historical sexual allegations on two very young girls. The accusations included stupefying them with drugs.
- R v X – Represented an Imam charged with sexual offending.
- R v B – Prosecuted a medical professional who faced multiple allegations of sexually abusing his patients.
- R v H – Prosecuted to conviction a ‘cold case’ stranger rape.
- R v B and Others - Advised the prosecution and drafted a 70 + count indictment against 10 defendants accused of being members of a paedophile ring involving some of the defendant’s children, and others, and alleged corruption within Social Services departments of local authorities and outside agencies. T

Fraud:

Much of Stephen’s fraud practice has involved advisory work at an early stage of an investigation. When defending, he has often influenced its course and negotiated a favourable outcome. In this role he has dealt with the major investigating bodies including the Serious Fraud Office (using its wide-ranging powers), the Financial Conduct Authority in its regulation of financial markets as well as large-scale fraud inquiries conducted by the HMRC, the police and the CPS.

- R v AB – Represented a bank manager who had spent many years defrauding his bank using ‘ghost’ accounts and other devices to conceal and move monies around the world.
- R v J – Financial Services Authority prosecution of a large insurance brokerage and allegations of misappropriated premiums. Case involved ‘early day’ successful appearances in the Chancery Division in respect of a number of world-wide injunctions granted to the investigators.
- R v M – An insurance company fraud involving substantial amounts of monies being syphoned off through a complex trail of bank accounts throughout Europe.
- R v W – A substantial VAT ‘carousel’ fraud brought by HMRC involving cross-jurisdictional transactions, money laundering and a ‘supergrass’.
- R v G – A fraud involving the creation of a company to act as a vehicle for the sales of vast quantities of stolen specialist building materials from the company employing the defendants.
- R v H – A seven-figure fraud on an international leasing company by the ‘creation’ of assets against which funds were borrowed.
- F v K and L – Advising on a civil claim to recover tens of thousands of pounds involving accusations of fraud, forgery and an attempt to pervert the course of justice allegedly occurring during the course of earlier civil litigation.
- J v JB – A case involving the identification of hidden assets here and abroad and the recovery thereof.
- R v G – A civil fraud case before the Companies Court. The client was alleged to have defrauded two British banks of a total of £1.68 million using a BVI company (now in administration) to acquire properties in the UK. The case involved a number of issues arising under BVI company law.
- AB – Stephen recently advised on behalf of an American finance investment company in relation to a ‘Ponzi’ type scheme

in which it is seeking to trace and recover £2.7 million.

Proceeds of crime and money laundering:

- R v H – Following 18 months of complex negotiations, the prosecutions original claim for a £2 million benefit figure, based upon the clients “criminal lifestyle”, was reduced by 88% to a benefit figure of just £246,000.
- R v M – A large conspiracy to steal and distribute prestige cars throughout Europe with the proceeds being passed through a network of bank accounts.
- R v C – An international conspiracy to supply drugs and launder the proceeds through bank and building society accounts in the UK and in Spain. Case stayed as an abuse of the process of the court.
- R v B – Successfully retained the client’s financial interests in a property in the face of the prosecutions claim that all the property should be the subject of confiscation.

Bribery and corruption:

Much of Stephen’s work, at home and abroad, has been in relation to the ‘adequate procedures’ and protocols required for an organisation to insulate itself against the prospect of criminal proceedings. He has advised here and abroad on the Bribery Act 2010 and associated legislation.

He has advised upon corruption and constitutional legal issues in the sub-Indian continent. Recently, he provided the opposition government in Sri Lanka with advice on the serving governments legislative powers and the lawfulness of some of its legislative activities. As a result the government was compelled to institute corruption investigations.

Stephen has investigated organisations who have identified internal corruption and has designed processes and protocols to prevent and detect future abuses.

- R v A – Represented a senior tax investigator employed by the Inland Revenue who was acquitted upon all allegations of corruption after an inquiry lasting 4 years and a trial lasting 3 months.
- R v GD – An unusually short sentence of imprisonment was achieved for a director of an international company who was convicted of securing contracts for outside contractors.

Espionage:

- R v M – Successful defence of an army major charged with spying.

Hijacking:

- R v U – Defended the only defendant who remains unconvicted in the ‘Stansted-Afghan Hijacking’ case.

Abuse of process:

- R v H – Successfully argued that the case should be stayed due to errors made by the prosecution during the investigation. The case involved an international drug conspiracy. The legal arguments took three months to advance.
- R v E – At the time of trial the case involved the largest UK tobacco smuggling allegation that Customs & Excise had prosecuted. Successfully argued that case should be stayed due to significant non-disclosure by the prosecution of material it had acquired during the investigation and which was helpful to the defence.
- R v C – An international conspiracy to supply drugs and launder the proceeds through bank and building society accounts in the UK and in Spain. Case stayed as an abuse of the process of the court.

Homicide:

- R v T – Defended in a three-month multi-handed cutthroat murder trial. Stephen’s client was the only defendant to be acquitted.

- R v J and Others – This was the largest gangland trial that had been brought to court in the North of England. It involved Moss Side gangsters ('The Gooch Street Gang' and 'The Longsight Crew') gun-related violence, homicide, attempted homicides and drug dealing over a number of years. The trial took in excess of 6 months.
- R v G and Others – Successfully defended a 17-year-old charged with murder and grievous bodily harm following allegations that he had set fire to a block of flats when he was just 14 years of age. The case was brought to trial after a 'cold-case review', a Crime Watch appeal and following two major police investigations. The client was acquitted following detailed submissions as to the unreliability of the prosecution evidence.
- R v W – Successfully defended a young man charged with conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to dispose of the body.
- R v N – Prosecuted to conviction a Zimbabwean ex-policeman who killed his wife with an axe.
- R v A – Successfully defended a 17-year-old who was accused of being part of a group of youths who broke into the deceased's home twice and on the second occasion attacked him leaving him for dead. The client was acquitted after an 8-week trial.
- R v B – Prosecuted to conviction a rare case of infanticide where a young mother, having delivered her own baby, killed it.
- R v S – Defended an escaped prisoner who murdered his wife in the presence of their six very young (5 to 12 years of age) children by repeatedly stabbing her. The defence was provocation and a great deal of sensitive advocacy was required in dealing with the children who were witnesses in the case.
- R v M – Prosecuted to conviction a difficult and sensitive 'shaken baby homicide' case involving medical evidence from a total of 17 distinguished experts from a variety of medical disciplines.

Kidnapping and Blackmail:

- R v L – Defended in a trial involving the targeting, kidnapping and blackmailing of family members of lottery millionaires.
- R v S – Defended a Turkish client charged with armed kidnapping and blackmail in a 'Kebab wars' trial.

Drugs:

- R v C – A substantial cannabis smuggling operation involving over 100 armed police officers in a midnight raid at a quiet east coast location.

Computer crime and copyright theft:

- R v V – Successfully defended in a private prosecution brought by the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT). This was the first case that has come to trial involving accusations against the operators of a 'linking' website. The prosecution originally claimed that the losses of copyright revenues were in the region of £18 billion. The case, at the time, represented the highest value criminal prosecution brought in a UK court. The site was one of the most popular on the world wide web which, at its peak, was the 500th most visited site out of the 40 billion sites there are on the web. Complex cross-jurisdictional issues and a number of internationally renowned computer experts were called during the case. The client was charged with two conspiracies to defraud. Successfully argued that the first of the conspiracies should not proceed beyond close prosecution's case and the jury acquitted the client of the second conspiracy. The trial lasted 8 weeks.
- R v S – A private prosecution by FACT. It involved the importation and distribution of illegal set top boxes which facilitated the illegal downloading of copy written material. A significant six-figure loss was alleged. The client was acquitted.

Explosives and firearms:

- R v K – A case involving the manufacture of two bombs one of which exploded destroying a solicitor's office. The second was a 'video tape' designed to explode and kill the recipient when it was inserted into a video player.
- R v E – A case involving the petrol-bombings of two senior police officer's homes.

Modern slavery:

- TN – By virtue of early intervention, successfully secured the return of a vessel seized by a police force who alleged its crew were 'slaves'. No prosecution followed for any offences.

Criminal appeals:

Stephen is often asked to review convictions and sentences in cases he was not involved in which have, on occasions, resulted in him conducting an appeal in the Court of Appeal or the Crown Court, or if the case is suitable, in drafting an application for the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

- R v RL – Police eventually persuaded to re-investigate following representations that two of the witnesses at trial had perjured themselves. Matter proceeding to a Criminal Cases Review Commission application for a referral back to the Court of Appeal based upon new evidence.

Public and Regulatory

Financial:

Stephen has spent some time over the past five years advising on the ever-increasing volume of regulation affecting the financial sectors.

He has advised an overseas investment bank in relation to its obligations under the European Market Infrastructure Regulations (EMIR), the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID II), the obligations that the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) imposes (introduced by the American government with effect from July 2013) and of its responsibilities under the Dodd-Frank Act.

The economic situation has also seen a growth in the number of small to medium sized businesses enter the 'Peer to Peer' lending market. He has advised a small British PLC wishing to create a peer to peer lending operation on the regulatory framework attaching to such an operation.

- AL Ltd – Advised upon and prepared detailed skeleton submissions for the Chancery Division in the Financial Conduct Authority's application for a Restitution Order for £17.5 million under s.382 Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Other regulatory:

- R v C Z – Successfully argued for a low-level penalty having analysed the way in which breaches of the Control of Asbestos regulations 2012 had occurred. The fines imposed were 1/5th of those originally expected.
- GDC v S – Defended in a General Dental Council prosecution in a case involving cosmetic treatment and breaches of the Dentists Act 1984.
- Dr. J – Care Quality Commission application for cancellation of a GP's practice registration under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- XX – Advised and represented a red brick university in disciplinary hearings of students.

Trading standards:

- JB – Represented a firm of surveyors who were prosecuted for various contraventions of the Trading Standards Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.
- BC v SCS – Instructed to institute and conduct a private prosecution under regulations 8 and 9 of the Trading Standards Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.

Private prosecutions:

Stephen is well placed to advise upon, and conduct, private prosecutions.

- MO – Secured a full indemnity of costs incurred by a private prosecutor in a failed private prosecution.
- BC v SCS – Instructed to institute and conduct a private prosecution under regulations 8 and 9 of the Trading Standards Unfair Trading Regulations 2008

Health and Safety:

- R v M – Advised upon the prosecution of a nursery school where a 3-year-old child died in an accident whilst at school. The case eventually went to judicial review where Stephen's advice as to what course the case should take was approved and upheld by the Queen's Bench Division.
- R v S – Alleged breaches of workplace regulations concerning welding equipment. Employee died in an explosion and the HSE investigated. Advised from the outset and before the client was interviewed. As a result, the HSE were persuaded not to prosecute the client although others were.

Planning enforcement:

- R v BP – Alleged breaches of planning regulations over a 10-year period. Successfully argued technical failures in the prosecution case leading to acquittals on all matters and a full indemnity of costs.
- R v SL – Successfully argued highly technical issues regarding planning enforcement proceedings taken by a local authority against a person with no legal or equitable interest in the property. Client obtained a full indemnity of the costs incurred.
- R v P – A planning enforcement case involving technical submissions regarding the local authority's litigation procedures. Case resulted in an acquittal after three days of legal argument. The client was awarded all of his costs.

Inquests:

- XX – Represented a senior police officer in an inquest involving a death in custody. Prospective criminal proceedings, particularly under the Corporate Homicide Act 2007, did not follow.
- XX1 – Represented the family of a deceased who died as a result of alleged medical negligence whilst in hospital. Key witnesses were cross-examined at this critical stage to facilitate the progress of the civil action in clinical negligence against the doctors and the health authority.
- XX2 – Client involved in a fatal road traffic accident and was facing a criminal prosecution for causing the death and a civil action for damages. Successfully cross-examined key witnesses at this key stage of the matter resulting in no prosecution taking place.
- XX3 – Corporate client, and a director of the company, involved as Interested Parties in a fatality on a construction site. Criminal proceedings were not subsequently undertaken by the police.

Disciplinary tribunals:

Stephen has successfully represented doctors, dentists, solicitors, members of the bar, police officers and footballers before Disciplinary Tribunals and Commissions.

Corporate governance and bribery:

Stephen has both written and lectured to several audiences on the Bribery Act 2010 and its implications worldwide.

To date, much of the corporate governance and Bribery Act 2010 work has been in the form of advising organisations as to protocols, procedures and processes.

Military law and Courts Martial:

- Captain CM – The defendant was an officer in the TA who was eventually charged with spying contrary to section 1 of the Official Secrets Act. with spying. Stephen represented her from the moment of her arrest. She spent some six months in closed custody following which a successful application for habeas corpus was made. Following her release, the matter was passed over to the civilian authorities. The case resulted in an acquittal.

- Major JG – This officer was the Range Safety Officer at a live firing range in Alberta, Canada. He served as such during the British Army’s tenancy of the range. There were some fatalities culminating in the death of two soldiers who were killed by tank mortar due to an error in the transmission of firing coordinates. The officer was charged with two counts of negligent manslaughter. The courts martial lasted two weeks and resulted in acquittals upon both counts.

Inquiries:

Stephen has appeared in inquiries and public meetings concerning, inter alia, the retention of medical services (a doctor’s surgery) in a community during health service restructuring, and the inadequate provision of sewage plant by a water company resulting in environmental pollution in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Stephen successfully represented a client in a public inquiry regarding an application to alter the path of an ancient and historically significant public right of way. Against considerable opposition from residents and historical societies, he was successful.

Unusual cases:

- R v H – Defended a mortician charged with theft of body parts from a number of different hospital mortuaries over a number of years. A non-custodial sentence was secured.
- R v S – Defence of a fisherman in which the legitimacy of the entire European fishing quota system was in issue. Issues such as the legislation being unlawful due to reasons of anti-competitiveness were advanced as well as other constitutional issues involving the interaction between UK and European legislation.
- WV v A School – Successful defence of the Board of School Governors and three of its teachers against an accusation of racial discrimination.
- Stephen has also represented a Deputy Head teacher from a different school who was suspended pending accusations which amount to accusations of gross misconduct and potential summary dismissal. The teacher was reinstated.

Inquests

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Sports

Stephen has dealt with a number of sporting disciplinary issues and has expertise involving situations in which the criminal law impinges upon a sports personality or sporting activity.

Stephen’s particular expertise is anti-corruption, bribery and corporate governance. He has been involved in issues from both the individual and a club's perspective.

Stephen has a particular interest in the regulation and discipline of football, rugby, motor sport, horseracing and greyhound racing.

Recent cases

- AB – Football Disciplinary Commission hearing. Advised and represented a footballer accused of racial abuse and assault. Acquitted
- YY – Advised and represented a premier league footballer in relation to allegations of assault
- AA – Advised another premier league football player in relation to motoring and accusations of dishonesty
- XX – Advised another premier league footballer in relation to criminal charges involving assault and public order offences.

Publications

“Fixing” the problems in cricket – How to do it: an analysis by Stephen Harvey QC

[View Publication](#)

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