

Simon Phillips

Year of Call: 1996

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Introduction

A criminal law specialist since 1996, Simon undertook pupillage at Hollis Whiteman Chambers before moving to Birmingham in 1998. A former Royal Marine Officer, Simon has experience of acting for the defence at Courts Martial, but the vast majority of his time is spent prosecuting and defending serious allegations in the Crown Court.

Since 1996 Simon has built up a formidable reputation as a successful barrister who inspires confidence in both his lay and professional clients. Whether it be allegations of complicated financial fraud, armed robbery or rape, Simon has the breadth of experience from the "real world", knowledge from a Cambridge degree, and ability gained from pure hard work, to provide first-rate representation. With particular experience in defending serious sexual allegations, Simon can relate to lay clients both young or old. In the past 10 years he has successfully represented defendants accused of conspiracy to defraud, rape, murder, grievous bodily harm with intent and conspiracy to supply class A drugs. In partnership with leading counsel, Simon has successfully defended allegations of murder and manslaughter.

Reported Cases:

- Saxon (Perverting Course of Justice)
- Mohammed (Escaping Lawful Custody)
- Powell, Daniels and English (joint enterprise murder)
- Khan (hearsay in fitness to plead hearings)
- Smith and O'Neill (inconsistent verdicts and fresh evidence appeal)

Qualifications and Appointments:

- BA Hons Law (Cantab)

Memberships:

- CBA
- Midlands Circuit

Crime

Simon did pupillage with Junior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court, and so gained significant experience of terrorism, murder and manslaughter trials. He appeared in the House of Lords in the leading case on joint enterprise murder. He also gained experience preparing Attorney General's References to The Court of Appeal Criminal Division. Simon has been a Grade 4 prosecutor since 2008 and a rape specialist prosecutor since the inception of the panel. As such he has been assessed both on paper and in court by the CPS regularly, and as a result constantly receives instructions to prosecute allegations of rape and other serious matters.

In addition Simon has successfully prosecuted allegations of attempted murder, conspiracy to defraud, armed bank robbery and conspiracy to import class A drugs. In partnership with leading counsel, Simon has successfully prosecuted allegations of murder on many occasions. Simon also has significant experience of advising the CPS and police on prosecution strategy and charging decisions.

Courts Martial

Simon has dealt with issues of fitness to plead; fitness for trial and duress in a military setting. With his background in the military, Simon can relate to those he represents more easily than most. He is willing to travel to wherever the hearings are held, including Germany or Cyprus.

Restraint and Confiscation

Simon has defended many defendants accused of benefitting from the proceeds of their crimes. Most recently, when representing a defendant said to have made £1.5 million from drug dealing with assets of supposedly £500,000, Simon successfully argued that the defendant's benefit was no more than £150,000 and that his assets totalled £24000. These submissions were generated by many hours work on detailed documents disclosed by the prosecution at short notice. Simon also has significant experience of dealing with "hidden assets" allegations.

Sports

As a former first class rugby player, Simon has experience of representing those accused of disciplinary infractions at both amateur and professional level.