

Timothy Raggatt QC

Year of Call: 1974 | Year of Silk: 1993

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Introduction

Tim joined the Bar in 1974 and thereafter practiced as a Junior in Birmingham until taking Silk in 1993. Tim has appeared in many complex and serious trials in the West Midlands and South East and has been at the very forefront of many of the leading cases involving Black on Black gun crime in the West Midlands. He also played a central part as Leading Counsel in the recent evolution of the law of evidence on key witness protection issues such as anonymity and special protection measures advising the police in the Midlands on overall policy.

Practice:

Tim practices in all areas of criminal law but particularly murder, serious fraud, drug related offences, arson and serious sexual offences as well as those matters involving regulatory aspects. His practice is geographically country wide and is prepared to work abroad where jurisdiction allows. He accepts instructions and briefs on a private and publicly funded basis. For privately funded matters, Tim offers a transparent and commercial approach to fee negotiation through his clerks, often working to a fixed / capped fee providing certainty of costs for clients.

Serious Sexual Offences:

Tim has a successful track record on rape and other sexual offences cases. Those cases include many "date" and "marital" cases where he has an exceptional record in successfully defending such allegations. For reasons of preserving client confidentiality and to protect the innocent defendants' identity we do not feel it to be appropriate to list these cases by name in a document such as this but will supply all relevant details to future clients on request on suitable conditions as to the preservation of this aspect of the privacy of past acquitted clients in such cases.

Specialist knowledge:

Through the cases that Tim has conducted over his many years of practice of which 25 have been as a leading Silk he has built up an extensive specialist knowledge in mobile phone technology and cell site analysis; DNA techniques and analysis; medical issues related to the homicide of young children and also has particularly extensive expertise in all matters of pathology and in cases where there are issues surrounding and arising from mental health disorders.

Cases through the Bars Public Access scheme:

Tim is authorised to undertake Public Access work in his practice areas. Each case has to be assessed to ensure that it meets the criteria of the scheme and that it is in the best interest of the client to proceed on that basis.

For more information about the Public Access Scheme click [here](#).

What people say:

- *"In 2018 I worked with Timothy Raggatt QC on two long and difficult cases. The dedication and hard work carried out by Mr Raggatt was outstanding. I hope to work with Mr Raggatt again in the very near future".* Solicitor – Thames Valley.
- *"I would definitely instruct TRQC again. I thought he was a class above".* Solicitor – West Midlands

Recent Criminal Cases:

- Jan 2019: R v Ellis D (est 8-week trial) – Drug related gang murder defence, major joint enterprise issues.
- Nov 2018: R v Thomas A (3-week trial) – Successful defence in alleged motoring murder. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- Oct 2018: R v Irvin (8-day trial) – Grandsons murder of grandmother, issues of diminished responsibility. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- Sep 2018: R v Plumpton D (2-week trial) – Diminished responsibility / intent murder trial. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- Aug 2018: R v Mema E (6-week trial) – International Class A drugs supply conspiracy with a value of exceeding £20 million. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- June 2018: R v Corbin S (5-week trial) – Successful defence of a Legal Executive charged with a murder related Perverting the Cause of Justice. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- Jan 2018: R v Ennis S (7-day trial) – Successful murder defence in three handed joint enterprise homicide. Press coverage can be found [here](#).

Recent Regulatory Cases:

Given his extensive experience of dealing with matters of considerable gravity and complexity, frequently involving highly technical expert evidence, Tim is well placed to deal with proceedings brought in relation to regulatory offences. Recent examples include:

- Apr 2018: Leicester Crown Court R (Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council) v Hinckley Golf Club (10-day trial) – Instructed by the local authority to lead Junior Counsel in the prosecution of a golf club after an employee suffered fatal injuries having been struck on the head by a branch that fell from a tree in the vicinity of where he was working. It was alleged that the club had failed to ensure their employee's safety by not conducting suitable and sufficient risk assessments for tree inspections or management, lone working and chain saw work, by failing to have a safe system of work for such activities and by failing to ensure proper training for and supervision of such work. At the end of a 10-day trial where the defendant organisation was also represented by a Silk the jury delivered unanimous guilty verdicts on all charges. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- Oct 2018: Stafford Crown Court R (West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority) v Walsall Renovations Limited, Chinderpal Singh & Sundeep Sidhu (7-day trial) – Instructed on behalf of a company director and the Company of which he was the guiding personality who were each charged with 12 counts of breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 arising from the operation of a hand car wash at a former public house where the evidence alleged that the premises were also being used as living accommodation. A custodial sentence was avoided as was any issue as to the First Defendant's general capacity as a Director of a Company.

Judicial Experience:

Tim is also authorised to try all Serious Sexual Offences in his capacity as a Recorder which he has held since 1991. He also deals with Appeals from the magistrates as well as Civil cases at all County Court levels.

Professional Teaching/Training:

Timothy, together with the late Mr Justice Wakerley and the late Mr Justice James Hunt when they were the Leaders of the Midland Circuit, was centrally instrumental in the introduction of Advocacy Training courses for the Bar on the Midland and Oxford Circuit between 1991 and 1998. He organised and taught on them up until 1998. The training he has helped develop in the UK is based upon the techniques of the distinguished Australian Professor George Hempel. Timothy was one of those originally trained by Professor Hempel himself when this form of training began in the early 1990s.

Since 1998 he has continued to train advocates and advocacy trainers on a regular basis on behalf of the Inner Temple as a senior member of the Inns Advocacy Training Committee and has delivered Advocacy Training to both the Judiciary and Advocates in Singapore and at the International Criminal Court at The Hague.

Professional Courses:

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- Vulnerable witnesses
- Expert Witnesses
- Criminal Justice Act 2003
- Forensic Accounting

- International Criminal Court
- Criminal Procedure Rules
- Serious Sexual Offences (JSB)

Other Professional Memberships:

- Inner Temple
- Midland Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- St Philips Chambers, Birmingham

Qualifications and Appointments:

- 1972 – Called to the Bar
- 1972-1974 – Tutor in criminal procedure and the law of evidence – Inns of Court School of Law
- 1991-to date – Recorder of the Crown Court (Crime/Civil & Serious Sexual Offences)
- 1992-1998 – Director of Advocacy Training – Midland Circuit
- 1993 – Appointed Queens Counsel
- 1999 – Bencher of the Inner Temple
- 2001-to date – Head of Chambers, 4 King’s Bench Walk

Historic high-profile cases:

- R v Byrne – Case of City trader involved in the murder of his wife by burning her alive. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Parkins – The defence of one of the 8 defendants in the Birmingham Riots Trial in 2012 where all were acquitted of – in all – 24 counts of murder. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Grady – The case of the father who drove his children into the River Avon in 2010. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Bull & Others – Prosecuting Counsel in the infamous Hells Angels M40 shooting in 2008. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Ellis & Others – Leading prosecuting counsel in The “New Year’s Day” Shootings of Letitia Shakespeare and Charlene Ellis. This case attracted World Wide publicity similar in intensity to the Stephen Lawrence case. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Cotter & Others – One of the three key leading authorities on offences of Perverting the Course of Justice. The case concerned an alleged “racist conspiracy” surrounding the Olympic Athlete Ashia Hansen as well as other black British Olympic athletes. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Sellick & Sellick – A gangland shooting that fundamentally altered the law involving vulnerable or otherwise intimidated witnesses and has become THE leading case on this topic. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Cannan – The Shirley Banks Murder involving the man who remains the chief suspect in the Suzie Lamplugh enquiry. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Gordon & Abuhansah – The starvation of Khyra Ishaq in 2010. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R v Ribera & Others – The shootings at the Fairfield post office in 2009 involving the use of the now infamous “gun 6”. Press coverage can be found [here](#).
- R. v Ethel Trigwell & Others – Aka “The Black Widow” – a “contract killing” of a private detective Barry Trigwell by a two hired South African assassins.
- R v McMahon R S & McMahon J C – A homosexual murder of particular brutality where the deceased’s body was dismembered by his killers so as to dispose of the body.
- R v Hussain T & another – An “honour” killing within an Asian family context.
- R v Waite C I – The murder of Nicola Dixon – an “historic” DNA case involving the sexual murder of a teenage girl.
- R v Hoti G – A child murder, successful defence of a Grandmother of the deceased child and who was only an Albanian speaker.
- R. v Meredith – Successful defence of a young man in a joint enterprise street killing which attracted a great deal of local notoriety.
- R v Bartlett – £50 million plus, company fraud.
- R v Mahoney & Others – Multi-million pound banking fraud.
- R v Olah & Others – Multi-million-pound drugs supplying conspiracy.
- R v Langston & Others – Multi-million-pound cocaine supplying conspiracy.