



Greg Unwin

Called: 2008

Email: clerks@187chambers.com

Telephone: 020 7430 7430

Greg Unwin is a highly respected barrister specialising in serious organised crime, fraud and financial crime, regulatory matters, asset recovery, confiscation and professional discipline.

He is ranked as a leading junior in the legal directories in the areas of crime, fraud and Proceeds of Crime (POCA).

Instructed as both leading junior and led by King's Counsel, Greg has significant experience in serious crime, acting for both the prosecution and the defence. His expertise includes complex matters such as homicide, modern slavery, terrorism, drug trafficking and firearms offences.

Notable cases include gross negligence manslaughter following the tragic electrocution of a child, a mother accused of murdering her new born baby, representing the head of an international modern slavery ring and the head of a country lines drug network for the close-range shooting of a rival dealer.

Greg's expertise in fraud and financial crime is equally well-regarded, with clients ranging from individuals and corporates to government agencies, including the Serious Fraud Office and the CPS Specialist Fraud Division. He acted for the lead defendant in a lengthy fraud trial in which verdicts were returned by a judge alone following jury interference. His work in money laundering, bribery and corruption cases has earned him instructions in some of the most significant investigations, including the largest fraud investigation ever undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Known for his exceptional ability to manage complex legal arguments and expert witness examinations, Greg is highly sought after in cases requiring in-depth legal expertise. With a significant track record in the Court of Appeal, appearances in the High Court and extensive experience in both defence and prosecution often against King's Counsel, Greg has successfully represented clients in numerous high-profile and challenging cases.

Greg's meticulous approach to legal strategy, combined with his skill in advocacy, ensures he provides clients with the highest level of legal representation, particularly in the most complex and high-stakes criminal cases.

Specialist Areas

Criminal Defence

Criminal Prosecution

Fraud & Financial Crime

Private Prosecution



Specialist Areas

Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation

Professional Discipline

Inquests & Inquiries

Regulatory Law

Public Law

Testimonials

'Greg is an immensely impressive junior who combines intellectual rigour, courtroom composure, and client empathy.'

Legal 500 2026

Greg Unwin of 187 Chambers is a well-regarded junior with a strong criminal practice. He regularly appears in complex confiscation proceedings and has experience before the Court of Appeal.

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Greg Unwin is excellent."

Chambers and Partners 2026 POCA

"Greg is a very impressive junior. He has a good style, is nice and calm in court, and has good presence with sound judgement."

Chambers and Partners 2026 POCA

'Greg is a fantastic advocate who is hard-working and completely dedicated to his client and the task at hand.'

Legal 500 2026



"He is a very impressive advocate and knows his stuff. He was a class act."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Unwin is a highly intelligent counsel who has the ability to think around the problem before it manifests."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"He is a brilliant counsel with a massive presence in the courtroom. His understanding of the law is second to none."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Greg is excellent. He is really bright and really able."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"He has excellent subject knowledge and a variety of expertise. He is very empathetic with clients and keeps them calm."

Chambers and Partners 2025

"Very impressive ... He has a good style, is nice and calm in court, and has good presence with sound judgement." "Meticulous and dedicated, very personable, and clients warm to him."

Chambers and Partners 2025



"Greg has a superb way with judges and jurors – he is measured, calm, authoritative, and commands respect. He has a very keen attention to detail and is very hard-working."

Legal 500 2025

Ranked In



Cases

Criminal Defence

Greg Unwin's core practice is defending in complex multi-handed organised crime trials.

- [R v Ali](#) – Targeted gang murder in East London. Client acquitted of murder.
- [R v Betts-Ramsey](#) – 'Ringleader' in transphobic stabbing.
- [R v TD](#) – 15 year old client acquitted of murder and manslaughter.
- R v SA – Mother charged with murder of her newborn baby. Upon extensive expert evidence, a plea to infanticide was accepted.
- [R v Drevenak & Ors](#) – For lead defendant in high profile modern slavery trial attracting media and documentary coverage.
- [R v Johnson-Davies](#) – Perverting the course of justice, Beckenham Place Park murder trial.
- [Operation Galway](#) – Leading junior for first defendant in seven-week trial. Successful dismissal of firearms charge. Only defendant acquitted of drugs conspiracy.
- [Operation Skawa](#) – Human trafficking and controlling prostitution.
- [R v Bearman](#) – Gross negligence manslaughter. Fatal electrocution of 7 year old boy in pub garden.
- [Operation Atoll](#) – Multiple gunpoint robberies of cash-in-transit vans.
- Operation Spruce – Leading junior in seven week trial of conspiracy to export high value stolen vehicles.
- [R v JC](#) – Acted for a defendant in the Hampstead paedophile conspiracy, later subject of the 'Hoaxed' podcast.
- R v CH – Rape of partner and causing others to engage in sexual activity.
- [Operation Endorse](#) – Gang shooting of drugs runner by rival county lines network.
- R v NB – Murder of resident in St Mungo's hostel, who died five years after the original assault.



- [Operation Departure](#) – Defendant facilitated escape to Syria of aspiring jihadi following the ISIS inspired murder of a spiritual healer.
- R v McCarthy – Traveller site murder trial.
- Operation Trieste – Multi-kilo drugs conspiracy.
- R v KR – Sexual assault of a child in religious family context.
- Operation Ilex – Armed robberies conspiracy.
- R v KP – Defendant with psychotic illness imprisoned her GP during home visit and attacked her with a baseball bat.
- R v Ray – 6 Arch Rev 4 – Argued military issue smoke grenade was not a prohibited firearm.

Fraud & Financial Crime

Greg Unwin prosecutes and defends in cases involving allegations of serious fraud, money laundering and international corruption. He has advised companies during criminal investigations. He is appointed to the SFO panel B and the CPS specialist fraud panel.

- [R v Mawson](#) – RSPCA trustee diverted over £100k of charity funds.
- Operation Riot – Leading junior for first defendant in ten-week fraud trial. High Court writ of habeas corpus. Interlocutory order by Lady Chief Justice that trial continue without a jury. Defendant acquitted by judge of all counts.
- [Operation Volcanic](#) – VHCC. Largest known DWP fraud investigation.
- Operation Cathird – Company director laundering proceeds of €3.8 million European Distribution Fraud.
- Operation Vitelius – Junior alone in £9 million cyber fraud. Identity theft, 'vishing' and harvesting of financial details sold on the dark web for cryptocurrency.
- [Bulmer 'art heist' trial](#) – Saga of recovery of fine art stolen from the mansion of the heir to the Bulmer's Cider fortune.
- [R v Say](#) – Complex pensions and property fraud trial of IFA acknowledged as industry expert. Examination of financial witnesses.
- R v Emery – Carbon credits boiler room fraud.
- Operation Hornet – Retained by financial institution to advise on LPP in £245m criminal fraud investigation.
- Operation Airbrick – Company director acquitted after seven week trial of £14 million money laundering allegations in the under bond alcohol trading industry.
- United Arab Emirates v Akhand – Direct Access. Defendant's extradition to the UAE for US\$8 million cheque fraud resisted on dual criminality grounds.
- Operation Steamroller – Independent LPP counsel instructed by the SFO in international \$120 million share sale fraud prosecution.

Criminal Prosecution

Level 4 CPS Panel Advocate. Fraud Specialist Panel Level 4. Serious Crime Specialist Panel Level 4

- Operation Panda – Instructed by CPS Serious Economic Organised Crime Directorate. Repeated employment fraud by senior civil servant.
- [Operation Charmless](#) – Flying squad investigation: armed robberies trial and post-conviction advice on unduly lenient sentence. Sentence increased to life upon AG reference.



- [Operation Lexington](#) – Conspiracy to commit multiple professional dwelling burglaries targeting £200k of firearms and jewellery.
- [R v Dabycharun](#) EWCA Crim 1923 – Deliberate wounding with a vehicle. Appeal against conviction (bad character, lies) dismissed.
- [R v Dickens & Ano](#) – Targeted firebombing of victim in his car.
- LB Barnet v McKenzie & Ano – Fraud by abuse of position by council employees.
- [SFO v Güralp Systems Ltd](#) – Junior counsel for the SFO led by Simon Mayo KC. Deferred prosecution agreement and ten week trial of directors for conspiracy to make corrupt payments to a government official in South Korea.
- [R v Blackburn & Ors](#) – Fraudulent evasion of duty on cigarettes. CPS Specialist Fraud Division.
- [R v Richie & Nolan](#) – Robbery and aggravated burglary of drug dealer in his home. Both defendants convicted and received double figure sentences.
- [R v Ian Paterson](#) – High profile cancer surgeon deliberately wounded multiple patients in unnecessary operations. Prosecution disclosure junior.
- [R v Russell & Storey](#) – Junior alone. Highly publicised, serious acid attack causing life changing injuries. Investigation reopened when a ‘grass’ came forward after a Crimewatch appeal. Both defendants were convicted after trial with lead defendant receiving 17-year extended sentence.

Regulatory Law

Greg Unwin advises and defends individuals and companies facing investigation and prosecution for alleged regulatory breaches, particularly by Trading Standards authorities. He is able accept instructions directly from the client. In 2019 he was appointed to the Regulatory Advocates List B. He is experienced in healthcare professional regulatory proceedings.

- **Re Y Ltd** – Advice on employer’s liability for subcontractors subject to immigration control.
- **Re S Ltd** – Successfully resisted private prosecutor’s application for a summons alleging consumer protection offences against online retailer.
- **Re S UK** – Advised multinational €1.4bn retailer on the application of Coronavirus Regulations, resulting in withdrawal of threatened enforcement action.
- **R v SL** – Successful motion to quash charges turning on the interpretation of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008.
- **Re T Ltd** – Advised drinks company on the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulations.
- **Re C Ltd** – Advised multi-office conveyancing firm on Money Laundering Regulations 2017.
- [Winterbourne View Hospital](#) – Healthcare professional regulatory proceedings.
- [NMC v Coulter, Banwell & Kennard](#) – Healthcare professional regulatory proceedings.

Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation



Greg Unwin acts principally for the defence in post-conviction confiscation proceedings and on private instruction in account freezing / forfeiture applications.

- Op Salerno (ongoing) – Acting for company director in £59 million money laundering prosecution.
- Re C – Successful discharge of £45 million Restraint Order for high net worth investor.
- Op Volcanic – £64 million confiscation proceedings following largest ever DWP fraud.
- Operation Cathird – For company director laundering proceeds of €3.8 million European Distribution Fraud.
- R v Jiang – Lloyd’s Rep. F.C. 315 – Chinese “underground banking”. £4.9m benefit figure reduced to £1.5m in contested confiscation proceedings.
- [Operation Princekin](#) – Acting for several Chinese Nationals resisting NCA applications for Account Forfeiture Orders.
- R v Barrington – Benefit figure reduced in confiscation proceedings from £3m to £500k.
- [R v Navarro](#) – Section 22 POCA reconsideration involving third party interests.

Professional Discipline

Greg Unwin has presented numerous fitness to practise hearings before healthcare regulatory panels. He was chosen to present particularly complex and high profile cases on behalf of the NMC. He is able to accept direct access instructions from individual healthcare professionals.

- [Winterbourne View Hospital](#) – Series of document-heavy hearings against multiple senior nurses in management roles during the institutional abuse scandal exposed by BBC Panorama.
- [NMC v Coulter, Banwell & Kennard](#) – Secret footage, shown on BBC Newsnight, revealed mistreatment of brain injury patient.
- [NMC v Matthews](#) – Midwife threatened mother in labour.
- [NMC v Avramova](#) – Catalogue of misconduct charges including attempt to inject air bolus into newborn baby.
- [NMC v Johnson](#) – Manager of mental health ward performed nazi salutes and mistreated patients and staff.

Bribery & Corruption

- **SFO v Güralp Systems Ltd** – Junior counsel for the SFO led by Simon Mayo KC. Deferred prosecution agreement and ten-week trial of directors for conspiracy to make corrupt payments to a government official in South Korea.

Criminal Appeal

R v MI (2025) – Reversal of equivocal plea resulting from deficient legal advice, under Crown Court’s appellate jurisdiction.

[Mohammed v Islam \[2024\] 4 W.L.R. 88](#) – Appeal before Lady Chief Justice; whether long fraud trial should continue with judge alone following jury tampering.



R v Kent [2023] EWCA Crim 1771 – Advised CPS on unduly lenient sentence for armed robberies. Resultant AG's Ref increased sentence to 'two strikes' life.

R v Jiang [2023] 4 W.L.R. 62 – Whether proceeds of an unregistered Money Service Business become criminal property.

PI & Ors v Governor of HMP Birmingham (2023) – Secured the release of nine defendants in out-of-hours High Court habeas corpus proceedings.

R v Dabycharun [2022] R.T.R. 25 – Appeal concerning bad character gateways and lies direction.

R v Jordan Smith [2019] EWCA Crim 1151 – Extent to which prosecution may undermine its own witnesses.

R v SA [2019] 4 W.L.R. 142 – Resisted prosecution appeal against terminating ruling on elements needed to prove a common law conspiracy to defraud.

R v Onyeagucha [2018] EWCA Crim 2960 – Successful appeal against life sentence for repeated stabbing.

Cowan v DPP (2013) 177 J.P. 474 – Successful case stated appeal in High Court on whether a university campus was a 'public place'.

R v Nguyen, Mai & vin Dao [2013] Crim LR 234 – Whether threat of false imprisonment can establish the defence of duress. Application of the Human Trafficking Convention. Junior alone for appellants against David Perry KC.

Trading Standards

- **Re S UK** – Advised multinational €1.4bn retailer on the application of Coronavirus Regulations, resulting in withdrawal of threatened enforcement action.
- _____
- **Re T Ltd** – Advised drinks company on Nutrition and Health Claims Regulations enforcement action.
- **R v Madden & Ors** – Defended in timeshare regulations prosecution.

Professional Memberships

- Level 4 CPS Counsel
- Level 4 Serious Crime and Fraud panels
- SFO Prosecution Panel B
- Regulatory List B
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- JUSTICE
- Pupil Supervisor

Awards, Qualifications & Other



- South Eastern Circuit Florida Advanced Advocacy Scholarship 2014.
- Winner / Finalist: BPP, City and ELMC mooted competitions 2007-2008, judged by Longmore LJ, Lord Neuberger and ECJ judges.
- Times Law Award 2007, presented by the Lord Chancellor.
- Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School, London (Middle Temple Queen Mother Major Scholarship 2007).
- Graduate Diploma in Law, City Law School, London (Middle Temple Queen Mother Major Scholarship 2006).
- MA (Hons) Philosophy, Queens' College, Cambridge University (College Prize and Exhibition 1997).

Greg Unwin's professional judgement and technical skills benefit from a previous six-year career with an international consulting and design services firm before he joined the Bar. His consulting clients included the Guardian, Shell, Barclays, HMRC and the House of Commons (where he gave evidence to a Select Committee).

Direct Access

Greg Unwin is qualified to accept instructions directly from clients and is registered under the Bar Council's Public Access Scheme, meaning that members of the public who seek specialist advice can come directly to him. In addition, he welcomes instructions from solicitors, in-house law departments, qualified foreign lawyers, and clients licensed by the Bar Council to give instructions directly to barristers under the Bar Council's Licensed Access Scheme. For more information please visit our Direct Access page [here](#).