

# Greg Unwin

Called: 2008

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Greg Unwin is a highly regarded advocate operating at the highest levels of the criminal justice system. **Winner** of the Legal 500 Crime and Extradition Junior of the Year 2026 and consistently ranked in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 in Crime, Fraud and Proceeds of Crime, he is regularly instructed in the most complex and demanding cases. He appears unled against King's Counsel, manages Very High Cost Cases and conducts significant appellate work alongside his core criminal practice.

His heavyweight crime practice spans homicide, modern slavery and organised crime, and includes several acquittals in gang-related murders achieved through forensic command of digital, cell-site and CCTV evidence in complex multi-defendant trials. He is equally sought after where cases turn on complex medical and scientific evidence, including contested medical causation and intricate psychiatric evidence in manslaughter, child murder and infanticide cases. In high-profile modern slavery proceedings attracting significant media coverage, he has conducted sensitive cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses by international live-link.

Greg brings rare experience to data-heavy fraud and asset forfeiture, drawing upon a previous six-year international consulting career advising organisations such as Shell, Barclays and the House of Commons. He led a landmark application to continue a complex fraud trial before a judge alone following jury tampering, upheld on interlocutory appeal before the Lady Chief Justice, resulting in full acquittals. His legal argument in the UK's largest ever DWP fraud prosecution reduced a confiscation benefit figure by £50 million. His financial crime practice extends across cybercrime, pension fraud, trustee fraud and money laundering, including internationally – recently securing the discharge of a £44 million Restraint Order in the Isle of Man.

Appointed to Level 4 of the CPS General Crime, Specialist Fraud and Serious Crime panels and SFO Panel B, Greg is instructed by individuals, companies and government agencies alike. He combines meticulous legal strategy, forensic precision and calm, authoritative command of the courtroom with the empathy and client care that clients and directories consistently commend.

## Specialist Areas

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|---|---|
| Criminal Defence | Criminal Prosecution |
| Fraud & Financial Crime | Private Prosecution |
| Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation | Professional Discipline |
| Inquests & Inquiries | Regulatory Law |

| Specialist Areas | |
|---|---|
| Public Law | |

## Testimonials

"Greg is amazing and formidable. He is an amazing advocate and really knows how to get into the law and handle the nuances."

**Chambers & Partners 2027**

"Greg is really tenacious and really clear in court."

**Chambers & Partners 2027**

"Greg is a superb jury advocate who provides great attention to detail and prepares cases with extreme professionalism and expertise."

**Chambers & Partners 2027**

"We would instruct him on any case. Greg is a charming advocate with an exceptional mind in terms of legal thinking and strategy."

**Chambers & Partners 2027**

"He is measured, authoritative and good at coming up with complex legal arguments."

**Chambers & Partners 2027**

> “Greg Unwin is a first-class lawyer whose advocacy is consistently impressive. He has excellent legal judgment, sound forensic instincts, and a persuasive advocacy style.”
>
> **Legal 500, 2027**

> ‘Greg is an immensely impressive junior who combines intellectual rigour, courtroom composure, and client empathy.’
>
> **Legal 500, 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 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 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 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**

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

**Legal 500, 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**

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

**Chambers and Partners, 2026**

‘Greg has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and he is absolutely on top of the facts of every case he is involved in. He is trusted and popular with clients, both professional and lay, and respected by judges and other advocates. His advocacy is very smooth and accomplished.’

**Legal 500, 2024**

## Ranked In







# Cases

## Criminal Defence

R v W (ongoing) – Exceptional murder prosecution involving 14-year interval between initial assault on an infant and eventual death.

R v Khan – Medically complex manslaughter trial involving contested neuropathological causation. Summonsed complainant from the deceased's previous unconvicted robbery trial.

R v S – Multiple-rape trial ending in unanimous acquittals after complex disclosure and s.41 applications exposing ten-year pattern of fabricated allegations

R v Ahmed – Seven-week kidnap and machete ambush trial. Defending unled against KC, resisted an Attorney General's Reference to preserve a significantly mitigated sentence.

R v Miah – Teenage group murder in Bedford City Centre. Client acquitted of murder.

R v Ali – Targeted gang murder in East London. Client acquitted of murder.

R v Betts-Ramsey – Ringleader in transphobic stabbing.

R v D –15 year old client acquitted of murder and manslaughter.

R v SA – Mother charged with murder of her newborn baby. Upon extensive expert evidence, plea to infanticide accepted.

R v Drevenak & Ors – For lead defendant in high profile modern slavery trial attracting media and documentary coverage. Case was catalyst for establishment of the Fair Work Agency.

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.

R v JC – Hampstead paedophile conspiracy, later subject of the ‘Hoaxed’ podcast.

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 Departer – Defendant facilitated escape to Syria of aspiring jihadi following the ISIS inspired murder of a spiritual healer.

R v McCarthy – Traveller site murder trial.

## Fraud & Financial Crime

Operation Roots – For company director. Large scale telecoms fraud and alleged international money laundering syndicate.

R v Martin – Prosecuted sophisticated corporate expense fraud by Enterprise Architect.

Operation Volcanic – VHCC. Largest known DWP fraud investigation.

R v Mawson – RSPCA trustee diverted over £100k of charity funds.

Operation Riot – Leading junior for first defendant in ten-week fraud trial. Substantial legal argument and examination of experts. Trial continued without jury after interference. Defendant acquitted of all counts.

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’ – 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 and retrial of IFA acknowledged as industry expert.

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 involving under bond alcohol trading.

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 in international $120 million share sale fraud.

## Criminal Prosecution

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

Operation Panda (ongoing) – ‘Polygamous working’ by senior civil servant.

R v Martin – Sophisticated corporate expense fraud by Enterprise Architect.

R v McCaig – Multi-kilo Encrochat cocaine conspiracy

Operation Charmless – Armed robberies trial. A-G’s Ref increased sentence to ‘two strikes’ life.

Operation Lexington – Conspiracy to commit multiple professional dwelling burglaries targeting £200k of firearms and jewellery.

R v Dabycharun – Deliberate wounding with a vehicle. Resisted appeal against conviction.

R v Dickens & Ano – Targeted firebombing of victim in his car.

SFO v Güralp Systems Ltd – Ten week SFO trial of directors for conspiracy to make corrupt payments to a government official in South Korea.

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. Disclosure junior.

R v Russell & Storey – Highly publicised acid attack causing life changing injuries. Investigation reopened when a ‘grass’ came forward after a Crimewatch appeal.

## Regulatory Law

Re L Ltd – Advice on Official Secrets Act and National Security Act.

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.

## Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation

Op Salerno (ongoing) – Acting for company director in £59 million money laundering prosecution.

Re C – Successful discharge of £44 million Restraint Order for high net worth investor.

Op Volcanic – £51 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 [2021] 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.

## Professional Discipline

In appropriate cases he is able to accept direct access instructions from individual healthcare professionals. He has experience presenting the most serious and complex cases before the NMC.

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.

## Criminal Appeal

R v Ahmed [2026] EWCA Crim 389 – Resisted Attorney General's reference of unduly lenient sentence for kidnap and drugs conspiracy, concerning totality.

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 Jiang [2023] 4 W.L.R. 62 – Important case on unregistered Money Service Businesses and criminal property.

R v Dabycharun [2022] R.T.R. 25 – Bad character gateways and lies directions.

R v Smith (Jordan) [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 proving a common law conspiracy to defraud.

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

R v Nguyen, Mai & vin Dao [2013] Crim LR 234 – Whether threat of false imprisonment can establish the defence of duress, concerning application of the Human Trafficking Convention.

### Public Law

Advising Financial Ombudsman on Judicial Review (2026)

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

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

## Professional Memberships

- Level 4 CPS Panel Advocate
- Level 4 Serious Crime specialist panel
- Level 4 Fraud specialist panel
- SFO Prosecution Panel B
- CPS Rasso Panel
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- JUSTICE
- Middle Temple Advocacy Trainer
- Pupil Supervisor

## Awards, Qualifications & Other

- South Eastern Circuit Florida Advanced Advocacy Scholarship 2014.
- Winner / Finalist: BPP, City and ELMC mooting 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.