Henry Hughes

Called: 2003

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A highly sought-after advocate recognised for his creative approach, unwavering commitment, and forensic insight in large and complex fraud cases, Henry specialises in representing professionals and companies in regulatory and criminal proceedings

Chambers and Partner Spotlight Junior for Private Prosecutions for 4 consecutive years. Having conducted the largest private prosecutions to date Henry is consistently instructed in the most significant private prosecutions brought in this jurisdiction.

Henry regularly conducts cases involving the most complex and serious allegations of financial misconduct, being instructed both on behalf of High-Net-Worth individuals and companies accused of wrongdoing and also to bring private prosecutions by individuals and companies who have themselves been defrauded.

Cases in which he is instructed typically involve the multi-jurisdictional and complex issues that arise in such investigations. He is experienced in the management of the evolving legal disputes and complex evidential issues that characterise such cases whether defending or privately prosecuting.

He also conducts cases involving the most serious allegations of murder, drug trafficking and serious organised crime.

Henry Hughes is a specialist criminal practitioner with a wealth of experience in the field of corporate and financial crime.

His focus is primarily on the defence of professionals facing serious criminal offences arising in connection with their work and charged in criminal and disciplinary proceedings.

He is involved in cases from pre-charge and experienced in identifying at the earliest stages issues which will prove determinative to the final resolution. His practice involves every element of criminal litigation, from Trial to Judicial Review, Appeal and Asset Recovery.

He is regularly instructed in cases involving fraud, money laundering, conspiracy to defraud, commercial-scale immigration offences, false accounting, and perverting the course of justice.

Over the past years Henry has appeared in cases involving allegations of Murder, Manslaughter and Large Conspiracies to supply narcotics. He is experienced in all issues that arise in such cases and in defending in long and complex trials.

Specialist Areas	
Criminal Defence	Fraud & Financial Crime
Private Prosecution	Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation
Professional Discipline	Inquests & Inquiries
Regulatory Law	Public Law
Tax Appeals	Sports Law

Testimonials

> "His attention to detail, tactical acumen, and work ethic make him a standout barrister. Those who instruct Henry can be confident that they have a diligent, highly capable and determined advocate."
>
> **Chambers and Partners 2026**

> "Henry Hughes of 187 Chambers is an experienced junior who focuses his practice on financial crime and commercial fraud cases, as well as handling confiscation matters. He is recognised for his expertise in private prosecutions."
>
> **Chambers and Partners 2025**

> "Henry goes over and above each and every time. He is tirelessly hard-working and dedicated. He is bright, creative and commercial."
>
> **Chambers and Partners 2026**

> "Henry is a skilled and dedicated advocate. He is knowledgeable on the law, measured when he needs to be and thinks in a practical way. He is a pleasure to work with."
>
> **Chambers and Partners 2026**

"He is personable, meticulous and very hard-working."

Chambers and Partners 2025

"Henry's work ethic is off the charts. He quickly gets to grips with complex financial fraud cases and is particularly astute at reading a court room"

Legal 500 2025

"Henry is extraordinarily dedicated, always on top of things and makes sure his work is perfect."

Chambers and Partners 2024

"Henry is meticulous in his preparation. He is really wonderful, approachable and destined to have huge success."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Henry Hughes is an experienced junior who focuses his practice on financial crime and commercial fraud cases, as well as handling confiscation matters. He is recognised for his expertise in private prosecutions."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Henry is a very intelligent, hard-working, extremely reliable and clever junior."

Chambers and Partners 2024

> 'Henry has a sharp eye for detail, is strategic in his approach to cases and provides refreshing analysis. He is able to deal with complex, fact-heavy financial cases and provide clear advice.'
>
> **Legal 500 2024**

> "Henry is all over the detail of the cases and he is very quick and super bright."
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> **Chambers and Partners 2023**

> "Henry is really clever. He is always available to clients and is very charming. He is a safe pair of hands when it comes to high-profile work."
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> **Chambers and Partners 2023**

> "He's very impressive; he is unflappable and a great calming presence to have when you're in the middle of a fight on a big prosecution case"
>
> **Chambers and Partners 2023**

Ranked In

Cases

Asset Forfeiture & Confiscation

Such cases habitually involve a range of matters pertaining to asset forfeiture, including asset freezing/seizure/restraint and confiscation. Henry is experienced in identifying, at a preliminary stage, the key issues which preserve and protect the assets through to the conclusion of proceedings.

Criminal Defence

Operation Inertia – The largest VAT MTIC (Missing Trader Intra-Community) fraud recorded to date with a value of between £600 million to £1 billion pounds. A complex and long running fraud investigation spanning many jurisdictions and involving hundreds of thousands of pages of evidence which resulted in a five month contested trial. Led by Owen Davies QC.

M – instructed to represent a professional facing restrictions that would have prohibited any future career. Following a contested hearing the penalty was avoided.

R v J and J – Instructed to contest ownership of high value assets in the High Court on behalf of a third party. Henry successfully secured the Third Party's interests and discharged the order against the assets.

R v J – An accusation of sizeable fraud within one of the country's largest religious organisations. Henry was instructed alone and the defendant was acquitted following lengthy cross-examination on the character and integrity of those within the organisation who had made the allegations.

R v G – Complex allegations of financial mismanagement of a company made by respective parties within the organisation against each other. The case involved multiple contested disclosure applications over 6 months which finally resulted in the prosecution being forced to disclose material leading to the Crown being obliged to withdraw significant elements of the allegations.

R v G – Instructed on behalf of a professional in proceedings brought by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Instituted Judicial Review proceedings to challenge the refusal of the initial court to state a case to the High Court. The proceedings arose from an earlier finding under the Insolvency Act, which would have prevented any further commercial activity by G. As a result of the application the conviction was subsequently quashed by the High Court. Led by Andrew Trollope QC.

R v G and others – A case involving a man with a long and exemplary professional history whose company had been drawn into a complex Conspiracy to Defraud through exceptional circumstances. Despite the high value and sophisticated nature of the fraud an agreement was reached, and a custodial sentence avoided.

R v C – A long running contested Confiscation Hearing involving the assets of an individual previously convicted of financial offences. The client had multiple companies in many jurisdictions around the world and his business related to sophisticated inter-jurisdictional trading. The dispute involved complex issues relating to the legitimacy of all the defendant's business transactions over a lengthy period.

R v R – A case in which the authorities obtained a Restraint Order over the assets of a private individual whilst conducting protracted investigations into his affairs. Despite their opposition, the continuation of the Restraint Order was refused and the assets released.

Private Prosecutions

Henry also specialises in bringing private prosecutions on behalf of the victims of fraud. Cases brought involve sophisticated and long running frauds, typically concealed by the

perpetrators for lengthy periods and leading to contested trials, involving a multiplicity of complex and evolving issues. Cases include the successful prosecution of cases involving;

- A multi-handed prosecution brought against the CEO of the UK subsidiary of a large multi-national corporation for a 14 years fraud against the corporation;
- An international business fraud conducted from Hong-Kong, South America and Kazakhstan to the UK. The fraud resulted in the loss of large sums to a private individual and culminated in conviction and an order that the sums defrauded be repaid.
- A fraud by a UK accountant perpetrated against his employer over a decade.

R v L – Private Prosecution of a company accountant for a fraud against a group of companies. The crime had been committed and concealed over a decade. The defendant was convicted.

R v K – Private Prosecution of a professional confidence fraud committed against a financial professional involving a multiplicity of intra-jurisdictional issues. The defendants were convicted and Confiscation Orders Made.

R v A –Private Prosecution of a number of senior employees of a UK subsidiary of a large multi-national. The case involved a long contested trial and a multiplicity of evidential and legal issues. The defendants were convicted and Confiscation Orders Made.

Violence, Drugs and Serious Crime

R v B –Instructed as leading counsel in an allegation of a large scale commercial conspiracy to steal and export goods. Following disclosure requests the crown offered no evidence in the week prior to trial.

R v A and R v AA – Instructed as led junior in two cases of Manslaughter and Murder at the Central Criminal Court.

R v T – Instructed alone in a case involving a large scale conspiracy to supply Class A drugs by an Organised Crime Group

R v X – Instructed in a case where a party had allegedly confessed to ownership of an illegal firearm. The confession was admitted in evidence but the client acquitted.

R v H – Instructed alone in a case alleging the establishment and running of a network of drug production factories and involvement in/running the organisation for the dissemination and sale of drugs.

R v D – Representing an individual accused of involvement in the importation/dissemination of a large quantity of cocaine at near 100% purity.

R v R – Two long-running trials, with many defendants accused of large scale public disorder. At the conclusion of the matter the client, alone, secured an acquittal.

Professional Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association of England & Wales