



Matthew Bagnall

Called: 1993

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Matthew is a highly regarded specialist in Serious Crime, Fraud & Financial Crime, Regulatory Law, Asset Forfeiture & POCA, and Trading Standards. He is consistently ranked as a leading junior in Crime by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.

As a seasoned advocate, Matthew is regularly instructed in some of the most serious and complex criminal cases, including murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, firearms offences, sexual crimes, modern slavery, and drug conspiracies.

His fraud and financial crime practice has seen him represent both corporate clients and individuals, including directors, in cases involving money laundering, tax fraud, bribery, and corruption. He is often engaged in pre-charge investigations for these high-profile matters.

In the regulatory field, Matthew has extensive experience, including defending in Health & Safety prosecutions, notably those arising from workplace fatalities, as well as participating in related Coroner's Inquests.

With his expertise across these diverse areas of law, Matthew is a trusted and sought-after counsel for clients in both the public and private sectors.

Specialist Areas

Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation	Bribery & Corruption
Criminal Defence	Criminal Prosecution
Fraud & Financial Crime	Courts Martial & Military Law
Private Prosecution	Professional Discipline
Regulatory Law	Tax Appeals

Testimonials

‘Matthew has an incredibly strong courtroom presence and is known for his meticulous attention to detail and expertise in defending cases. His skill in cross-examining witnesses is widely recognised. He is very down-to-earth, approachable and a tenacious advocate in court.’



Legal 500 2026

"Matthew is exceptional."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Matthew is a very safe pair of hands dealing with serious and complex cases."

Chambers and Partners 2025

"Matthew has a brilliant eye for detail and is always prepared to put the work in. He is always quick with a spreadsheet to collate and analyse evidence. He always makes himself available to offer advice and discuss cases. He is robust in his advice and advocacy."

Legal 500 2025

'Matthew has a thorough, careful and meticulous approach to case preparation. He provides understandable and realistic advice and is able to engage with clients.'

Legal 500 2024

"He is always impressive and does his best for his clients. He knows how far to push things and does not take bad points. That is very important."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"Matthew's approach is direct and precise. He is very experienced and defendants feel very confident being represented by him."



Chambers and Partners 2026

"Matthew Bagnall is a fantastic advocate and methodical in his approach to cases. He has great courtroom presence and is down to earth when dealing with clients."

Chambers and Partners 2026

Ranked In



Cases

Asset Forfeiture & Confiscation

R v W – Defence of complex confiscation arising from trading standards prosecution involving overseas assets.

R v S – VHCC (Drug related confiscation proceedings with complex third party issues)

Criminal Defence

Murder/Manslaughter/Serious Violence

Operation Emperor: R v Paffey – Murder (Diminished responsibility) Led by [RCQC](#)

Operation Lantern: R v Garrod – Unlawful act manslaughter in course of armed robbery Led by [JBQC](#)

R v I – Murder (Multi handed drugs related killing) Led by [RCQC](#)

R v H – Attempted Murder Led by RWQC

Rape/Sexual offences

R v T – Child exploitation.



R v B – Stranger Rape

R v U – Multi handed gang rape.

R v D – Historic rape

Drugs Conspiracy

Operation Zambia – Multi handed Class A drugs conspiracy (Involving issues surrounding extensive covert surveillance and cell site)

Public disorder

Operation Reedham – Conspiracy to commit Violent disorder. Only defendant of 13 to be acquitted following football related violent disorder in which the victim sustained horrific injuries.

Other

R v McG & Others – [Matthew Bagnall](#), leading [Sasha Bailey](#), secure the acquittal of "McG" the lead defendant in the first modern prosecution of the Hijacking of an ocean going ship, following an eight week trial at the Central Criminal Court, prosecuted by T. Badenoch QC.

Successfully defended client accused of conspiracy to convert criminal property by the acquisition of stolen car parts for international exportation on an industrial scale – the value of those parts stretching into many millions of pounds.

Criminal prosecution

Murder – secured a conviction whereby the defendant wasn't present at the scene but encouraged his nephew to beat the victim to death over the telephone following years of grooming of the nephew. Led by RCKC.

Operation Moulin – Murder (Two defendants) 'Cold Case' (complex disclosure issues) Led by [RCKC](#)



Operation Fonthill – Murder (Two defendants) Drugs related execution. Led by [RCKC](#)

Operation Vanquish – Murder Drugs related murder. (Prosecution following extradition of Defendant from South America) Led by [JBKC](#)

R v S and L – Murder (Drugs related killing) Led by [RCKC](#)

Fraud & Financial Crime

Successfully defended a company director facing prosecution in one of the largest ever Trading Standards prosecutions for conspiracy to defraud. The defendant was a director of multiple companies, concerned in the manufacture, sale and distribution of products in the domestic heating market, with a turnover of over £46.7 million.

R v H – Defence multi handed 'boiler house' fraud involving sale of 'fine wine' investments.

Regulatory Law

HSE v MB – H & S prosecution arising from death at work. and related Coroners inquest.

Trading Standards

R v CP – Defence of packaging company engaged by company to provide legitimate packaging for counterfeit goods.

Professional Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit
- Essex Bar Mess

Awards, Qualifications & Other

- Grade 3 CPS Counsel
- LL.B