



Sean Kivdeh

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Sean is a leading barrister in criminal law with many years of experience. His practice is in serious crime, terrorism, murder, money laundering, extradition and human trafficking. He is known for his attention to detail and ability to deal with highly complex legal arguments. Described by solicitors and clients as a tenacious barrister and effective in his delivery. He is able to work swiftly and effectively through large amounts of evidence. He is a master of his cases and rapidly identifies weaknesses in his opponent's case. He is regularly instructed as a leading barrister in high profile criminal cases.

He has extensive experience in cases of restraint orders under Proceeds of Crime Act, banking fraud. He frequently advises international corporations, company directors and individuals resident in UK and overseas in relation to all aspects of compliance, money laundering regulations and other financial crimes.

Specialist Areas

Asset Forfeiture and Confiscation

Criminal Defence

Regulatory Law

Bribery & Corruption

Fraud & Financial Crime

Cases

Significant Cases

R v KB [2025] leading counsel in multi-handed case of class A drugs importation at Isleworth Crown Court

R v AD [2025] Leading counsel in multi-handed case of controlling prostitution and human trafficking at Southwark Crown Court

R v BK [2024] leading counsel in multi-handed case of manslaughter and burglary at Southwark Crown Court

R v LM [2024] leading counsel in murder case involving a defence of diminished responsibility (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Woodgreen Crown Court

R v SM [2023] leading counsel in a multi-handed case of industrial scale theft and burglary covering 28 separate offences at Northampton Crown Court



R v RL [2022] leading counsel in a multi-handed human trafficking and controlling prostitution case at Isleworth Crown Court.

R v LOS [2022] leading counsel in a multi-handed case of murder representing the first Defendant at the Old Bailey.

R v WWP [2020] leading counsel in a multi-handed case of human trafficking, rape, supplying of drugs and money laundering at Isleworth Crown Court.

R v HVD [2019] leading counsel in a multi-handed case of money laundering at Southwark Crown Court.

R v HZ [2019] leading counsel in the High Court in a large-scale case of extradition to Italy concerning human trafficking allegations by the Italian authorities.

R v SS [2018] – leading counsel in £22M pound money laundering case at Isleworth Crown Court. Defending the first defendant.

R v MK. [2018] – Leading junior in this case of Terrorism concerning charges of encouraging acts of terrorism.

R v IV. [2018] – Leading junior in this case of Murder.

R v GG [2018] – Leading junior in the case of Murder. **R v. RS [2017]** – Leading junior in this case concerning a large scale conspiracy between 6 Defendants who were a group of Lithuanian ladies charged with creating numerous false marriages for non-EU members.

R v. MK [2017] – Leading junior in this case involving several Defendants charged with sexual offences and drugs supply over a period of 8 years.

R v. VL [2016] – Leading junior in this case of conspiracy to steal hundreds of cars by a group using very high tech facilities to make keyless entry into the vehicles.

R v. SP [2016] – Leading junior in this case involving a group of Bureau de changes charged with money laundering of £65M. International links to Dubai, Iraq and Pakistan.

R v. KR [2015] – Leading junior in this case of large scale human trafficking of hundreds of refugees from the Middle-east through Turkey and Spain and then false imprisonment and blackmail in the UK.

R v. KW [2015] – Leading junior in this case involving 5 Defendants charged with armed robbery where one of the robbers was killed by the owner of the premises being robbed.

R v. RK [2015] – Leading junior in this case about a group of 8 defendants charged with money laundering £50M through various businesses in London over a period of 3 years.

R v. Sub [2015] – Leading junior in this case 5 Defendants were charged with money laundering £23M through four money exchange businesses where whole sale large amounts of Euros were purchased and subsequently transferred through three layers



to offshore bank accounts.

R v. EL [2014] – Leading junior in this case concerning 7 Defendants charged with human trafficking of hundreds of people across Europe over a period of 5 years.

R v. KR [2014] – A case involving 6 Defendants with unlawful burial which involved a group of students sharing a house where one person was murdered. It was alleged that they kept the body hidden for several weeks and then tried to bury it in the back garden.

R v. D [2013] – Leading junior in this case regarded as the biggest case of cannabis production in Europe with over 500 cannabis farms and money laundering of £5M.

R v. MK [2013] – Leading junior in this case of money laundering of £3M between a group of Bureau de Changes operating the Havala system with Iran and Dubai and breaching International sanctions on trade with Iran.

R v. CC [2013] – Leading junior in this case involving 4 Defendants charged with armed robbery of 14 supermarkets in North London where it was alleged that the victims had their hands and feet tied up while the rest of the group robbed the cash facilities.

R v. S [2013] – Leading junior in this case alleging immigration offences and conspiracy to bring hundreds of non-EU citizens into Europe by false immigration applications concerning work permits and student visas.

R v. Ko [2013] – Leading junior in this case alleging a very large scale conspiracy with a group in Russia to carry out internet phishing scams to transfer millions of pounds from bank accounts into dummy companies and then to transfer these funds overseas.

Commercial Crime

Instructed as lead counsel in highly complex financial cases involving allegations of money laundering, bribery, fraud, misrepresentation and confiscation cases.

Crime

Instructed as lead counsel in serious and complex criminal cases such as murder, drugs, human trafficking, money laundering.

Financial Crime

Instructed as lead counsel in highly complex financial cases involving allegations of money laundering, bribery, fraud, misrepresentation and confiscation cases.

Qualifications

- LL.M, University College London
- MSt, University of Cambridge

Professional Memberships



- Member of the Bar Council Disciplinary Tribunal (2003 – 2013)
- Member of the Visitors of the Inns (until 2013)
- Criminal Bar Association
- South Eastern Circuit