



Ashraf Khan

Call 1999

Ashraf Khan specialises in Business Crime & Regulation, Professional Discipline, Police Misconduct, Inquests and Health & Safety. With a reputation for providing outstanding representation across all his practice areas, Ashraf routinely appears in some of the most complex and demanding cases across the country.

Ashraf is particularly noted for his ability to successfully navigate through difficult and sensitive cases with careful efficiency and ease. Given his profile, Solicitors and Regulators often instruct him in highly contentious proceedings, which require intense preparation and skilled presentation in court or at a hearing. He is regularly engaged during the early stages of major investigations to give clients the benefit of his expertise, strategic advice and assistance.

Ashraf's clients include regulators; professionals facing disciplinary proceedings, particularly those who work in the health care sector; public and private organisations; directors, shareholders and high net worth individuals looking for commercially pragmatic advice and representation to protect their reputation and business interests.

Ashraf's substantial experience as an advocate has also equipped well to accept instructions from interested parties involved in inquests; where a calm and sensitive approach is required, balanced with an authoritative and firm examination of the evidence.

Ashraf currently sits as an Independent Legal Adviser to the Fitness to Practise Committees at the General Optical Council (GOC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). He also sits as an Independent Legal Adviser to the Disciplinary Committee at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

Ashraf accepts instructions under the Direct Access Scheme and is authorised to conduct litigation. He is an accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator, a registered Lawyer with the Football Association (FA) and is approved to conduct cases for the defence at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Ashraf is frequently cited by the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners Directory as a leading Barrister in his fields of expertise. Most recent observations and commentary include:

'Ashraf has a great eye for detail as well as a tireless work ethic, a combination which makes him ideal for serious fraud work. He has excellent judgement and takes good points with ease whilst setting aside weak points that dilute the presentation of a defence case.'

"Ashraf has the ability to cut through the complexity of a heavy case and focus on the real issues for the jury. He has a highly defined level of attention in complex work and always on top of his brief."

"Ashraf combines meticulous preparation with excellent client skills and a particularly persuasive style of

advocacy.”

“Has strong knowledge of the law and brings broad, tactical vision to his cases. He is deservedly busy in silk-level work despite being a junior.”

“Ashraf’s strengths lie in meticulous attention to detail.”

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“He has the ability to quickly instil a degree of courage in his clients.”

“He’s exceptionally talented and an extremely able barrister due to his grasp of the law and sensible approach to the jury. He can outshine leading silks on his day.”

“He is a particularly strong junior.... He has dry wit that can wither any hostile witness testimony with ease. He has a huge practice nationally..... A very safe pair of hands”

“Highly sought after for his calm and collective approach which is never anything but measured. He is well received by clients, fellow professionals and the judiciary. He is meticulous in his preparation and presents his cases well before the court.”

Practice Areas

Crime

Ashraf offers clients highly specialised and dedicated representation at all levels of the criminal justice system. He has appeared in Courts throughout England and Wales in cases of the highest national profile. He provides his lay and professional clients with outstanding legal knowledge, clearly focused and timely advice, and robust and effective advocacy.

Ashraf offers exceptional experience and ability in the defence of a wide range of serious and complex criminal cases involving serious organised crime; all forms of homicide, particularly gang related executions; serious violence and public disorder; large scale drug trafficking; terrorism; blackmail; kidnapping; and armed robbery.

Over the years, Ashraf has gained substantial expertise in dealing with the use and interpretation of scientific evidence, including DNA; facial mapping; firearms residue; cell-site analysis; and complex medical evidence.

Notable Cases:

- **Operation Ardeonnaig:** South London gang machine gun shooting.
- **Operation Avalanche:** Gang related execution over drugs territory.
- **Operation Landseer:** Gang related execution killing.

- **Operation Baritone:** Gang related execution killing.
- **Operation Movate:** Gang related public disorder and attempted murder.
- **Operation Chapletown:** Gang related murder where prosecution offered no evidence against the client after legal argument 8 weeks into the trial.
- **Operation Poppy:** Executions carried out by gangs in Liverpool at war over drugs territory.
- **Operation Filey:** High profile planned murder by a pharmacist of his wife.
- **R v WC & 3 Others:** Murder of a man alleged to have abused young children
- **R v GW:** Causing the death of elderly man during the course of a burglary.
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- **R v DC:** Defending man who strangled his ex-girlfriend to death in a secluded woodland park in Birmingham during sexual intercourse.
- **R v MH:** Murder of vulnerable adult by a gang of youths.
- **R v SSM & 5 Others:** Highest profile honour killing case to date. Successfully defended the only defendant charged with the honour killing of Benaz Mahmood.
- **R v RR:** Defendant charged with gang related murder over a drugs dispute.
- **R v FK & 8 Others:** Gangland shooting over drugs dispute.
- **R v BS:** Attempted Murder of husband.
- **R v AH, MH & Others:** Attempted murder, causing grievous bodily harm and violent disorder.
- **R v DH & Others:** drugs related gangland execution.
- **R v BT:** Attempted Murder of her husband.
- **R v AO:** Gang related violent disorder resulting in death of 3 men.
- **R v RL & Another:** Father and son charged with murder of their wife/ mother and perverting the course of public justice.
- **R v SC:** Unprovoked murder of a stranger.
- **R v G & Others:** Multi handed gang murder.
- **Operation Venetic/Oberon:** International drug trafficking.
- **Operation Vermont:** International drug trafficking.
- **Operation Clubman:** International drug trafficking involving cocaine in excess of 200kg.
- **Operation Jericho:** Large scale drug trafficking.
- **Operation Washington:** Large scale conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- **R v GH & 18 Others:** Large scale conspiracy to supply Class A controlled drugs.
- **Operation Frank:** Large scale importation and supply of Class A controlled drugs.
- **Operation Alamos:** Large scale importation and supply of Class A controlled drugs.
- **Operation Penshurst:** Large scale importation and supply of Class A controlled drugs.
- **Operation Ebony/Brisbane:** International drug trafficking.
- **Operation Heptagon:** Armed robbery.
- **Operation Marble:** Firearms supply
- **Operation Iron:** Conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, Police corruption and misconduct in public office.
- **R v AG and Others** – Armed robbery of high value items from a distribution centre.
- **R v MW & 8 Others:** Conspiracy to Import and Supply Class A drugs worth £6.6 million.
- **R v MS & 8 Others:** Conspiracy to Supply Class A and Money Laundering.
- **R v PS & 11 Others:** Large-scale conspiracy to facilitate illegal immigration from the UK into Canada.
- **R v MR & 6 Others:** Client alleged to be part of a highly organised crime group facilitating illegal immigration from Bangladesh.
- **R v IM & 35 Others:** Representing one of the main defendants in one of the largest drugs conspiracies prosecuted in the Midlands.
- **R v DJ & 12 Others:** Instructed to represent the defendant charged with evading duty on cigarettes on

a substantial scale.

- **Operation Manifest:** Defending in large scale and highly organised drugs conspiracy involving organised crime group in Sheffield and Nottingham supplying drugs to North East of England. Defendant acquitted of conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.
- **R v S & 8 Others:** Defending one of the lead defendants in a multi-million drug trafficking case involving a sophisticated organised criminal group based in North East England.
- **R v JW & 8 Others:** Representing one of the main defendants in this large scale drugs conspiracy involving millions of pounds of heroin. Defendant acquitted.
- **R v OO & 15 Others:** Representing one of the defendants charged with conspiracy to facilitate sham marriages between British Nationals and nationals of an African origin for significant profit.
- **Operation Tartrate:** Representing one of the defendants charged with evading duty of cigarette importation on a substantial scale.
- **R v PW & 7 Others:** Representing lead defendant charged with conspiracy to facilitate illegal immigration on a large scale.
- **R v N & 23 Others:** Client charged with supply of controlled drugs on commercial scale. Case also linked to a separate but linked murder trial.
- **R v E & Others:** Defence counsel in large-scale conspiracy to import/export class A drugs and money laundering valued at over £80 million. Case stayed as a result of successful abuse of process application.
- **R v RB & Others:** Multiple rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment and assault.
- **Operation Harehill:** High profile CSE case in the North West of England
- **Operation Span:** The highest profile CSE case to date.

Fraud

Ashraf is a fraud defence specialist. He provides advice and representation in some of the largest and most complex fraud cases to come before the Courts in the country. He specialises in advising and representing corporate and individual clients across the full range of white collar criminal offences, business crime, and related regulatory proceedings.

Ashraf's services are often called upon at the earliest stage of a fraud investigation to assist in active case management. Due to the sheer size of the fraud alleged and the volume of documents involved, he often works within a team of specialist lawyers and forensic accountants during the preparatory stages.

Ashraf has experience of a wide spectrum of the business crime or regulatory issues which can face companies or individuals, including criminal anti-competitive behaviour (cartels, insider dealing, market abuse, LIBOR and other foreign exchange rate), Fraud (including Revenue (VAT and excise/duty diversion), mortgage, carbon credit trading, banking/fraudulent trading, factoring, MTIC/Carousel, boiler room, land banking, money laundering and "Ponzi" schemes) and Intellectual property crime.

Notable Cases:

- **Operation Warbird:** Substantial fraud on HM Government Department
- **Operation Abundant:** Multi million pound MTIC fraud
- **Operation Hyperion:** multi million pound money laundering.
- **Operation Nightjar 2:** Multimillion pound money laundering

- **Operation Hornet:** large scale fraud and tax evasion
- **Operation Dublin:** Complex Trading Standards prosecution into fraud, tax evasion and money laundering.
- **Operation Supertop:** £53 million international money laundering.
- **Operation Yates:** Multi million pound money laundering linked to major drugs trafficking conspiracy in North East England.
- **Operation Lever:** Alleged multi million pound International Revenue Share Fraud on mobile phone industry.
- **RE: AW:** Investigation into a multimillion pound insider dealing syndicate carried out by the **Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF)**.
- **R v EA and others:** High value fraud on lending institutions and banks.
- **R v RS:** High value Tax fraud.
- **R v PS & 8 Others:** Multi million pound conspiracy to defraud Banks.
- **Operation Coil:** Defence of a mortgage broker charged with conspiracy to defraud lenders in excess of £1.6 million.
- **Operation Thatcham:** Instructed to defend in a large-scale conspiracy to defraud Insurance companies.
- **Operation Lollipop:** Defence of man accused of large-scale conspiracy to defraud insurance companies.
- **Operate Savate:** Instructed to represent the lead defendant, a company director, in allegation of direct and indirect tax fraud within the construction industry. This case has been described at the largest construction fraud to be prosecuted to date.
- **Operation Bamburgh:** Instructed to represent one of the main defendants in what has been described as the largest mortgage fraud to be prosecuted to date.
- **Operation Nacho:** Instructed to represent one of the principal defendants. This case has been described as the largest 'cash for crash' fraud ever prosecuted in the country. The allegation involves a large-scale fraud on insurance companies through false/exaggerated accident and personal injury claims.
- **R v NC & 4 Others:** Representing defendant charged with fraudulent trading on a substantial scale.
- **Operation Enigma:** Client alleged to be part of a £200 million international money laundering crime syndicate.
- **R v TP & 6 Others:** Trading Standards prosecution of organised crime group involved in large scale counterfeit goods fraud.
- **R v AD & 17 Others:** Instructed to represent defendant charged with large-scale 'cash for crash' insurance fraud.
- **R v MG & 5 Others:** Represented one of the principal defendants (a professional banker) charged with laundering the proceeds of her father's cheat on the public revenue which ran into millions.
- **Operation Anerley:** Representing the lead defendant as leading junior in this multi-million pound mortgage fraud.
- **R v JP & 4 Others:** Representing defendant charged with £1 million money laundering. The source of the money alleged to be the proceeds of drug trafficking.
- **R v MC & 6 Others:** Representing lead defendant in a £100 million steel fraud.
- **Operation Pompeii:** Representing one of the defendants in a multi-million pound mortgage fraud.
- **R v MA & 20 Others:** Substantial fraud on insurance industry.
- **R v IH & 8 Others:** Substantial MTIC (Missing Trader) fraud.
- **Operation Jericho:** Multi million pound money laundering resulting from proceeds of crime generated via drug trafficking.
- **R v PJ & 5 Others:** Represented acquitted defendant of multi million pound fraud.

- **Operation Euripus:** Representing first defendant on the indictment in what was described at the largest MTIC fraud ever prosecuted by Revenue and Customs at the time.
- **R v FA & 8 Others:** International £144 million fraud perpetrated against Virgin media.
- **R v RJ & Others:** 'Advance Fee Fraud'. Client charged with conspiracy to defraud. Case involved large scale operation instigated by the West Midlands Police Organised Crime Unit, the Home Office and the Organised Crime Squad of West Africa.
- **R v MT & Others:** Representing lead defendant and company director of a time share company charged with conspiracy to defraud in excess of £1 million.
- **R v WK & Others:** Representing lead defendant charged conspiracy to defraud and alleged to be the lead conspirator in defrauding banks and other lending institutions of substantial sums of money.

Murder & Manslaughter

Ashraf is the first choice of counsel for many solicitors across the country and lay clients who need dedicated and effective representation for the most serious criminal allegation. Most of Ashraf's instructions in homicide cases have involved gang related executions and contract killings.

Ashraf has extensive experience of working within a team of specialised lawyers who are dedicated to investing time and effort into the case in order to ensure that every aspect of the prosecution's case is scrutinised so that every aspect of the prosecution's case is tested before the jury.

When presenting the defence case, client's and solicitors feel reassured knowing that everything is being done to ensure the defence is presented in the best possible light to the jury. Ashraf has extensive experience of guiding client's through difficult murder cases strategically and successfully.

Often in gang related cases issues of admissibility, disclosure, causation, joint enterprise, cut-throat, bad character and hearsay arise. Ashraf has substantial experience of managing cases of this kind. He also has a track record of working with experts for the defence when the expertise/accuracy/integrity of prosecution experts are challenged.

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Regulatory

Ashraf's experience as a leading criminal Barrister has equipped him with the necessary skill set required to focus on developing a strong Professional Discipline and Regulatory law practice. He offers high quality, practical legal advice and representation from interim hearings all the way through to final substantive hearings, appeals and judicial review challenges in the High Court. Ashraf currently advises and represents individuals, businesses and regulators in professional disciplinary and regulatory cases across a wide range of sectors. These include:

Health and Social Care Sector

Ashraf accepts instructions to appear in Fitness to Practise proceedings on behalf of all major health care regulators, including the General Medical Council (GMC), Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), General Dental Council (GDC), General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) and Social Work England (SWE). He also has substantial experience of defending professionals and organisations, often being engaged very early to assist his Instructing Solicitors and clients with important strategic decisions from the outset to achieve the best possible outcome.

As a mark of Ashraf's experience and expertise in this sector, he has been appointed as an Independent Legal Assessor/Legal Adviser to the Fitness to Practice Committees at the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Optical Council.

Police Misconduct

Police misconduct is fast becoming one of Ashraf's principal areas of practice. He offers well-reasoned strategic advice and effective representation, ensuring the best outcome for his clients. Ashraf recently advised a senior met police officer accused of sexual misconduct. He is currently representing a met police officer charged with offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Sports Sector

Ashraf has wide ranging experience of dealing with sports related disciplinary hearings. He sits as a disciplinary panel member for UK Athletics and is a registered lawyer with the Football Association (FA). Recently, Ashraf successfully represented a high-profile organisation which faced allegations of abuse made

by an international gymnast before Sports Resolutions Independent Case Panel.

Legal Sector

Ashraf have experience of representing Solicitors and Barristers accused of misconduct by their regulator. He successfully defended a senior Barrister facing over multiple allegations of dishonesty. All charges were dismissed at the final hearing. He also advised a high-profile solicitor facing disciplinary action before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. The Solicitor avoided strike off.

Financial Sector

Ashraf has substantial experience of representing individuals facing disciplinary proceedings within the financial sector. He also sits as an Independent Legal Adviser to the ACCA's Disciplinary Panel.

Ashraf recently advised and represented a UK based high-net-worth individual facing insider trading allegations made by the French Financial Regulator, Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF). All charges were dismissed by the Committee sitting in Paris.

Professional Discipline

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Coroner's Inquests

Ashraf practices in coronial law. He has a certificate in Coronial Law awarded by the Centre for Contemporary Coronial Law from the University of Bolton; a highly respected course endorsed by the Chief Coroner's office. This period of training gave Ashraf further in-depth understanding of modern-day coronial law and practice, as well as vital training for properly managing interested parties and sensitively navigating through a Coroner's inquest.

Chambers and Partners 2021 describes him as "exceptionally talented and an extremely able barrister due to his grasp of the law and sensible approach to the jury.."

Chambers and Partners 2020 described Ashraf as "highly sought after for his calm and collective approach which is never anything but measured. He is well received by clients, fellow professionals and the judiciary." "He is meticulous in his preparation and presents his cases well before the court."

The Legal 500 says "his calm persona can cut through complex issues with ease."

Memberships

- Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
- Midland Circuit
- South Eastern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association
- Panel of Defence Counsel at the International Criminal Court
- International Criminal Bar Association

- Dubai International Finance Centre
- ADR Group Accredited Civil and Commercial Mediator

Qualifications

- LL.B (Hons)
- LL.M.
- Bar Vocational Diploma
- Direct Access Qualified

Directory Quotes

- “He is very adept at choosing a tactical course and he’s a good barrister when it comes to dealing with difficult clients.” **Chambers & Partners 2024**
- “He is studious in his attention to detail and charming in court.” **Chambers & Partners 2024**
- “Ashraf is a senior junior who in reality has a silk’s practice already. He has the ability to cut through the complexity of a heavy case and focus on the real issues for the jury. He has a highly defined level of attention in complex work and always on top of his brief.” **Legal 500 2024**
- “Ashraf has a great eye for detail as well as a tireless work ethic, a combination which makes him ideal for serious fraud work. He has excellent judgement and takes good points with ease whilst setting aside weak points that dilute the presentation of a defence case.” **Legal 500 2024**
- “Ashraf combines meticulous preparation with excellent client skills and a particularly persuasive style of advocacy.” **Legal 500 2023 (Crime/Fraud)**
- “Has strong knowledge of the law and brings broad, tactical vision to his cases. He is deservedly busy in silk-level work despite being a junior.” **Chambers & Partners 2023**
- “Ashraf’s strengths lie in meticulous attention to detail. He is certainly tipped to take silk in the next few years by many senior members of the Bar.” “Ashraf is a highly skilled advocate who prepares cases thoroughly and presents a forceful case before the court.” **Legal 500 2022**
- “He has the ability to quickly instil a degree of courage in his clients.” **Chambers & Partners 2022**
- “He’s exceptionally talented and an extremely able barrister due to his grasp of the law and sensible approach to the jury. He can outshine leading silks on his day.” **Chambers & Partners 2021**
- “He is a particularly strong junior in serious crime and fraud. He has dry wit that can wither any hostile witness testimony with ease. He has a huge practice nationally in complex crime. A very safe pair of hands” **Legal 500 2020**
- “Highly sought after for his calm and collective approach which is never anything but measured. He is well received by clients, fellow professionals and the judiciary.” “He is meticulous in his preparation and presents his cases well before the court.” **Chambers & Partners 2020**
- “Has a great eye for detail” **Legal 500 2019**
- “Advises on serious financial crime matters. Regularly defends cases of mortgage, tax and investment fraud” **Legal 500 2018**
- “Recognised for advising on serious financial crime matters. He regularly defends cases of mortgage, tax and investment fraud... His written work is particularly good.” **Chambers & Partners 2017**
- “Particularly noted for his expertise in cartel investigations, insider dealing and rate fixing matters. He

routinely represents large corporations and individuals." **Chambers & Partners 2016**

- "His calm persona can cut through complex issues with ease." **Legal 500 2016**
- "Has a nationwide financial crime practice and is regularly instructed to defend in complex fraud cases...has an A to Z knowledge of fraud work." **Chambers & Partners 2015**
- "Often has the prosecution running around in circles." **Legal 500 2015**