



# Christopher Saad

Call 2009

Chris Saad is ranked as a leading barrister in both Chambers UK and the Legal 500. His expertise encompasses Professional Disciplinary, Crime, Regulatory and Sports law.

Recent highlights include:

- Shortlisted as Sport Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 2024 awards.
- Appointed as Independent Integrity Expert at FIFA, following global application process;
- Represented Properly Interested Persons in several high profile Inquests (representing healthcare professionals/organisations);
- Persuaded Fitness to Practise Panel that Registrant's Article 6 rights had been breached;
- Prosecuted several Health and Safety matters including as a led junior in the prosecution of McLaren Trading Limited;
- Appointed to the Board of Manchester United Foundation.

## Professional Disciplinary

Chris has considerable experience in this field having advised and represented clients in relation to proceedings brought by regulators across healthcare, legal and financial sectors. He has represented clients at both first instance and in the High Court.

In recent years Chris has appeared before

- General Medical Council;
- General Optical Council;
- General Dental Council;
- General Pharmaceutical Council;
- the Health and Care Professions Council;
- ACCA;
- Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

These cases have involved allegations of dishonesty, sexual misconduct, deficient professional performance, and serious clinical failings.

Chris has been ranked as a leading barrister in this field for several years.

## Inquiries and Inquests:

Chris has considerable experience in relation to Public Inquiries having been a member of the Counsel to

the Inquiry team for the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. Chris was instructed as First Junior in the Archdiocese of Birmingham Case Study in the Roman Catholic Church Investigation, and the subsequent Wider Hearing in the same investigation. More recently, Chris was instructed as a member of the Counsel to the Inquiry team for the UK Covid-19 Inquiry.

Chris's experience in both criminal, disciplinary and health & safety law has led to him being instructed in Inquests, representing professionals and organisations in the healthcare and construction sectors. He has particular experience in Article 2 Inquests.

#### **Sport:**

Chris's experience relates to disciplinary and safeguarding cases.

In safeguarding, Chris has experience both as an advocate and as an arbitrator. He has recently been re-appointed to the Sport Resolutions National Panel and National Safeguarding Panel for the 2024-2027 term (having been first appointed in 2021). Chris Chaired the Safeguarding and Protection Committee at the Lawn Tennis Association between 2020 and 2023, and was a Chair and Panel member of the Football Association's Safeguarding Review Panel (2021-2024). He has also represented participants before their NGB safeguarding panels.

In disciplinary cases, Chris has represented individuals and Clubs at the Football Association (Regulatory Commission and Appeals Board), British Show Horse Association (Anti-Doping) British Boxing Board of Control, Professional Boxing Association and Motorsport UK. He is also a Chair and Panel Member at England Boxing and was a Disciplinary Panel member at British Rowing, where he gained experience in athlete selection matters.

Chris co-authored the "Discipline" chapter of Football and the Law, Second edition, alongside Jim Sturman KC.

#### **Crime:**

Christopher is consistently instructed in cases of a complex and high-profile nature as both a led junior and a junior alone. These cases have included:

- Murder;
- Unlawful act manslaughter;
- Multi-million pound fraud conspiracies;
- Sexual Offences;
- Large-scale drug Conspiracies;
- Health and Safety; and
- Road Traffic Offences.

Christopher has been ranked as a leading barrister in this field by the Legal 500 for a number of years.

He is a Level 3 prosecutor on the Crown Prosecution Service General Crime panel, and is on the list of Specialist Regulatory Advocates.

## Practice Areas

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### Crime

Chris is regularly instructed in cases of size and complexity both as a led Junior or as a Junior alone. He has been listed as a leading junior criminal barrister in this year's Legal 500. He is described as *"extremely hardworking...shows real insight and strategic awareness"*.

Recent examples of his work have been appearing as a led junior for the Crown in the prosecution of an unlawful act manslaughter (in which the defendants were convicted) and appearing as a led junior for the first defendant in an alleged carbon credits "boiler room" fraud (in which the defendants were acquitted).

Chris also specialises in representing clients charged with Road Traffic offences such as careless driving, speeding, drink driving and failing to provide a specimen. He has successfully represented clients on several occasions in advancing special reasons and exceptional hardship arguments. Such clients have included high-net-worth individuals and media personalities.

He is also direct access qualified and will accept instructions on this basis if appropriate.

Other highlights of Christopher's criminal practice have included:

- Junior alone in a conspiracy to supply drugs, which included the importation of half a tonne of cannabis;
- Junior alone in a misconduct in public office case in which a prison nurse smuggled contraband into prison;
- Representing a company and its directors in relation to health and safety offences;
- Providing pre-publication advice on whether an article may attract criminal liability;
- Led Junior in a multi-million pound boiler room fraud case, in which investors were sold "Rare Earth Metals";
- Led Junior in a multi-million pound conspiracy to defraud trial brought by the e-crime team at National Trading Standards;
- Led Junior in a case of mortgage fraud and cheating the revenue;
- Led Junior in a conspiracy to supply class A drugs case, likened to the television series "Breaking Bad";
- Led Junior in a conspiracy to supply class A drugs case in which tens of kilos of cocaine were imported into the country having been hidden in airplanes flown from Mexico;
- Numerous other cases in which Chris has appeared as a junior alone including: wounding with intent, kidnap, blackmail, fraud by abuse of position, perverting the course of justice, malicious communications, offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the Data Protection 1998.

Due to Chris's unique experience in media regulation he has also built a practice in media and information crime, including cases involving copyright infringement, malicious communications, "trolling", data protection offences, computer misuse act offences and pirate radio, and has provided advice on whether an article may attract criminal liability if published.

### Notable crime cases

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#### R v G&M

Led by Mark Milliken-Smith QC. Prosecution of unlawful act manslaughter.

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Client accused of conspiring to produce MDMA along with a biochemist in a case referred to as a real life "Breaking Bad". Led by Dean Armstrong QC. Acquitted.

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Seven handed conspiracy to handle stolen goods. Conspiracy said to have stolen several high value cars and dismantled them in a "slaughter house". Client was found by police at the warehouse. Acquitted.

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Charged with grievous bodily harm with intent. Said to have lured a victim into a back street and thereafter attacked him after a drug deal had gone wrong. Acquitted.

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Client accused of blackmail. Acquitted.

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Father accused of inflicting actual bodily harm on his son. Acquitted.

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Client accused of inflicting grievous bodily harm in a case of "road rage". Acquitted.

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Client accused of being concerned in the supply of Class A and Class B drugs. Acquitted.

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## Fraud

Chris acts for clients charged with large-scale conspiracies to defraud and money laundering. He has particular experience of working in Very High Cost Cases and in cases that attract national media attention.

He has been involved in several large and complex conspiracy to defraud trials, concerning cybercrime and commodities fraud (rare earth metals and carbon credits). He also appeared as a led junior in the prosecution of a man accused of defrauding the National Lottery.

Chris has considerable experience in advising on money laundering matters having been instructed to advise the Global Financial Crime division of an international bank on money laundering risk and compliance in both London and Geneva.

Chris has been instructed as Independent Counsel to the Serious Fraud Office in matters of Legal Professional Privilege and as a Disclosure Officer for the Financial Conduct Authority.

## Notable fraud cases

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Defendant alleged to have defrauded the National Lottery by using an insider to create a forged ticket.

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Defendant alleged to have dealt with cigarettes on which no duty had been paid. Acquitted.

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Alleged “boiler room” fraud in which investors were sold Carbon credits. Chris represented a Director of the brokerage company. Led by Simon Baker. Acquitted.

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Client alleged to have submitted fraudulent mortgage applications and laundered over £1 million thereafter. Led by Craig Rush. Acquitted.

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Client was a courier alleged to have made fraudulent claims for work that had not been carried out. Acquitted.

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Sub-postmaster accused of defrauding the Royal Mail by falsely claiming items of value had been lost in the post. The case involved detailed analysis of the special delivery “track and trace” procedure as well as ebay and madbid.com.

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Prosecuted by National Trading Standards. Trademark infringement and Consumer Protection offences also on original indictment. Led by Andrew McGee.

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Boiler room fraud in which investors were sold “Rare Earth Metals”. Chris represented the Director of the company’s Zurich office. Led by Kevin Toomey.

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Client accused of stealing almost £100,000 from a close relative after being appointed Power of Attorney.

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Individual accused of making a fraudulent claim under the “right to buy” scheme.

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Money laundering case which involved an elaborate scheme of intercepting bank cheques, falsifying them and cashing them into various bank accounts.

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## Regulatory

Christopher's regulatory practice includes: healthcare, media and sports (please see sports law page of profile).

He is ranked as a leading junior barrister in the field of Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory in the Legal 500. This year's directory contains the following quote: *"Chris is very personable and his calm demeanour is reassuring to clients within the run up to, and during hearings. He understands the facts of a case quickly and from the perspective of an instructing solicitor, he is very easy to approach and likes to share ideas regarding hearing preparation and tactics."*

Chris is a member of the Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health and Safety and Environmental Law Panel (Panel C).

## Healthcare

He has represented and/or advised clients in relation to proceedings brought by the following healthcare bodies:

- General Optical Council;
- General Dental Council;
- General Medical Council;
- General Pharmaceutical Council;
- Nursing and Midwifery Council;
- the Health and Care Professions Council,
- The UK Council for Psychotherapy,
- British Psychoanalytic Council;
- National Health Service England.

These cases have involved allegations of dishonesty, sexual misconduct, deficient professional performance, and serious clinical failings.

## Media

Before coming to the Bar, Christopher worked as an Associate at the Office of Communications (Ofcom). He specialised in issues of unfair treatment and privacy in radio and television as well as leading several cases in which sanctions were imposed on broadcasters. At the Bar, Christopher has advised media companies in relation to Ofcom investigations, a media company on the merits of a regulatory complaint concerning the supply of English Premier League television rights to foreign broadcasters and a television channel in relation to the prohibition on political advertising and compliance with its licence obligations as to what constitutes "effective control" of a licensed service.

## Notable regulatory cases

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### General Optical Council v SK

Represented registrant alleged to have failed to provide adequate prescription advice. Acquitted at facts stage.

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#### **General Optical Council v CJ**

Represented registrant alleged to have missed a retinal detachment in the course of a routine examination. Acquitted at facts stage.

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#### **UK Council for Psychotherapy v MB**

Represented psychotherapist alleged to have “fundamentally misled” clients. Acquitted after submission of no case to answer.

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#### **General Optical Council v SM**

Represented registrant who was found to have fallen either below or far below the standard in several respects including poor hygiene and record keeping. The Committee found that the registrant’s fitness to practise was not currently impaired.

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#### **Health & Care Professions Council v AB**

Represented psychologist that maintained a friendship with a service user after the therapeutic relationship had ended and thus alleged to have failed to maintain appropriate boundaries.

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#### **UK Council for Psychotherapy v BB**

Psychotherapist alleged to have adopted inappropriate boundaries with a patient.

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#### **National Counselling Service v GL**

Represented Counsellor on appeal. The registrant was alleged to have failed in her duty of care after a pupil had spoken about suicide with her and did not report that to the school. Appeal successful.

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#### **General Optical Council v BY**

Represented Optometrist at an Interim Orders hearing. Registrant alleged to have amended 49 patient records retrospectively. In its statement of facts the GOC applied to suspend the registrant. The Committee found that no such order was necessary.

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#### **General Optical Council v GH**

Represented an optometrist at an Interim Orders hearing. client was accused of retrospectively amending records after receiving a customer complaint. The Council applied for Chris’s client to be suspended. The

Committee found that no such order was necessary;.

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## OFCOM

Represented a channel accused of breaching the Broadcasting Code by airing political programming during the election period. OFCOM took no further action upon receipt of written representations.

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## Public Inquiries

Christopher was instructed as junior counsel in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, which was established to examine how the country's institutions responded to their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse.

Christopher was first junior Counsel in the Archdiocese of Birmingham Case Study and second junior Counsel in the Wider Hearing in the Roman Catholic Church Investigation.

## Sports Law

Chris's experience relates to disciplinary and safeguarding cases.

In safeguarding, Chris has experience both as an advocate and as an arbitrator. He has recently been re-appointed to the Sport Resolutions National Panel and National Safeguarding Panel for the 2024-2027 term (having been first appointed in 2021). Chris chaired the Safeguarding and Protection Committee at the Lawn Tennis Association between 2020 and 2023, and was a Chair and Panel member of the Football Association's Safeguarding Review Panel (2021-2024). He has also represented participants before their NGB safeguarding panels.

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Chris co-authored the "Discipline" chapter of Football and the Law, Second edition, alongside Jim Sturman KC.

## Coroner's Inquests

Chris's experience in both criminal, disciplinary and health & safety law has led to him being instructed in Inquests, representing professionals and organisations in the healthcare and construction sectors.

He has particular experience in Article 2 Inquests.



## Publications

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- Chair of the Safeguarding and Protection Committee, the Lawn Tennis Association
- Chair and Panel Member, England Boxing National Disciplinary Board
- Disciplinary & Grievance Panel Member, British Rowing
- List of Specialist Regulatory Advocates in Health & Safety and Environmental Law (List A)

## Memberships

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- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers' Association
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

## Qualifications

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- The David Karmel Award, Gray's Inn
- The Prince of Wales Scholarship, Gray's Inn

## Directory Quotes

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- "A fine cross-examiner who is always across the detail of his cases." **Legal 500 2024 (Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory)**
- "Christopher thoroughly supports you in every case; he's incredibly well planned and trusted implicitly within this area of law." **Chambers UK 2024 (Professional Disciplinary)**
- "A very good advocate, who is on top of all the detail. Not one you'd want to be up against." **Chambers UK 2024 (Professional Disciplinary)**
- "Incredibly hard working, excellent with clients and his advocacy is first-class. Chris prepares meticulously and always delivers work to time and at a high level of quality." (**Legal 500 2022, Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory**)
- "Chris has an ability to review complex legal matters, and distil the key issues when advising the client." (**Legal 500 2022, Crime**)
- "Chris is an excellent counsel and have only ever obtained excellent results with him. The clients welcome his friendly but very realistic and sensible approach and he is always able to step back and get the client to assess the wider context of the case. Professional and knowledgeable Chris takes the lead in a case and I have always been impressed with him." **Legal 500 2021 (Crime)**
- "Chris is very personable and his calm demeanour is reassuring to clients within the run up to, and during hearings. He understands the facts of a case quickly and from the perspective of an instructing solicitor, he is very easy to approach and likes to share ideas regarding hearing preparation and tactics." **Legal 500 2021 (Professional Disciplinary & Regulatory Law)**
- "Personable and well-liked by his clients." **Legal 500 2020 (Crime)**

- “He is very good in cross-examining difficult witnesses effectively but sympathetically.” **Legal 500 2020 (Fraud)**
- “He is extremely hardworking and shows real insight and strategic awareness.” **Legal 500 2019 (Crime)**
- “Very bright and able.” **Legal 500 2018 (Fraud)**