



Simon Bourne-Arton Q.C.

HND Business Studies – Teesside University

LL.B. (Hons) – Leeds University

1975: Called Inner Temple
1988: Assistant Recorder
1993: Recorder
1994: QC
2006: Leader of the North Eastern Circuit

Field of Practice:

Predominantly criminal, both for the Crown and defence.

White-collar fraud: has defended in a significant number of prosecutions brought by the SFO

Homicide: has defended in cases of homicidal joint enterprise

Drugs: has defended in a number of cases involving large-scale importation

Sexual offences: has defended in historic sexual abuse cases and paedophile ring conspiracies

Regulatory work: has prosecuted, as a junior, cases on behalf the Health and Safety Executive and many cases for Trading Standards (West Yorkshire, Rotherham, Sheffield and York Councils). Defended British Rail (as it was then) in respect of a fatal rail crash at Leeds Station; Famingo Park in respect of an accident on a “ride ” that caused serious injuries to 5 children; a plane company charged with manslaughter in respect of the death of a sky-diver

Recent Cases

R v Amriz Iqbal - Bradford Crown Court - Joint Enterprise Murder [by stabbing]
Defendant acquitted at the end of the Prosecution`s case.

R v Mirzabegi – Leeds Crown Court – Largest MOT/VOSA prosecution

R v Tahir Mahmood – Bradford Crown Court – Murder – “Honour killing” – Defendant acquitted

R v Lambe – Sheffield Crown Court – Murder – Arson of a house – Defendant acquitted

R v Allah Yaar – Bradford Crown Court – Murder – “Honour killing” – Defendant acquitted

R v Thompson and Others – Sheffield Crown Court – Murder – “Drive by shooting” – Defendant acquitted

R v Singh and Other – Teesside Crown Court – ILA Educational Grant Fraud

Fraud

In the last five years as a junior I was, in the main, involved in fraud trials. I prosecuted for CPS Headquarters Fraud and Bankruptcy Division. Those cases included:

R v Buono [reported] – a two month trial involving fraudulent trading of a furniture company

R v Scott and Ors [Liverpool Crown Court] – five month trial involving a firm of management consultants "bumping" companies

R v Redmond [Leeds Crown Court] – Leeds Council official accused of corruption

R v Edgar [Liverpool Crown Court] – a well publicised case involving a London based liquidator involved in the fraudulent trading of the companies of which he was the liquidator

R v Jordan [Birmingham Crown Court] – a Sheffield based solicitor accused of the theft of client monies

R v Hedworth [Doncaster Crown] – prosecuting for CPSHQ (York) solicitor charged with theft

Has defended in many fraud cases. These included:

R v Buffery and Ors [Leeds Crown Court] – a firm of pension advisers accused of the theft of £3m of private client monies. This was the first prosecution brought by the SFO on Circuit

R v Gunawardena [Leeds Crown Court] [reported] – a case involving fraud and corruption in the Leeds NHS

R v Otter [Leeds Crown Court] – fraudulent trading

I also defended in the case of *R v Jackson* [Leeds Crown Court] which involved two senior police officers involved in the investigation of P.C. Corley. This was a much-publicised case.

I have been in Silk for 13 years. Whilst I have been on the SFO panel for that period, I have, in the main, been involved in the defence for fraud trials. These include:

R v Hillier [Leeds Crown Court] – reputedly the most celebrated sole FSA accused of the theft of about £5m of private client monies. In the prosecution, brought by the SFO, the defendant pleaded guilty on a limited basis, receiving 2 years' imprisonment

R v Akrill and Ors [Leeds Crown Court] – another case brought by the SFO. The defendant was acquitted after the indictment was stayed as an abuse of process

R v Klineberg [Leeds Crown Court] [reported] – a timeshare fraud. The defendant was acquitted after appeal on the majority of counts

R v Boid [Hull Crown Court] – a four month trial involving the wholesale distribution of unfit meat into the human food chain. The defendant was acquitted

R v Whitefield [Leeds Crown Court] – a doctor accused of forging over one million prescription forms. The defendant was convicted and received 3 years' imprisonment

R v Smart [Leeds Crown Court] – land development grant fraud. The defendant pleaded guilty to a number of counts of false accounting at the end of the Crown's case, having originally been accused of conspiracy to defraud the government of grant of £693k. He received 160 hours CSO

R v Mitchell & Others [Leeds Crown Court] – largest case ever transferred by the SFO (Jan-June 2004)

R v Woodhead & Others [Leeds Crown Court] - SFO prosecution involving large-scale theft from companies (June-July 2004)

R v Newton & Walker

On the panel of Queens Counsel for the Serious Fraud Office.
Has defended in five cases brought on Circuit by the SFO.

Police

As a junior, prosecuted and defended in a number of cases involving police officers including, most notably, *R v Jackson* (Manchester police officer in charge of the prosecution of P.C. Corley), and two years advising in the case of *Lundy* (a Chief Superintendent from the Metropolitan Police), the enquiry being made by South Yorkshire Police).

Homicide

Both as a junior and in silk, has been instructed in a large number of homicide cases including cases of constructive manslaughter. Particular expertise in respect of homicidal joint enterprise appearing in the Court of Appeal cases of R v Mitchell and King and R v Khan and Akram & Others. I often defend in cases in which there are either mental illness or medical issues. As a junior, defended on behalf of British Rail in two fatal rail accidents.

Additional Information

I have been listed in Chambers Directory as a leader in the field of fraud and crime generally since the first edition.