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Gareth Weetman

Call: 1999

Practice Areas: Business Crime, Crime, Personal Injury, Public Law & Inquiries

"Well prepared and an excellent advocate who is able to engage the jury from the outset."

Chambers & Partners 2014

"Your excellent Counsel has represented you so well during these proceedings"

Mr Justice MacDuff, Nov 2013

Gareth has over 15 years' experience of trial advocacy and during that time has developed a wide-ranging practice in which he is instructed in the most serious criminal and personal injury cases.

Crime

Having been promoted in 2013 to the highest grade of qualification for prosecution work, Gareth appears for both the Crown and Defence in complex and serious cases. He is a member of the Attorney General's panel of Special Advocates and is on the list of approved Counsel for the East Midlands Complex Casework Unit. He regularly deals with cases of the highest sensitivity. Examples of his recent cases include:

- A VAT fraud at the Old Bailey;
- A terrorism case involving a teenage Defendant at the Old Bailey (led by Joel Bennathan QC);
- An attempted murder trial in Nottingham before MacDuff J (client acquitted of attempted murder);
- A number of large-scale conspiracies to supply drugs on an industrial scale (both defending and prosecuting).

Having had the benefit of a busy practice since his call in 1999, Gareth is able to draw on a wealth of courtroom and trial experience that is reflected in the quality of pre-trial advice and jury advocacy that he is able to deploy.

He is entrusted by both defence and CPS lawyers with cases of particular sensitivity, including those involving serious sexual allegations, child witnesses, vulnerable witnesses and mental health issues. He is well regarded for his approachable manner, both in and out of the courtroom, and his ability to judge the right pitch for a particular case or witness. He frequently handles trials involving allegations of child rape and historic abuse.

He has appeared in many high value confiscation cases (both criminal and civil), regularly achieving substantial reductions in the sums seized from his lay clients.

Gareth also has a busy advisory practice. Examples include advising the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey on applications for leave to appeal, cases involving highly sensitive material and issues of Public Interest Immunity. He often acts as "Independent Counsel", advising as to privileged material.

There are several areas where Gareth's experience in criminal and civil work overlaps, such as:

Fraud: He has regularly handled allegations of fraud made in the context of civil proceedings. In recent months he has successfully defended a major national retailer by establishing fraudulent conduct by two personal injury claimants who were seeking to recover in excess of £1,000,000 and £350,000.

Police Law: Gareth appears in multi-track civil trials arising from allegations of police misconduct.

Personal Injury: Having trained in both crime and personal injury during his pupillage at 7 Bedford Row, Gareth has developed a high level practice for both Claimant and Defendant personal injury work. His work spans long-term disability, fatal accidents, brain injury, stress and industrial disease work. He is able to transpose the trial skills that he has developed in jury cases to good effect in the examination of witnesses in both County Court and High Court proceedings.

Advocacy: Gareth believes in the importance of constantly working to hone this skill. He is a member of Gray's Inn's "A" panel of advocacy trainers, regularly providing tuition sessions for younger members of the profession. His own experience first developed at University, where he was President of the Cambridge Union and an award-winning debater and public speaker.

Career: He studied law at Christ's College, Cambridge. Gareth has been a member of 7 Bedford Row since his call in 1999.

Professional Memberships: Criminal Bar Association, Personal Injury Bar Association

Commentary. Gareth is regularly asked to appear live on both BBC News and Sky News to give analysis of current legal issues (e.g. [here](#)).

Contact Gareth Weetman

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