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ALISON POPLÉ QC

Called to the Bar 1993

Queen's Counsel 2015

"She is brilliant.. incredibly detailed and tactically good"
-Chambers & Partners 2018

BIOGRAPHY

Alison Pople is widely acknowledged as a leading criminal advocate with a particular specialism in financial crime and corporate crime. Extremely highly regarded, she is routinely instructed in high profile, serious and complex criminal investigations and proceedings for both individual and corporate clients.

Her expertise embraces the interface between the commercial world and criminal investigations including issues of corporate fraud and false accounting, insider dealing, criminal cartels, tax fraud, domestic and international corruption, corporate regulatory issues and money laundering.

Alison is a skilled and persuasive advocate in both jury and non-jury proceedings. A significant part of her practice is advisory, on self-reporting issues and on strategy from the commencement of criminal investigations by the Serious Fraud Office, Financial Conduct Authority, Competition and Markets Authority and other regulatory bodies in the UK. She frequently advises clients within and outside the UK on issues and investigations with global reach.

Alison also acts as a Special Advocate, instructed by the Attorney General in High Court, Administrative Court or SIAC proceedings.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Chambers and Partners 2019

Financial Crime & Financial Crime: Corporates ; (Band 1) " A fabulous lawyer who is very clear thinking and someone who really researches her cases"

"Extremely hard working and great with clients"

Crime: *"She is extremely hard working, excellent with the client and tactically very good.. she is brilliant, immensely respected"*

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Entries from previous years

“She is brilliant.. incredibly detailed and tactically good”

“She is fantastic on strategy, is very down-to-earth and her preparation is exemplary.” “Truly excellent – she is really user-friendly, and everyone speaks highly of her. A very good court advocate.”

“She is very impressive”

Widely acknowledged as a leading junior in the fields of criminal fraud and corporate crime..”A perfect junior: intelligent, detail-focused and confident, with a very good client manner”

“She receives particular praise for her incisive approach, strategic foresight and adept handling of disclosure issues... Her excellent judgement is matched only by her phenomenal work rate”

Alison Pople is “a true star and definitely one of the first picks for solicitors looking for top-notch fraud juniors”

“Hugely bright and deserving of the highest recognition”

“Consistently receives the highest commendations from sources for her efforts in the fraud arena”

RECENT & CURRENT CASES

Alison’s current and recent instructions include confidential advisory work to individuals, corporates and other institutions in a number of on-going criminal, professional discipline and other investigations conducted by the SFO, CMA, HMRC and the SRA, including self-reporting issues. A number of these instructions involve advising on concurrent civil/criminal/professional discipline investigations and a number involve multiple jurisdictions, or are wholly concerned with non-UK jurisdictions, including Gibraltar and Cyprus. When necessary she takes these instructions on to court/tribunal representation including trial and appellate proceedings.

Advisory Work

Alison regularly advises on pre-charge representations to a regulatory or prosecuting body. Recent instructions with a successful outcome include;

- A company director under criminal investigation by the CMA for a suspected cartel offence in relation to the supply of pre-cast concrete drainage products. Despite the charging of a co-defendant with a criminal offence, the CMA brought no charges against her client, following written representations.
- A US partner of a ‘Magic Circle’ law firm under investigation by the SRA for professional conduct issues.
- A senior employee in the SFO investigation into Tesco PLC.
- Advising a high-profile and high net-worth individual subject to criminal investigation by HMRC for alleged personal tax offences.

Alison’s current advisory work includes advice to clients subject to 5 separate on-going SFO investigations:

- Advising a multi-national corporate subject to an SFO investigation into alleged historic overseas corruption offences.
- Advising a senior corporate figure subject to a long-running SFO investigation into suspected bribery, fraud and sanctions offences in a number of jurisdictions.
- Advising a senior professional subject to another long-running SFO investigation concerning alleged fraud in relation to public contracts.

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- Advising a former senior banking executive subject to the SFO investigation into alleged Libor ‘lowballing’.
- Advising a senior executive at a multi-national energy and aerospace company subject to an SFO investigation in relation to alleged overseas corruption in a number of jurisdictions.
- Advising an employee of a UK based company subject to civil investigation by the CMA for suspected cartel infringements.

In addition, Alison’s recent advisory work includes:

- Advising a senior bank employee in relation to criminal allegations of forgery and insider dealing in an English statute and common law derived jurisdiction.
- Advising a high net-worth individual in relation to a POCA type moratorium period imposed in an English statute and common law derived jurisdiction on dealing with funds, subject to a transnational criminal and money laundering investigation.
- Advising a dual-listed corporate on self-report strategy and conduct in relation to potential criminal liability from breaches of specialist industry sector regulations, wider individual and corporate criminal liability and money laundering.
- Advising a high profile individual in a foreign jurisdiction subject to press speculation about his status in a potential SFO investigation.
- Advising a corporate on its exposure to criminal liability under s7 Bribery Act 2010, Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and associated self-reporting issues.

Court Work

Alison is instructed to represent the Chief Operating Officer of Afren PLC, charged by the SFO alongside the company’s former CEO with Fraud Act 2006 and money laundering offences in a criminal trial fixed for September 2018.

Alison also represents the former Chief Financial Officer of FH Bertling Ltd in on-going criminal proceedings brought by the SFO for corruption offences.

In addition, Alison’s trial work in recent years includes;

- Representation of a former Managing Director of Deutsche Bank charged with insider dealing offences by the FCA, arising from Operation Tabernula, the largest and most complex investigation of insider dealing ever carried out by the financial regulator.
- Representation of a former manager of Swift Technical Group (an Oil and Gas Services Company) on foreign corruption charges brought by the SFO, who was acquitted following a nine-week trial.
- Representation of Andrew Coulson, the former editor of the *News of The World* newspaper, in the phone hacking trial (Operation Weeting and Operation Elveden)

Alison advises and represents clients in all ancillary issues to criminal investigations and proceedings, including challenges or potential challenges to aspects of a criminal investigation, such as a validity of a search warrant and the SFO’s exercise of section 2 powers. She frequently advises on issues related to legal professional privilege arising out of investigations and proceedings. She has advised and represented clients facing wasted costs applications.

Additionally, she acts as a Special Advocate, instructed by the Attorney General in High Court, Administrative Court or SIAC proceedings. The role of the Special Advocate exists in proceedings involving ‘closed’ evidence. Closed evidence may raise issues concerning national security. Individuals and their legal representatives are excluded from hearings where closed evidence is used. Special Advocates perform an important role by representing the interests of the excluded party in those hearings and subjecting the sensitive material to scrutiny, thereby promoting the fairness of the proceedings.

PREVIOUS CASES

Alison has acted as junior counsel in a number of significant and/or high profile cases. These include;

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- Successfully represented the former legal Director of Torex Retail plc. in an SFO prosecution for an offence conspiracy to defraud.
- (Operation Saturn) represented a defendant in large FSA prosecution for allegations of conspiracy to commit insider dealing.
- (Operation Tiger) represented a defendant in a linked FSA prosecution to Operation Saturn for allegations of conspiracy to commit insider dealing.
- Successfully represented a former non-executive director of Securrency in an SFO prosecution for conspiracy to corrupt a Vietnam public official.
- JJB Sports – advised the SFO in relation to the prosecution of former Chief Executive of JJB Sports plc. Christopher Ronnie on fraud and money laundering charges and former Chairman Sir David Jones on charges of misleading the market and forgery. Acted for the SFO during the preliminary stages of both proceedings.
- Operation Condor – successfully represented a former BA Executive in the first contested proceedings for a cartel offence brought by the OFT. The case collapsed before any evidence was called by the Prosecution.
- Independent Insurance – represented the former finance director charged with offences of conspiracy to defraud in an SFO prosecution of a complex and technical case.
- Operation Holbein – successfully defended a corporate client in the largest and most expensive SFO case arising from a cartel investigation which was prosecuted as conspiracy to defraud. The case collapsed in the Court of Appeal after extensive legal argument.
- Jubilee Line Extension case – successfully represented the first defendant in a trial brought by the Crown Prosecution Service alleging conspiracy to defraud and corruption which resulted in a collapse before verdicts after over 18 months.

In addition she has represented defendants in multiple HMRC tax and VAT evasion criminal proceedings, and acted for HMRC in the First Tier Tribunal. She has advised the SFO and represented defendants against the SFO in a number of other criminal cases including boiler room frauds and corruption cases.