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CLARE SIBSON QC

Called to the Bar - 1997

Queen's Counsel - 2016

"Incredibly clever and eloquent... has that touch of magic. You sometimes think that if you worked hard enough you could do it to her standard, but you can't."

Chambers and Partners

BIOGRAPHY

Despite only recently taking silk, Clare Sibson "is already attracting instructions of the highest level in fraud and financial crime". "Extremely thorough and immensely capable," "she grasps technical issues quickly" and is "praised for her manner with clients". In court, even when appearing amongst the most able Queen's Counsel, drawn from both the Commercial and Criminal Bars, her advocacy is said to stand out as "pitch-perfect".

Clare currently represents individuals facing investigation in many of the highest profile cases. In January 2018, within days of the collapse of Carillion – the largest ever trading liquidation in the UK – Clare had been retained to advise and represent one of its former CEOs. In the spring and summer of 2018, she defended Colin Bermingham, Barclays Banks' Euro liquidity manager throughout the 2008 financial crisis, in respect of allegations of Euribor manipulation. In 2019, she will defend John Varley, who was Chief Executive of Barclays Plc between 2004 and 2011, on charges brought by the SFO.

Clare previously defended Rebekah Brooks, throughout a nine-month trial of allegations of phone-hacking, payments to public officials and perverting the course of justice, resulting in her acquittal on all charges. She acted for Sir Cliff Richard in the now closed South Yorkshire police investigation. She represented Robert Tchenguiz in the successful High Court challenge of the SFO's search warrants against him.

Clare has a specialism in corporate liability, where her clients have included Tesco Plc, Petrofac Plc, Olympus Corporation, and a 'Big Four' accounting firm. Following its restatement of its 2014 accounts, Clare represented Tesco in proceedings which concluded in a Deferred Prosecution Agreement. In 2015, she represented Olympus Corporation in the Crown Court and Court of Appeal on Companies Act charges, after which verdicts of not-guilty on all counts against the company were entered. She currently acts for multiple FTSE listed companies facing criminal or regulatory investigation in the UK and overseas.

In addition, Clare has a significant advisory practice addressing the potential criminal and regulatory dimensions of commercial situations involving matters such as insurance arrangements, securities trading and trade secrets. Her work includes giving real time advice on anti-terrorist legislation in the context of live negotiations for the release of hostages.

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WHAT OTHERS SAY

Chambers and Partners 2019

Crime, Financial Crime & Financial Crime: Corporates;

"She's tactically astute and very effective"

"Incredibly bright and very hard working"

"Despite only recently taking silk, Clare Sibson is already attracting instructions of the highest level in fraud and financial crime."

"Incredibly clever and eloquent... has that touch of magic. You sometimes think that if you worked hard enough you could do it to her standard, but you can't."

"Frighteningly intelligent."

Legal 500

" Always on solicitors shortlists for serious and complex work"

Entries from previous years

Chambers and Partners Crime Junior of the Year 2014

"A very talented barrister, who produces clear, concise advice on a variety of criminal fraud matters." "Her legal analysis is first rate."

"She is astonishingly bright, great on paper and has good client skills."

"She is very impressive – the brightest junior at the Criminal Bar."

"Quite astonishingly bright, she gets every point and writes beautifully."

"The frighteningly good Clare Sibson... a fraud specialist with 'two brains'."

RECENT & CURRENT CASES

- Representing John Varley, the former chief executive of Barclays, charged by the SFO following its investigation into Barclays 2008 Capital Raisings
- Representing Colin Bermingham, Barclays former Euro liquidity manager, charged by the SFO with benchmark manipulation re Euribor
- Advising the former CEO of Carillion (Parliamentary Select Committees, and Official Receiver investigation)
- Advising Petrofac Plc (SFO investigation)
- Advising Ultra Electronics (SFO investigation)
- Advising a 'Big Four' accounting firm (SFO and FRC investigations)
- Represented Tesco in DPA proceedings
- Acted for Sir Cliff Richard (now closed South Yorkshire Police investigation)
- Represented Olympus Corporation in the Crown Court and Court of Appeal
- Represented Rebekah Brooks in the nine month "phone hacking" trial

PREVIOUS CASES

- Advised the FSA in relation to market abuse and insider dealing (2013)
- Represented Robert Tchenguiz in the judicial review of his arrest and the investigation conducted by the Serious Fraud Office (2011-2012)

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- Advised the director of a global events company in relation to criminal proceedings arising from the sale of corporate tickets for the Olympic games (2012)
- Represented Aivars Lembergs, a Latvian politician, in relation to \$135 million commercial court worldwide freezing order (2012)
- Advised Travel Republic Ltd leading to an acquittal by the regulator and success at appeal in the proceedings brought by the Civil Aviation Authority (2009-2010)
- Advised an interested party in relation to the BA/Virgin price-fixing investigation (2009)
- R v K [2009] EWCA Crim 1640; represented a practicing solicitor before the Crown Court and Court of Appeal in relation to allegations of tax fraud, resulting in the dismissal of all charges (2008-9)
- Yukos litigation: advised an interested party in international cooperation and confiscation matters (2005-2008)
- Defended a solicitor accused of attempting to bribe the US Attorney General (2006-2007)
- Advised and acted for the FSA in relation to its investigation into the Shell oil-reserves misstatement (2004-2005)
- Defended against an SFO prosecution of broker in the alleged public-authority, operational lease market fraud (2005)
- Defended Andrew Regan in the Co-op corruption case (2000-2003)
- Defended a Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police charged with disciplinary offences arising out of his conduct of the CIB investigation into the death in custody of Rodney Sylvester (2003)
- Represented four custody sergeants at the inquest, and subsequently in judicial review proceedings before the High Court, into the suicide of a young man in police custody (2002)
- Represented the police driver of an armed response vehicle involved in a fatal road accident at the Coroner's Inquest (2002)
- R v Clemente: for the Crown, one of the first prosecutions by the CPS for money-laundering the proceeds of fraud (2000)
- R v Tore: multi million pound Kurdish drugs cartel case, for the Crown (1999-2001)
- R v Humphreys and others: for the defence in notorious 'supergrass' drugs case (1999)
- R v Davis, Rowe, Johnson: M25 murder, on appeal, for the Crown (1998)

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE

Clare studied law at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University, from where she graduated with a first class degree, being ranked second out of 269 law finalists in 1996. She was a Manners Scholar of her College in 1993 and a Foundation Scholar in 1996.

Clare is a contributing author to Montgomery and Ormerod on Fraud and to Mortimore's Company Directors: Duties, Liabilities and Remedies. She was a founding consultant editor of the Lloyd's Law Reports – Financial Crime and is a member of the Consulting Editorial Board of Lexis Nexis.