

Editors' Choice - Individual - Serious Crime Barrister of the Year in England



Furnival Chambers

Oliver Blunt QC
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Oliver is the Joint Head of Furnival Chambers, a leading criminal set with over 90 members.

He was called to the Bar in 1974 and took silk in 1994. He served as a Recorder of the Crown Court, principally sitting at the Old Bailey between 1991 and 2006. He has repeatedly been ranked over the years in the top category of Leading Silks in Crime in all established legal directories.

Oliver's criminal practice is entirely defence based, specialising in murder, terrorism, fraud, corruption and drugs cases.

He has been instructed in over a hundred murder trials, ranging from street gang killings to contract killings/assassinations. As a consequence he has represented some of the U.K's most notorious criminals including both serial killers and serial rapists.

His involvement over the years in terrorist cases has included I.R.A, Iranian, the London Tube Bombings and more recently ISIS related cases.

He has considerable experience in the litigation of high profile, multi-million pound drug

importation and distribution conspiracies. Oliver has been instructed on behalf of organised crime families based variously in London, Birmingham, Newcastle and Liverpool.

He has been involved in an infinite variety of fraud cases, ranging from mortgage, insurance, shipping, tax and electoral fraud to money laundering investigation. One case of particular note involved the defrauding of highly placed members of Goldman Sachs.

In the last two to three years Oliver has been principally involved in the Operation Elveden enquiry investigating the corruption of public officials. He was instructed on behalf of five editors and journalists from News International. All five after investigations and trial were cleared of all wrongdoing.

Throughout his criminal law career Oliver has appeared in some of the most celebrated criminal trials e.g. The Millennium Dome Robbery.

With regard to regulatory interests he has been instructed by the British Boxing Board of Control to conduct various Appeals on their behalf.

On a personal front Oliver has been married for 37 years with four children, one of whom is the celebrated Hollywood actress Emily Blunt. He is now the proud grandfather of three grandchildren, with more no doubt to come.

His recreational interests are both cultural and sporting. The family focus in acting had prompted a keen interest in both theatre and film. The failure in his youth to achieve his England ambition on the cricket field has not dampened his enthusiastic participation at Barnes Cricket Club over forty years. His interest in rugby has included coaching and membership at Rosslyn Park Rugby Club. Too many self-inflicted accidents on the mountain have curtailed his skiing experiences. However he still retains a considerable enthusiasm (if not accuracy) on the golf course both here and in Portugal.