



ST. PAULS CHAMBERS

NIGEL SANGSTER QC



Personal Details:

Called to the Bar :-	1976.
Queens Counsel :-	1998.
Appointed Recorder of the Crown Court :-	1997.
Education :-	Repton and Leeds University.

Practice Area

An exclusive criminal defence specialist.

Highly experienced in cases involving serious fraud, money laundering , confiscation proceedings and other “white collar” crimes.

Regularly briefed to defend solicitors, accountants, financial advisors and other professionals.

Fraud, Money Laundering and Confiscation

VHCC

R-v-Guerrero-Castro - Allegation of complex and sophisticated international operation to launder the profits of drug dealing in Europe back to the barons in Columbia .

Described in the press as “the first £1 billion drugs ring”.

Involved American banks and nine months of covert audio recordings and tailing of suspects.

Prosecution intended to call a Columbian co-accused who had pleaded guilty , was debriefed over a six month period and produced a 180 page statement. He was abandoned as a witness after extensive disclosure applications about his history in Columbia. Listed as a 5 month trial at Southwark Crown Court. Acquitted of the main charges.

R-v-M - Alleged multi-million pound advance fee fraud involving banks in Cyprus and the Isle of Man.

Listed as a three month trial at Sheffield Crown Court. Acquitted.

R- v-R - Alleged fraud by the directors at Exeter City Football Club. Allegations of trading whilst insolvent , false accounting and theft. Listed as a nine week trial at Bristol Crown Court. Acquitted.

R-v-Alvey - Alleged insurance scam involving the theft of hundreds of new 4 wheel drive vehicles in Japan; their importation to the UK ; their seizure from innocent UK

purchasers by a co-accused traffic police officer in Dorset ; false information being sent to Japanese insurance companies , which had already settled claims with the original owners, about the condition of the vehicles , their value and the police compound storage costs; their sale at below true value , leading to the Japanese insurance companies being induced to accept a falsely low settlement figure. Described in a BBC documentary about the case as “the biggest car fraud in the world”.

Listed as a three month trial at Kingston Crown Court. Acquitted of the main charges.

Other notable cases:

Operation Emmersed – Missing Trader Intra Community VAT fraud . [MTIC].

Mobile phone trade. Loss to the Revenue of £20 million.

Connected to other MTIC cases [Operations Shepard , Shute, Mazurka, Dunaway etc].

Nine month trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Operation Itches - Defended the European supplier charged with cheating Revenue of £60

million in MTIC mobile phone VAT fraud.

Believed to be the first European supplier charged. Company based in France.

Connected to Operation Euripus , Hawk, Maple Link etc.

Listed as a two month trial before a High Court Judge at the Royal Courts of Justice.

Pleaded guilty to lesser charges.

R v Shipley- MTIC VAT fraud. £20 million loss to the Revenue.

Seven month trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

DTI v MS –Allegation against the chairman of the company of a major fraud on the NHS.

His company entered into agreements with a number of NHS Trusts to take over the running of the boiler houses at major hospitals. They were thus able to re-claim the Vat on the diesel used as a legitimate and exclusive business cost , something the NHS trusts had been unable to do. Split the VAT refund with the NHS , thus benefiting the NHS by millions of pounds.

SFO v Ostrich Farming Corporation -Alleged scam obtaining millions of pounds from members of the public by persuading them to invest in ostriches .

Due to the BSE crises and the high protein , low fat meat from ostriches , they were considered an up and coming source of food at the time.

High financial returns were promised, to be guaranteed from the number of chicks that your ostrich [which cost £10,000] would produce.

The prosecution calculated that in order to guarantee the number of chicks promised from each ostrich , a farm the size of Australia would be required within two years, and the size of the entire earth within five years.

Although the largest recorded shipment of live birds were brought from South Africa to the companies farm in Belgium , the ostriches did not like the wet European weather and refused to breed!

Although the general public invested with enthusiasm , the DTI closed the scheme down claiming it was a scam offering unsustainable rewards.

Acquitted after a three month trial at Leicester Crown Court.

Anglo American Corporation - SFO prosecution involving an international advanced fee fraud.

Listed as a four month trial at Leeds Crown Court.

Acquitted of main charges.

R-v-Torkoniak - Senior solicitor charged with theft from clients and Legal Services Commission. Over £1 million involved.

Three month trial at Lincoln Crown Court.

R-v-P - Senior management consultant in alleged timber industry fraud.

Acquitted of main charge after a three month trial at Leeds Crown Court.

R-v-B - Allegations against a senior solicitor of fraud on the Land Registry on behalf of his clients and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Acquitted after a two month trial.

R-v-W – Allegation against the senior partner accountant of conspiring with his clients to defraud the Inland Revenue by wrongly claiming roll-over relief on the sale of pubs and forging documents. Acquitted after a ten week trial.

R-v-J – Senior partner solicitor charged with laundering the proceeds of drugs offences on behalf of his client.

Three month trial at Newcastle Crown Court.

Serious Crime

Notable Cases

R-v-Clifford – 6 month trial

Defended in the 2003 Leeds United Trials heard at Hull Crown Court. The first trial lasted three months and the jury were discharged whilst they were considering their verdicts , because the Sunday Mirror printed an interview with the victims father claiming the attack was racially motivated , which the prosecution had not alleged.

There followed extensive legal arguments that because of the huge publicity the case had generated , a re-trial should not take place.

However, after a cooling off period of six months, a re-trial did take place and lasted a further three months.

R-v-Ronnie Biggs – Went to Brazil in 1997 to advise the “Great Train Robber” in contesting extradition proceedings.

Although the Brazilian court refused the UK’s request for his extradition , thus giving him the right to remain in Brazil for the rest of his life, following a severe stroke , Ronnie Biggs returned voluntarily to the UK in 2002.

Although he has no right of appeal , I petitioned the Criminal Cases Review to refer his case to the Court of Appeal , but they refused to do so.

I have petitioned the four successive Home Secretaries to allow his release on compassionate grounds due to his deteriorating health , but they have all refused to do so.

Murder cases.

Although predominately a fraud specialist , I have led in a number of murder trials at the Old Bailey , Chelmsford , Leeds , Nottingham,Sheffield and Wolverhampton Crown Courts.

Additional Information:

Appointed Bencher of the Middle Temple 2008.

Joined 25 Bedford Row in January 2005.

Former Head of Chambers at St Pauls Chambers, Leeds from 1995 to 2006.

Member of the Bar Council for ten years [1992 to 2002].

Quotes from Legal 500

"Top quality Silk.....calm and unflustered in conference and court".

“Nigel Sangster QC, is recommended as highly skilled and professional. Solicitors praise his superb track record and impressive acquittal rate”.

“Expert in complex fraud”.

Maintains a high acquittal rate as a defender”.

“Notable Fraud Defence Specialist”.

