



Martin Rutherford KC

Year of call: 1990 - Silk: 2015

‘Martin inspires absolute confidence in those he works alongside. His relaxed and warm manner quickly wins over clients who love working with him. In court he exudes authority and his judgement of courtroom dynamics is impeccable, with all those he appears before holding him in the highest regard.’ (Legal 500 2025)

Justin is a leading criminal barrister ranked consistently highly in the Legal 500 directory. In 2023 Justin was shortlisted by the Legal 500 for their Crime & Extradition Junior of the year award.

Martin is an expert in defending cases involving allegations of Murder, terrorism, serious organised crime, multi-million pound fraud, and complex and emotive allegations of sexual assault. Martin has also appeared in coroners inquests and has recently advised the Football Association in respect of disciplinary matters concerning a Premier League footballer. Meticulous with detail, Martin’s reputation is simply that of an outstanding advocate and a superb courtroom tactician.

Martin understands the power of social media and is fully aware of its advantages. However, he chooses not to advertise within it because of its tendency to allow people to exaggerate their own abilities. His work comes instead primarily from first-hand sources, particularly solicitors and/or clients who see him appear in court as a result of which they ask him to appear for them. Whilst their reasons for doing so are many, the dominant ones appear to be a desire to boost their chances of an acquittal, or alternatively a desire to achieve a reduction in sentence.

Recent Cases

Murder and attempted murder

R v HP – Gangland shooting, client acquitted of all charges.

R v NL – Joint-enterprise stabbing, client acquitted of all charges.

R v QA – Joint-enterprise stabbing, client acquitted of murder.

R v JW – Joint-enterprise stabbing, client acquitted of murder.

R v MC – Near fatal acid attack, client acquitted of all charges.

Fraud

R v YL – Deaf defendant charged with multi-million pound fraud. Client acquitted of all charges.

R v IS – London so-called graffiti king. Client acquitted of all charges.

R v CC – Nurse charged with falsifying notes in diabetic ward. Client acquitted of all charges.

Serious organised crime

R v YM – Allegation of gun running. Client acquitted of all charges.

Other Experience

Martin is regularly asked by Lincoln's Inn to train advocacy to pupil barristers and qualified barristers alike.

“Martin is a real master in the art of advocacy. With quiet calm confidence he commands the courtroom and when it comes to trial strategy he is a most astute tactician. He is one of the most humble and down-to-earth silks you will ever meet and his clients consider him to be a legal legend.” (Legal 500, 2023)

“His disarming nature coupled with his assured delivery make him a formidable opponent in the most serious of cases. Calm under pressure. Excellent rapport with the jury. Strategic thinker. Tactically astute. Hard-working. Highly personable.” (Legal 500, 2021)

“His ability to spot a point others might have missed and deploy it to maximum effect is compelling.” (Legal 500, 2020)

“He instinctively knows how to run and present a case.” (Legal 500, 2019)

Qualifications

BA (Hons.) English
Diploma in Law

Professional Associations

Criminal Bar Association

Appointments

Queen's Counsel (2015)