

## Alison Levitt QC

"Alison Levitt QC is valued for her experience in international fraud, bribery and corruption cases and for her expertise in private prosecutions."  
Chambers UK 2019



Year of Call: 1988    QC: 2008

020 7353 5324

Alison Levitt QC returned to full-time advocacy practise after 5 years in the public service, followed by setting up a new department in a major law firm. From 2009-2014 Alison was the Principal Legal Advisor to the DPP and later was head-hunted by Mishcon de Reya to establish their White Collar Crime and Investigations department.

She provides advocacy in crime including business crime, and in cases with significant foreign and/or public policy elements.

She has prepared independent reports on many complex issues, including the Jimmy Savile case, and has carried out two recent safeguarding inquiries.

She has appeared in many high profile matters, and has a particular liking for appellate cases.

Alison accepts **Direct Access** instructions.

## Business Crime & Financial Services

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### ***Mishcon de Reya LLP (2014 – 2018)*** ***Partner, Head of White Collar Crime and Investigations***

In 2014 Alison was head-hunted to start a white collar crime department at Mishcon de Reya, a major international law Firm which had no previous criminal law practice. Alison practised across the interface of criminal, regulatory and civil financial law: all forms of financial and business conduct both in the UK and other jurisdictions including bribery, fraud, theft, proceeds of crime, extradition and Interpol Red Notices.

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### Location

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### Contact Us

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Alison is an expert in private prosecutions; at the CPS she wrote the Legal Guidance (which is still in force) and approved all decisions for every private prosecution referred to the CPS for a period of 2 ½ years.

At *Mishcon de Reya*, she conducted the largest private prosecution ever brought. (*Allseas v. Paul Sultana*, a 100m euro fraud)

She has conducted major internal investigations for clients, which include allegations both of financial wrongdoing and sexual impropriety and harassment following the 'MeToo' movement. Examples are: investigations for a national charity, a major international law firm; currently conducting one for St Hugh's College Oxford.

Alison gives lectures, both nationally and internationally in this area of work; recent examples include:

- New York University 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Tax Controversy Forum: “The legal landscape overseas: strategies to navigate international asset seizures”
- CIFAS Annual Conference 2018
- Cambridge International Economic Crime Symposium 2018: “Are Unexplained Wealth Orders a step too far?”
- International Bar Association<sup>[1]</sup> (Paris): “Double-jeopardy in the transnational context”
- Inside Government : “Effectively Reporting, Tackling and Preventing Hate Crime”
- Intellectual Property Office : “How Public Private Partnerships can detect, punish and deter intellectual property crime”
- IBA (Panama): “Recent developments in UK anti-corruption laws”
- Cumberland Lodge: “Corporate Crime and Punishment”
- To a large group of General Counsel from major international corporations: “The new corporate offence of failing to prevent tax evasion”
- Deutsche Bank Compliance Team: “Why Corruption Matters”
- IBA (Washington): “Illicit Financial Flows in Africa”
- Cambridge International Economic Crime Symposium : “A new approach to tackling economic crime” (reported in the *New York Times*).

[1] 'IBA'

## Public Prosecution

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### *Principal Legal Advisor to the Director of Public Prosecutions (2009 – 2014)*

Advising DPP and making serious decisions in the top layer of CPS cases in terms of gravity, sensitivity and media interest. Acknowledged expert in prosecution of serious sexual offences.

### Major cases:

- R v. Brooks & Others (News of the World Phoen hacking cases)
- R v. Levi Bellfield

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- Investigating CPS failure to charge Jimmy Savile whilst he was alive and writing a report which the then-DPP described as a “watershed moment” for the Criminal Justice System;
- National security cases at the top level

### ***Advocacy as Principal Legal Advisor***

Alison conducted cases as counsel in the Court of Appeal on behalf of the DPP, where there were serious issues of principle for the CPS. For example *Mitchell* [2014] 2 Cr. App. R 17, which was concerned with the limits of the offence of misconduct in a public office. The prosecution lost but the Court was complimentary (“*advanced with characteristic skill... by Miss Levitt*” – Sir Brian Leveson PQPD)

She was the expert on ‘Double Jeopardy’ cases (fresh evidence appeals against acquittals); during her five years she conducted every DPP application to the Court of Appeal in this category of case.

## Criminal Defence

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From 1991-2001 Alison was a heavyweight defence criminal advocate at another leading criminal set of chambers. Her cases consisted of murder, rape (including non-recent and offences against children), fraud, armed robbery and serious drugs offences.

Prior to taking silk, Alison appeared 17 times in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division. She was praised by the Court of Appeal for her knowledge of the law and her capacity to master complex detail.

## Accreditations

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- Principal Legal Advisor to the DPP 2009-14
- Partner and Head of White Collar Crime and Investigations at Mishcon de Reya 2014-18

## Appointments & Memberships

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- Recorder (2007)
- Master of the Bench, Inner Temple (2009)
  
- Trustee, Kalisher Trust (2018)
- Vice-Chair, Employed Barristers’ Committee of the Bar Council (2018)
- Vulnerable Witness Advocacy trainer (2018)
- Committee member, Private Prosecutors’ Association (2018)
- Trustee, Royal United Services Institute (2017 – present)

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- Chair, Education and Training Committee, Inner Temple (2017 – present)
- Chair ,‘2022’ Committee (future of legal education and training) (2017)
- Vice-Chair , International Bar Association Structured Settlements
- Sub-Committee (2016 – present)
- Women in Law London Advisory Panel (2016 – present)
- Inns of Court College of Advocacy Research and Development Committee (2015 – present)
- Council of the Inns of Court Training Reform Working Group (2015 – present)
- Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies Advisory Board (2015 – present)
- *Blackstone’s Criminal Practice* Advisory Board (2011 – present)
- Executive Committee, Inner Temple (2012 – 2015 & 2017 – present)
- Advocacy Trainer (Inner Temple) – New Practitioners & teaching trainers (2002 – present)
- Secretary to the Criminal Bar Association (2006 – 2007)
- Assistant Secretary to the Criminal Bar Association (2005 – 2006)
- Inner Temple Bar Liaison Committee (2002 – 2005)
- Criminal Bar Association Committee (1994 – 1999)
- Chair of the Young Barristers’ Committee (1995)
- Counsel Magazine Editorial Board (1994 – 1998)
- Bar Council (1991 – 1999)

## Publications

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- Co-author of the IBA Report: ‘*Structured Settlements for Corruption Offences: Towards Global Standards?*’
- Member *Blackstone’s Criminal Practice* Editorial Advisory Board

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