

Christopher Ware



Year of Call: 2007

020 7353 5324

Christopher Ware principally defends in serious and complex fraud; corporate, regulatory and business crime; and high-profile and serious crime. He has acted in prosecutions involving, for example, multi-million pound company internal investigations, allegations of bribery and corruption, money laundering, insider dealing, 'boiler room' fraud, perjury, perverting the course of justice, and trading standards offences.

Christopher also acts in regulatory proceedings and sports law, including involving such bodies as the Football Association and the British Horseracing Authority. He has been instructed on cases including match-fixing and corruption related issues, betting, and on field conduct.

Christopher has been instructed in a number of high profile cases including: Ben O'Driscoll & others (Operation Elveden, allegations of corruption by journalists; one of the largest and most costly police investigations in criminal history. Acted for a deputy Editor of The Sun); Greig Box-Turnbull & others (Operation Elveden, represented a reporter at the Daily Mirror); Ben Ashford (Operation Tuleta, acted for a reporter at The Sun. Allegation of computer hacking by journalists); Operation Yewtree (represented well-known individual in High Court proceedings. High-profile, long-running investigation into historical abuse); Operation Cotton (multi-million pound land banking fraud, FCA prosecution); Operation Citrus (represented company director in multi-million pound trading standards and fraud prosecution, said to be first trading standards prosecution of its kind); Operation Tabernula (pre-charge advice to the FCA, largest ever insider dealing investigation); Operation Callahan (represented senior employee, multi-million pound telecommunications fraud).

Christopher also advises on public law matters, including having advised Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in relation to reports and such matters as firearms licensing and legislation, and data protection issues.

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
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Business Crime & Financial Services

Christopher is regularly instructed by leading defence solicitors to advise and represent company directors and other professionals in respect of criminal and regulatory allegations. He has experience of cases pertaining to corporate prosecutions, complex internal investigations, bribery and corruption, insider dealing, fraud, money laundering, regulatory breaches, and trading standards allegations.

Cases:

J v A & B

Led by Jonathan Laidlaw QC. Successfully defended two defendants, company directors and accountants, who were the subject of a private prosecution that alleged eight counts of false accounting. The court ruled that the proceedings be stayed as an Abuse of Process, and at the same time dismissed all charges. Their lay clients were the subject of a private prosecution brought by Julie Davey, a business woman previously in The Sunday Times Rich List. The court had been told that these criminal proceedings were brought as “leverage” in Julie Davey’s ongoing civil litigation, some of which has been the subject of press interest, including the following: The Telegraph ([click here to read article](#)), The Times ([click here to read article](#)), The Financial Times ([click here to read article](#))

Operation Elvedon

Led by Martin Hicks QC. Represented, in separate proceedings, Ben O’Driscoll (former deputy Editor of The Sun) and Greig Box-Turnbull (former reporter at the Daily Mirror) for allegations of bribing public officials. The investigation, set up in the wake of the phone hacking scandal, is thought to be one of the most costly in the history of the Metropolitan police.

FCA v H (Operation Cotton)

Christopher defended in this FCA prosecution concerning a £4.3m ‘land-banking’ scheme. The case was one of the largest FCA prosecutions of recent years.

R v G (Operation Callahan)

Junior counsel for the defence, led by David Whittaker, in a 2-month trial representing a senior employee of a telecommunications company in this alleged conspiracy to defraud Vodafone and other mobile network operators out of millions of pounds, and in the defence of the first ever prosecution brought under section 35 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 for establishing and using a Wireless Telegraphy Station without a licence.

Trading Standards v M (Operation Citrus)

Christopher was led by Christopher Coltart QC for the defence in a 6-week trial representing a Company Director in what is thought to be the first prosecution of its kind for various regulatory offences (Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 and the Money Laundering Regulations 2007), as well as money laundering allegations under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and fraud allegations.

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Criminal Defence

Christopher is instructed by leading solicitors in cases of the utmost seriousness and complexity. He appears in cases across the criminal spectrum including allegations of perjury, perverting the course of justice, violence, drugs and sexual offences.

Cases:

J v A & B

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R v A

Christopher is currently instructed to represent a property developer accused of being at the helm of a conspiracy to distribute class A drugs across the country (led by Jonathan Laidlaw QC).

Operation Yewtree

Christopher was led by Lord Macdonald QC during High Court Proceedings against a well-known individual for allegations brought in the wake of the Jimmy Savile scandal.

R v Ben O’Driscoll (Operation Elveden)

Christopher was led by Martin Hicks QC in the defence of a former Deputy Editor of The Sun for allegations of misconduct in public office.

R v Ben Ashford (Operation Tuleta)

Christopher was led by Orlando Pownall QC in the defence of a former reporter at The Sun for allegations of computer hacking brought under the Computer Misuse Act.

R v Greig Box-Turnbull (Operation Elveden)

Christopher was led by Martin Hicks QC in the defence of a former reporter at the Daily Mirror for allegations of bribery and corruption of public officials.

R v B

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Led junior for the defence in a 3-month trial concerning a complex international multi-million pound conspiracy to cheat the Revenue following a lengthy investigation by HMRC and SOCA (as they then were). Described by HMRC as one of their 10 most serious cases of the year.

Criminal Prosecution - Private

Christopher has significant experience of complex prosecutions. He also accepts instructions in private prosecutions. He is currently acting for two defendants accused of false accounting who are being privately prosecuted by a well known businesswoman, (led by Jonathan Laidlaw QC).

He has experience on the prosecution side of substantial cases brought by such bodies as, The National Crime Agency, Serious Fraud Office and the Financial Conduct Authority (also see Business Crime and Financial Services above).

He prosecuted some of the more serious allegations that arose in Operation Withern, in the aftermath of the 2011 London riots, including for arson, and perverting the course of justice.

Cases:

J v A & B

Led by Jonathan Laidlaw QC. Successfully defended two defendants, company directors and accountants, who were the subject of a private prosecution that alleged eight counts of false accounting. The court ruled that the proceedings be stayed as an Abuse of Process, and at the same time dismissed all charges. Their lay clients were the subject of a private prosecution brought by Julie Davey, a business woman previously in The Sunday Times Rich List. The court had been told that these criminal proceedings were brought as “leverage” in Julie Davey’s ongoing civil litigation, some of which has been the subject of press interest, including the following: The Telegraph ([click here to read article](#)), The Times ([click here to read article](#)), The Financial Times ([click here to read article](#)).

R v Sally Murrer & Others

Acted as junior counsel to Sir Allan Green QC in this prosecution of two journalists, a former police officer and others for misconduct in public office. The case involved complex and lengthy legal argument as to Article 10 rights and journalists’ protection from state interference.

Operation Withern

Acted for prosecution on behalf of the Serious, Complex Crime Unit in a number of trials across London arising out of the summer riots of 2011. Cases included those of arson, violent disorder and perverting the course of justice.

R v VR (Operation Evelegh)

Appeared alone for the prosecution in this investigation into a series of violent knifepoint robberies across

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London targeting vulnerable premises. Conspiracy to rob and fraud allegations.

R v Pluck & 2 Others (Operation Eleroy) [2013] Crim 2520

Junior counsel, led by Oliver Glasgow, in a case of perverting the course of justice and perjury relating to three of the original prosecution witnesses in a 9-handed murder trial. Instructed by the CPS Homicide Team.

Criminal Regulatory

To compliment Christopher's expertise in business crime, regulatory crime, and serious crime, he accepts instructions in the field of health and safety. He is experienced in dealing with issues pertaining corporate governance, internal inquiries, corporate liability and reputation protection.

Licensing

Christopher accepts instructions in gaming and licensing. He has previously acted for such companies as Spearmint Rhino in licensing proceedings. He is also well versed with a range of licensing regimes, and has recent advised bodies in relation to firearms licensing.

Professional Discipline

Christopher advises and appears in a range of sports law matters. He has advised and appeared in regulatory proceedings on behalf of the Football Association ("FA") concerning cases such as match-fixing, failure to report a match-fixing approach, player third-party ownership, and other corruption related issues; betting, and 'inside information'; as well as on-field conduct. He has also advised as to British Horseracing Authority proceedings.

Cases:

ACCA v Hamid

Christopher acted on behalf of the ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) against a member, Mr Ibbtsam Hamid. The Disciplinary Committee of the ACCA found proved an allegation in respect of Mr Hamid's conviction before Birmingham Crown Court for Conspiracy to Cheat the Public Revenue. In total HMRC were defrauded by £2.6 million from the long-running operation. Mr Hamid was removed from the register by the Disciplinary Committee.

[Click here](#) to read about the case in the national press.

ACCA v Alan Goddard

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Christopher acted on behalf of the ACCA. The Disciplinary Committee of the ACCA found proved an allegation in respect of Mr Goddard's conviction at Liverpool Crown Court.

[Click here](#) to read about the case in the national press.

ACCA v Jones

Christopher acted for the ACCA before the Disciplinary Committee in respect of Mr Jones failure to hold a valid practising certificate as required.

[Click here](#) to read about the case in the national press.

Sports Law

Although Christopher Ware principally defends in serious and complex regulatory crime, he is increasing counsel of choice in the area of sports law. He has accepted instructions in cases brought by the Football Association (FA), and the British Horseracing Association (BHA). His extensive experience of cases involving criminal corruption (see his [Crime section](#)) means he is often counsel of first choice for sport bodies in match fixing and corruption related issues. He has appeared before the Football Association Regulatory Commission on a wide range of matters, such as betting, failing to report corruption, corruption, and on field misconduct.

Cases:

FA -v- Lacey

Christopher appeared for the Football Association before an Independent Regulatory Commission in the case of Patrick Lacey. Patrick Lacey was ordered to serve a 14-month suspension from football and football activity after admitting a breach of the FA's Anti-Doping Regulations.

Lacey, a mid-fielder for Accrington Stanley, provided an in-competition urine sample which contained the presence of Benzoyllecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine. Following the proceedings last week the club took immediate action and terminated the contract of the player.

He is thought to be the first professional footballer to fail an in-competition drugs test since Jake Livermore in 2015.

To read about the case in more detail, please follow the press links below:

[Sky Sports](#) | [The FA](#) | [ITV](#) | [BBC](#)

Instructed by Amina Graham, Head of FA Regulatory Legal

FA - v- Delroy Facey & others

An undercover Daily Telegraph investigation into match fixing led to the FA bringing numerous linked cases, all which Christopher was instructed to deal with. Christopher acted pre-charge and before the Regulatory Commission in all the linked cases to the conviction of Delroy Facey. He was convicted at Birmingham Crown

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Court of conspiracy to commit bribery (match fixing). Christopher secured various misconduct findings before the FA Regulatory Commission against various participants of the sport as part of the [Daily Telegraph](#) investigation.

Instructed by Amina Graham, Head of FA Regulatory Legal

FA - v- Zephia Thomas, Tyler Weir & Scott Spencer

Linked to the aforementioned convictions at Birmingham Crown Court (Delroy Facey & others) Christopher also advised and brought regulatory charges for those not charged nor convicted in the criminal setting but guilty of professional misconduct arising out of the Daily Telegraph investigation. Specifically, Christopher appeared on behalf of the FA securing misconduct findings against Tyler Weir, Scott Spencer and Zephaniah Thomas who each admitted breaching FA rules by failing to immediately report to The FA an approach by a third party seeking to influence the outcome or conduct of a match or competition. It is, however, important to note that the three players were not involved in any attempt to fix matches and did not accept monies or gifts.

Instructed by Amina Graham, Head of FA Regulatory Legal

The case was covered widely in the national press. Follow the links below to read more:

[BBC](#) | [Sky](#) | [Daily Mail](#)

FA v B

Christopher advised the FA on whether to bring charges, or further action, against a Premier League football player in an investigation concerning the potential provision of 'inside information'. The issue related to advice on betting and FA Rule E8, and several bets placed by suspected associates of the player. The issue was whether there was sufficient evidence to charge the Premier League player for providing any 'inside information' connected to the betting by others. This case is one of several cases that the FA instructed Christopher on in respect of betting and corruption issues.

Instructed by Amina Graham, Head of FA Regulatory Legal

FA v Carl Magnay

Christopher advised the FA pre-charge and appeared as counsel for the FA in a charge of misconduct. The player denied the misconduct alleged, but the matter was found proven before the Regulatory Commission. Specifically, they found that the player had spat at a spectator having been dismissed by the referee for an unrelated matter. Christopher secured a 6-match ban against the player for the misconduct.

The case was widely covered in the national press. To read more, click the links below:

[Guardian](#) | [BBC](#) | [Daily Mail](#) | [The FA](#)

Instructed by Amina Graham, Head of FA Regulatory Legal

FA and X

Christopher is currently instructed and acting for the FA in respect of an investigation into potential breaches of

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FA and FIFA rules concerning the third party ownership ('T.P.O.') of football players. The issue of TPO has been one touched upon in recent [press coverage](#).

FA v Gabriel Odunainke

Christopher appeared on behalf of the FA for a contested charge of misconduct, arising out of improper or violent conduct on field. The charge was found proven.

Instructed by Amina Graham, Head of FA Regulatory Legal

British Horse Racing Association (BHA) and A

Christopher was instructed to defend and act to protect the interests of a self employed trader and keen gambler. He placed bets upwards of £1m per annum in relation to horse racing. He was someone of particular interest to the BHA after a separate inquiry. The BHA then subsequently sought personal information including telephone billing and betting records of the non-participant. The BHA threatened to ban the BHA non-participant from attending future races if he failed to provide information sought. Following lengthy negotiations with the BHA the threat was eventually withdrawn.

Instructed by Stewart-Moore solicitors.

Accreditations



Appointments & Memberships

- CPS Grade 2 Prosecutor
- CPS HQ Serious Crime Panel
- CPS HQ Specialist Fraud Panel
- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association

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