

Craig Ferguson

"He's phenomenal - really sharp, very good with clients, great in court and very hard-working." "His attention to detail is excellent and he is an extremely persuasive advocate." "He is organised, always well prepared and great on strategy."

Chambers UK 2021



Year of Call: 1992

020 7353 5324

Craig Ferguson is a highly experienced defence practitioner who has, for many years been cited as a leading junior by the leading professional directories where he is ranked in their highest bands. In particular, the latest edition of Chambers UK bears witness to the unusually high esteem in which he is held by solicitors and other clients by including him in all four of his principal practice areas: Health and Safety, Professional Discipline, Fraud and Serious and Complex Crime.

His practice now focuses principally on workplace crime and misconduct, representing companies, directors and professional people in relation to proceedings before the courts and disciplinary tribunals.

He has been described as "an exceptional all-round talent". Solicitors praise his straight talking, user-friendly style which makes him "great to work with". He is "highly regarded for quickly identifying the central issues of a case, no matter how complex, and arguing his clients' corner with calm authority."

Craig delivers training in relation to criminal regulatory and inquest matters to solicitors and other members of the profession.

What others say:

"Craig is absolutely superb, he works as a real team player, getting involved with cases and clients at early stages and he isn't afraid to make big strategic decisions in cases. He is a real pro in court, and far outperforms his peers." – Legal 500 2021 (Health & Safety)

"Strikes the perfect balance for inquests; he is empathetic and understated, while being utterly robust in pursuing the best interests of clients. A real star in this area." – Legal 500 2021 (Inquests &

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
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Inquiries)

“A formidable advocate who commands the attention of the court and knows how to present a case in the best possible way.” – Legal 500 2020 (Inquests & Inquiries)

“Robust and meticulous; a talented advocate.” – Legal 500 2020 (Health & Safety)

“Craig is an exceptionally astute advocate. He is very responsive and inspires confidence in clients. When you instruct him you know you are getting a first-class service. He has the quality needed to persevere in the most difficult cases.” – Chambers UK 2020 (Crime)

“He’s extremely good: very combative when he needs to be and will always support and represent his clients to the fullest.” – Chambers UK 2020 (Professional Discipline)

“His client care and overall approach is unparalleled. He is committed to working as a team, much to the benefit of his instructing solicitors and the client. His advocacy and court presence is deeply impressive. I recommend Craig across the board in this practice area: he is definitely at the top of his game.” Chambers UK 2020 (Health & Safety)

“Very well prepared and knows what he is talking about.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Crime)

“He’s very precise in all he does and liked by clients as he can put them at ease very quickly.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Crime)

“Good smooth operator with a lovely manner.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Financial Crime)

“Brilliant and very highly regarded.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Financial Crime)

“Clients love him for his ability to humanise himself. He talks to them very casually and gets his message across clearly.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Health & Safety)

“Super hard-working. He reviews papers very carefully and is able to assimilate a large amount of information in a short amount of time. You get a very polished service from him.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Professional Discipline)

“Approachable, analytical, user-friendly and very good on his feet.” – Chambers UK 2018 (Professional Discipline)

“A top-rate junior and a persuasive negotiator, who gets his point across in a concise manner.” – Legal 500 2017 (Health & Safety)

“He puts forward the most persuasive, compelling submissions and has an almost incomparable ability to think on his feet.” – Chambers UK 2017

“Juries just like him. They sit up and listen because they know he is a good advocate. He is an absolute class act.” – Chambers UK, 2015

“He has developed into one of the finest advocates at the Bar. He is just a real natural talent.” – Chambers UK, 2015 (Financial Crime)

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“His advocacy is excellent. He’s always been very strong and balanced, and he gets to the cut and thrust of the case.” – Chambers UK, 2015 (Health & Safety)

“He is a beautiful, silky smooth and persuasive advocate.” “He has skill and judgement, and an attractive way of conducting a case.” – Chambers UK, 2015 (Professional Discipline)

Criminal Regulatory

Criminal Regulatory & Inquests

Craig is a leader of the 2 Hare Court Criminal Regulatory Team and he regularly represents corporate bodies, their officers and other individuals before the criminal courts in relation to the full range of criminal offences arising out of fatal and non-fatal accidents. He is currently instructed to act on behalf of companies large and small from a wide variety of industry sectors in relation to proceedings following fatalities at work, including construction, energy, steel fabrication, printing, security, mobile telecommunications, transport, healthcare and hydraulic lifting.

He is frequently instructed to represent interested persons in relation to the inquests associated with these cases.

Craig is currently instructed to represent:

- A playground designer, following the death of a young child who was crushed by a falling rotten tree trunk, which formed part of a natural play area in a London park. Instructed by [BLM \(London\)](#).
- A flight-training academy in the forthcoming inquests into the deaths of two pilots who died in an air crash. [Squire Patton Boggs](#)
- A Community Interest Company that ran the school health service contract for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, in relation to a prosecution following the death of a child at school. [DWF Manchester](#)
- A national supermarket chain following the death of an employee. [DWF London](#)
- Several construction and manufacturing companies following accidents resulting in fatal and/or catastrophic injuries.

Craig has recently represented:

- JGTSI Ltd – A sprinkler installation company, acquitted of a charge pursuant to section 2 HSWA following a 5 week trial. [DWF London](#)
- A 72 year old mechanic and his company following the collapse of a bus which killed the trainee who was repairing it. [Keoghs London](#)
- Hart International – a private security company delivering the contract to protect the EUPOL Mission in Kabul, Afghanistan, into the death of a close protection officer who died together with other non-UK nationals when the Taliban launched a suicide bomb attack against the mission. [Clyde and Co](#)

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- A Birmingham based printing company facing allegations pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of HSWA following a fatal accident resulting from a fall from a rooftop. [DWF Manchester](#)
- A care home in the inquest into the death of an elderly resident who was one of many residents suspected of being victims of neglect or abuse. [Keoghs London](#)
- Monovan Construction Limited and one of its directors, accused of corporate manslaughter and offences pursuant to section 3 and 37 of HSWA following a double fatality in which two men fell through a site hoarding into an open light well to their death. Instructed by [DWF](#).
- A highways maintenance company contracted by a County Council to maintain its highways, following a double fatality whereby two vehicles crashed on a stretch of road where water had pooled and frozen. Instructed by [BLM \(Leeds\)](#).
- A textiles manufacturing company that supplies fillings for mattresses, following the death of an employee who was crushed in a textile compression and packing machine. Instructed by [BLM \(Leeds\)](#)
- [Topcon Construction Ltd](#) faced alternative counts under section 2 and 3 of HSWA following the collapse of a 12 metre lighting column during installation, which caused significant head injuries to a labourer. Instructed by [DWF](#).
- Natural Insulation Limited in relation to a series of alleged contraventions of the Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations arising from an inspection of its factory premises in North Wales where it manufactured home insulation from wool and hemp. Instructed by [Pinsent Masons](#).
- Aspect Maintenance Services Limited in relation to a breach of the Work at Height Regulations which came to light when a roofing contractor fell from the unprotected roof of a two storey building, sustaining serious injuries. Instructed by [BLM \(London\)](#).
- CWT Commodities Limited (instructed by BLM) in relation to a section 2 HSWA charge arising from an accident at its logistics unit based at Tilbury Docks when a forklift truck dropped its load on a delivery driver, crushing his skull and causing life threatening injuries. Instructed by [BLM \(London\)](#).
- Bayer CropScience Limited in relation to a prosecution following a serious accident whereby a subcontractor's employee sustained burn injuries resulting from an electrical flashover on a top tier COMAH site. Instructed by [Squire Patton Boggs](#).
- Daver Steels limited in relation to both inquest and prosecution following the death of a delivery driver who was crushed during the unloading of steel from his trailer. Instructed by [DWF](#).
- HTC in relation to an inquest in which it was initially suspected that a fire, which caused the death of five members of a family was caused by an HTC charger connected to a Blackberry mobile phone. (The Coroner found no evidence to support such a finding). Instructed by [Hogan Lovells](#).
- Statoil in the Inquests into the deaths caused by Al Qaeda terrorists during a brutal attack which resulted in the loss of forty innocent people at a gas installation in Algeria. Instructed by [Hogan Lovells](#).

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- Hillsborough Inquests – he acted as independent counsel to the individual officers of the FA who were called to give evidence.

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“His client care and overall approach is unparalleled. He is committed to working as a team, much to the benefit of his instructing solicitors and the client. His advocacy and court presence is deeply impressive. I recommend Craig across the board in this practice area: he is definitely at the top of his game.” Chambers UK 2020 (Health & Safety)

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“A top-rate junior and a persuasive negotiator, who gets his point across in a concise manner.” – Legal 500 2017 (Health & Safety)

“He is a very strong and passionate advocate.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Health and Safety)

“He’s very calm, authoritative and knowledgeable.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Health and Safety)

“A considered, steady and confident advocate.” – Legal 500 2016 (Health and Safety)

Business Crime & Financial Services

Craig is routinely instructed in serious and complex fraud cases both for corporate and individual professional clients. He has experience in investigations involving allegations of criminal cartel offences, bribery (UK and overseas), boiler room frauds, banking fraud, general VAT offences, MTIC and carousel fraud cases, tax offences and money laundering.

He has also been instructed in a number of major VAT Tribunal cases before the First Tier and Upper Tribunals. He is frequently instructed to provide advice in relation to investigations prior to charge and is experienced in dealing with ancillary proceedings, such as restraint and confiscation.

Craig has most recently represented the Operations Manager of a business accused of fraud by abuse his position in order to steal large sums of money over an extended period of time. Following detailed submissions over non-disclosure, the Prosecution was ordered to pay a substantial proportion of his wasted costs and then offered no evidence on all charges.

He was a contributor to the CBA’s response to the Law Commission in respect of the review of the law relating to

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fraud and dishonesty.

“Very good on paper and very, very good in court.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Financial Crime)

“He isn’t one of those barristers that falls out with other barristers – he will try and charm them into submission.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Financial Crime)

“He defends and advises pre-charge on sensitive matters.” – Legal 500 2016 (Fraud: Crime)

Criminal Defence

He has extensive experience of defending in grave and complex criminal matters including murder (from planned assassination to crime of passion) attempted murder, manslaughter (from medical surgical error to shooting), kidnap, armed robbery, bribery, corruption and major drug trafficking.

Craig also accepts instructions to represent professional clients facing less serious allegations but which have the potential to ruin careers and/or reputations.

Craig is ranked in Band 1 in Chambers UK 2017.

“Very client-friendly, very astute and a pleasure to work with.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Crime)

“An absolute class act.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Crime)

“Superb regulatory and criminal barrister.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Crime)

Professional Discipline

Craig has over a decade of experience appearing in proceedings at the General Medical Council, General Dental Council, and other healthcare regulators. Since 2011 the entirety of his regulatory practice has involved defending regulated professionals, and he is now instructed by all the major indemnity providers to advise and appear on behalf of their members. He is also instructed by the leading solicitors in this area, commonly to represent highly eminent leaders in their field of practice.

Craig has experience of all forms of Interim Order and Fitness to Practice hearings involving issues of performance, health, and misconduct. In addition, he has experience of NHS England proceedings, and regularly appears in Coroners’ Courts. He frequently represents professionals who face concurrent proceedings in the criminal courts and before their professional regulator, especially in cases involving allegations of fraud and manslaughter.

Craig is currently instructed to defend a doctor charged with manslaughter by gross negligence in relation to the death of a young woman who had undergone a termination of pregnancy procedure at a day centre in West London.

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His most recent cases include representing:

- A Doctor accused of manslaughter by gross negligence following the death of a patient hours after he performed a late stage termination of pregnancy. The Doctor was the first in the UK to be prosecuted under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 in relation to an alleged clinical error.
- A Professor before the MPTS who is recognised for his world leading asthma research in relation to allegations of dishonesty in relation to his fees for advising in relation to a clinical negligence claim.
- A GP before the MPTS facing multiple charges of historic sexually motivated conduct.
- A GP before the MPTS in relation to allegations of long-term benefit fraud.
- A dentist who is the founder of a new business about to be launched offering to provide cost-effective invisible teeth aligners, before the GDC.
- A pharmacist in relation to allegations he had supplied his partner with prescription only drugs and then lied to other healthcare professionals to conceal his actions.

He is frequently instructed to represent doctors in relation to inquests into the deaths of their patients.

“He’s at the top of his game; he’s hugely empathetic, creative in his legal arguments and flexible in terms of his approach to cases.” – Chambers UK 2017 (Professional Discipline)

“He represents doctors in criminal proceedings.” – Legal 500 2016 (Professional Discipline and Regulatory Law)

Accreditations



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Appointments & Memberships

- 2009-2017: Recorder of the Crown Court
- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers
- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association

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- Health & Safety Lawyers' Association

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