

Jonathan Rees QC

"Dedicated, thoughtful and thorough, his deadly skill is masked by a self-deprecating and modest style which is very attractive to juries."
Chambers UK 2018



Year of Call: 1987 QC: 2010

020 7353 5324

Currently listed by both Chambers and the Legal 500 in the first division of criminal silks, Jonathan has developed an enviable reputation for his courtroom manner and his ability to communicate effectively with judges and juries alike.

Since relinquishing his appointment as senior treasury counsel at the end of 2015, Jonathan has concentrated on using his formidable experience of serious and complex cases to develop his criminal defence practice. With a background in science, he has particular expertise in cases involving DNA evidence and edits a chapter devoted to this topic in the leading text book on sexual offences.

Jonathan is instructed for the prosecution and the defence in a wide range of cases featuring allegations of murder, terrorism, white-collar fraud and historic sexual abuse. Many of his cases attract national media attention. Recent cases include *Stephen Port*, the 'Grindr' serial killer, *Rolf Harris*, the entertainer and *Darren Osborne*, the man who carried out the Finsbury Park terror attack. In addition, Jonathan has experience of inquests, appearing on behalf of the family of the deceased.

At the end of 2016, Jonathan was chosen to be one of a panel of three experts who went to China to provide advice to the Supreme People's Court on the reform of their People's Assessors System. Jonathan is committed to ethnic minority achievement and is as a governor of a large secondary school in Southall, West London.

Jonathan accepts [Direct Access](#) instructions and is a member of the Private Prosecutors' Association.

What others say:

"Fights his corner hard and is always very extensive and thorough in his preparation." – Chambers

Location

2 Hare Court
Temple
London
EC4Y 7BH

Contact Us

T: +44 (0)20 7353 5324
F: +44 (0)20 7353 0667
E: clerks@2harecourt.com
DX: LDE 444 Chancery Lane

UK 2018

Shortlisted for Crime Silk of the Year – Legal 500 (2018)

“He’s very thorough and always makes the time to go through everything. His legal analysis, his consideration of the relevant issues, and his ability to get on with the members of the team and focus on the relevant issues are very impressive.” – Chambers UK 2017

“He is to be trusted with the most serious cases.” – Chambers UK 2017

Criminal Prosecution - Public

During his time as senior treasury counsel at the Old Bailey, Jonathan Rees QC established himself as a leading prosecutor and was involved in many cases that attracted national media attention.

Since relinquishing his position as treasury counsel, Jonathan remains in demand to prosecute the most difficult and challenging cases. His expertise extends to fraud and he is currently instructed by the SFO to advise in respect of an ongoing investigation.

Most recent cases:

Regina v Osborne

Prosecution of Darren Osborne who drove a van into a group of people outside the Muslim Welfare House in Finsbury Park last June. Osborne was sentenced to life with a minimum term of 43 years following his convictions for murder and attempted murder.

Regina v Damon Smith

Prosecution of student with Asperger’s who built home made bomb and planted it on a Jubilee Line train.

Regina v Rolf Harris

Prosecution of celebrity entertainer in respect of historic allegations of sexual abuse against young girls.

Regina v Stephen Port

Prosecution of ‘Grindr’ serial sex killer who murdered four young gay men in Barking by giving them fatal doses of date-rape drug GHB in order to have sexual intercourse with them while they were unconscious.

Regina v Honey Rose

The first ever optometrist for gross negligence manslaughter in respect of a failure to identify a life-threatening condition during routine eye appointment.

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Regina v Muhiddin Mire

Prosecution of Somali Muslim with mental health problems for random 'terrorist' knife attack on members of the public at Leytonstone station.

Regina v Claire Darbyshire

Prosecution of transgender male for murder (mercy killing) of his disabled father.

Regina v Leslie Cooper and Khalid Rashad

Prosecution of former soldier and Islamic community leader for assassination of Syrian cleric with Mach-10.

Regina v Nicholas Salvadore

Prosecution of schizophrenic who beheaded elderly female with a machete during a psychotic rampage captured on CCTV.

Criminal Defence

Following his spell as treasury counsel at the Old Bailey, prosecuting the full range of grave and complex crimes, Jonathan is well-placed to use his expertise to provide clients charged with serious criminal offences a thorough and robust defence, exploiting any weaknesses in the prosecution case. This is complemented by his background in science and his expertise in DNA evidence, which provides him with the forensic skills necessary for rigorously scrutinising scientific evidence. Prior to becoming treasury counsel, Jonathan had a broad defence practice specialising in homicide, the defence of police officers and white collar fraud. In recent months, he has focused on rekindling his defence practice and has been instructed to defend in a series of murder cases, the details of which are set out below.

Recent cases:

Regina v Weeks

Defence of man charged with murder of male during drunken street fight.

Regina v Roberts

Defence of man with personality disorder charged with murder in respect of a fatal stabbing in public house captured on CCTV.

Regina v Anglin

Defence of man charged with notorious murder of homosexual Swiss Banker on Grand Cayman following the first cold case murder review carried out on the island.

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Inquests & Public Inquiries

In a move to develop other areas of his practice on his departure from treasury counsel's room, Jonathan has appeared on behalf of the family in two inquests which attracted national media attention.

Cases:

Inquest into the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Shaw

Inquest into suicide of deputy commander of Warminster garrison.

Inquest into the death of Fusilier David Collins

Inquest into killing of British soldier who was unlawfully killed while off duty in Cyprus.

Accreditations



Appointments & Memberships

- 2008-2015: Senior Treasury Counsel
- South Eastern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association

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