

EXTRADITION & MLA

Led by a Practice Team that are regarded as
“exceptionally good...friendly and efficient...
superb...well organised and have a realistic
approach and commercial appreciation”

(Legal 500, 2015).

EXTRADITION & MLA

In 2015 and 2016, the legal directories continue to praise the Extradition and MLA team:

“phenomenal” Clare Montgomery QC, co-author of ‘The Law of Extradition and Mutual Assistance’, is:

“...acclaimed as a phenomenon and the Messi of the extradition Bar. She is first choice for complex extradition cases and is praised for her tactical acumen. Her grip on the law and procedure is second to none. She is one of the barristers that lay clients ask for, such is the spread of her reputation...a phenomenal barrister whose legal knowledge, tactical understanding and innovative strategic skills are second to none...She is a first choice for the most complex and high-profile criminal fraud and extradition cases...Her asset forfeiture experience has seen her handling very significant multi-jurisdictional restraint instructions...She is the most formidable member of the Bar...at the top of her field when it comes to the overlap between public and criminal law...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...A superstar; frighteningly intelligent and easy to work with... Comfortable at all levels of the court system... Hugely experienced in her field...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“fantastic” Tim Owen QC is:

“...calm and collected in difficult situations...an impressive lawyer and a skilled advocate who is highly knowledgeable...a distinguished criminal and public law practitioner appearing in trials, judicial reviews and appeals on the topic of police activity...a really good advocate if you have a difficult point of law...fantastic...outstanding counsel who focuses his public law practice on human rights issues...the perfect public law barrister...incredibly measured, clear in his drafting and advocacy and is listened to by the courts...very authoritative and informed...has a real gift on his feet...He can distil the points down to the key issues, on top of his game...A consummate team player and a good tactician...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...Extensive experience handling cases at the highest level... An outstanding lawyer and advocate, particularly in appellate proceedings... A committed and persuasive advocate... A strategic thinker... A first-rate advocate who provides very clear written work...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“advocate of the highest calibre” Ben Emmerson QC, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Counter Terrorism and Human Rights, is:

“...exceptionally well regarded for his abilities in representing individuals in criminal proceedings that attract a significant media focus...he is regarded as one of the Criminal Bar's leading silks...has substantial experience in ICC proceedings...a fantastic advocate who brings theatricality to the dry cases, particularly where being in the public eye is wanted. He is not fussed by unpopular causes or having the media breathing down his neck...prominent human rights and public law practitioner with an impressive practice...regarded for his work on the most sensitive and significant proceedings...always formidable, terrific, has a strong public profile and makes great choices in his cases...a highly expert advocate who acts in the full range of public and administrative law matters alongside his role as the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism...a heavyweight and his reputation is first-rate...a fantastic reputation at the forefront of human rights law...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...impressive knowledge, judgement, and advocacy skills... An advocate of the highest calibre... His name speaks for itself...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“incredible” Matthew Ryder QC is:

“...a skilled silk who maintains a broad practice, but is particularly known for handling terrorism charges and ICC proceedings...very experienced...the kind of silk that you want for cases where the trial is not yet happening, since he is very good at identifying what clients want to achieve and avoid...very approachable, excellent in negotiations and innovative in tackling challenges...incredible...His legal knowledge and advocacy is superb, he is quick-thinking and quick-witted on his feet and his tactics are faultless...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...excellent knowledge of police and media human rights issues ...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“impressive” Julian B. Knowles QC, author of ‘Blackstone's Guide to the Extradition Act 2003’ and co-author of ‘The Law of Extradition and Mutual Assistance’, is:

“...Regularly instructed by the CPS to prosecute complex extradition cases including those with drug trafficking aspects. He handles matters with significant human rights aspects to them including death penalty arguments...provides effective advice to government bodies on European Arrest Warrants...One of the few silks that the CPS is prepared to use for extradition work, which says a lot...a seasoned trial and appellate advocate with experience of representing clients before the highest UK courts...Very knowledgeable and impressive...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...a great intellect and tactical acumen... Extremely competent...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“strategic” Alex Bailin QC:

“...handles public law cases that interface with criminal law, specifically criminal justice matters...very good written submissions...a young, conscientious and hard-working silk who does a lot of pro bono work for NGOs...human rights and civil liberties expert...advises journalists and media outlets on a wide range of sensitive media issues...very charming, in the most effective way...very good at reading the judge and is always sensitive to where the judge is going...a very smooth advocate...Frequently represents high net worth individuals in complex business crime cases...has considerable experience in banking fraud and corruption cases, and is notably adept at handling matters involving multi-jurisdictional elements...Has an excellent mix of skills and sector experience and is very client-friendly...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...Strong in public law cases involving criminal issues... a practical appreciation of the working life of a City trader... In high demand... Great technical expertise... A persuasive advocate whose well-prepared submissions appear elegant and effortless but are based on meticulous preparation ... Quick up the curve, strategic in his thinking and very personable... An outstanding advocate...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“phenomenally clever” Hugh Southey QC is:

“...very sharp and always on top of his brief...His written work is clear and he has a good advocacy style...a fantastic barrister. He thinks things through and offers disciplined preparation...extremely capable in complex challenges heard before the Supreme Court...approachable...Phenomenally clever, he is able to distil really complex public law points down into something simple and user-friendly...really outstanding. He is dedicated, works like a machine and is totally on top of everything...A favourite with instructing solicitors, building on his former career as a solicitor to provide excellent service in extradition, human rights and SIAC cases...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...At the top of the game as far as analytical skills and the ability to project powerful legal argument is concerned... Extremely hands-on and responsive... One of the best... For his analytical skills and ability to project powerful legal argument, he is at the top of his game...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“admirable advocate” Danny Friedman QC is:

“...Highly regarded...an admirable advocate...always has a view of the bigger picture...very good at constructing innovative legal arguments...recommended for handling issues in relation to national security, state investigatory obligations and international humanitarian law...has the courage and ability to run arguments without precedent and his legal knowledge is second to none. He can apply his practical knowledge very quickly on his feet...very good at handling factually complicated cases...has a freakishly encyclopaedic knowledge for the areas of law in which he practises...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“tremendous” Jonathan Glasson QC:

“...has a tremendous insight into coronial law and first-class judgement in difficult cases...very economical in his advocacy. He never says anything he doesn't need to and this is an approach that works...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...Experienced in both inquests and inquiries...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“extremely knowledgeable” Mark Summers QC, co-author of ‘The Law of Extradition and Mutual Assistance’, is the:

“...Rising star of the extradition Bar, who receives praise for his outstanding knowledge of extradition law and his continued presence in cutting-edge 'test case' proceedings. He is particularly recommended for his handling of terrorism-related extradition charges in European countries...very good and extremely knowledgeable...a complete encyclopaedic knowledge of every extradition case that there has ever been and he is very good strategically...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“intellectual giant” Alison Macdonald is:

“...a brilliant lawyer. She works incredibly hard and is very cool under pressure...She has a great eye for the detail and an understanding of the issues which need to be argued orally and the ones which are better left on paper...handles complex public law cases involving human rights and crime...an intellectual giant, works incredibly hard, is very cool under pressure and will never back down when she knows she is right on an issue...She really understands the issues in a case, presents clearly in writing and has a nice style in her advocacy...draws on her extensive experience in criminal justice and public international law to represent her clients. She is held as an authority on human rights and has co-authored seminal texts on this subject...fantastic...She takes the initiative and has built up a practice in her own style...both peers and instructing solicitors single out her strong drafting and advocacy skills...has experience of representing states in significant boundary disputes and ICSID arbitrations. Her broad practice also encompasses international criminal law...a beautifully clear and crisp writer and a sensational advocate...a fantastically good tactical leader who combines a strong knowledge of international law with killer litigation instincts...” (Chambers & Partners 2016)

“...Strong in public law cases with an international law dimension... A fantastic advocate with a real grasp of the minutiae of the arguments... Very good for public international law matters...” (Legal 500, 2015)

“Outstanding” Helen Law is:

“...A skilled criminal and civil law advocate...one of the top barristers...extremely capable and will really go into the facts. She is extremely good with clients, approachable and personable...She is bright, pragmatic and good with

clients...a strong human rights barrister with a broad civil, criminal and public law practice, who has established a solid presence in the market..." (Chambers & Partners 2016)

"...Outstanding on her feet..." (Legal 500, 2015)

"strong" Aaron Watkins:

"...impresses with his courtroom manner, strategic skill and ability to process and organise significant amounts of documentation. Regularly engaged by the CPS, he has handled extradition matters that are connected to theft of state secrets and fraud charges...clear that he definitely knows his stuff. He is technically strong and impresses with his manner..." (Chambers & Partners 2016)

"impressive" Blinne Ní Ghrálaigh is:

"...An impressive junior, with expertise spanning public international law, criminal law and human rights cases...regularly appears before the ICJ...She has great ideas on how to build a case and present matters..." (Chambers & Partners 2016)

"...Always willing and available to offer support and provide a thorough analysis..." (Legal 500, 2015)