



## LORD KEN MACDONALD QC

**MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE:**

Civil Actions against the Police  
CSR, Investigations and Audits  
Crime and Regulatory  
Extradition and Mutual  
Assistance  
Human Rights  
International Law  
Inquests and Inquiries  
Licensing  
Sports Law

Called to the Bar 1978  
Appointed to Silk 1997

**CONTACT:**

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Paul Venables, Senior Practice  
Manager  
paulvenables@matrixlaw.co.uk

‘A Senior Statesman of the Criminal Bar...a masterful tactician.’

‘Possessing terrific gravitas...he is premier league...completely fantastic’.

‘An iron fist in a velvet glove.’

‘One of the safest pairs of hands at the Bar- he has supreme judgement, a super-fast analytical mind and real ethical rigour. He deals robustly with difficult issues and clients, and is enormously user-friendly.’

‘Gives sound advice and uses his knowledge and connections to navigate sensitive issues...a very astute negotiator listened to by clients and, more importantly, by prosecutors themselves.’

### *Chambers & Partners Directory*

Former Director of Public Prosecutions Ken Macdonald is one of the country's leading criminal, regulatory and international lawyers, with a first rank advisory, trial, appellate and arbitration practice. He has conducted and overseen inquiries and investigations for the UK government, the European Commission and many overseas governments and State authorities and he sits as an Arbitrator in the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. Described in Chambers & Partners 2018 as a ‘Senior Statesman’ of the Bar, in 2007 he was knighted for services to the law and in 2010 appointed to the House of Lords.

Particularly well known for his ability to confront complex issues of detail with concision and clarity, his specialisms include business and corporate crime and associated extraditions, money laundering, sanctions and export control violations, market offences, financial regulation, licensing and international commercial and other arbitrations. Aside from governments and State authorities, his recent clients have included Heads of State and senior political figures, banks and financial institutions, international media organisations, major corporations in all sectors, gaming organisations, private family offices, and many individuals both at home and abroad.

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## DIRECTORIES' RECOMMENDATIONS

### HERE'S WHAT THEY SAY:

"A man who's seen and done it all and is held in the highest esteem."

"A supreme tactician and an excellent regulator respected by the SFO." "A class act combining superb advocacy with gravitas and deep insight from a defence and prosecutorial perspective."

Chambers & Partners 2021

'An effective and attractive advocate' who is 'one of the top individuals in his fields.'

Chambers & Partners 2019

'A Senior Statesman of the Criminal Bar...a masterful tactician.'

Chambers & Partners 2018

'Gives sound advice and uses his knowledge and connections to navigate sensitive issues. Listened to by prosecutors.'

Chambers & Partners 2018

As a former Director of Public Prosecutions (and the first prominent defence lawyer to have been appointed to that post), he has unrivalled insight into sensitive issues of criminal risk and associated prosecutorial responses. He is very familiar with the workings of prosecution and regulatory agencies at home and abroad, and uniquely placed to intercede where necessary with prosecutors, regulators and other state officials and to advise on robust responses to allegations of crime, regulatory failings or other misconduct, however and wherever they occur. He has met regularly with Heads of Government, Ministers of Justice and the Heads of leading enforcement and regulatory agencies worldwide.

He is a member of the East Caribbean Bar and is regularly admitted to the Hong Kong Bar to conduct cases in that jurisdiction.

He was a Visiting Professor of Law at the London School of Economics from 2009-2012, and he has been a member of the University of Oxford Law Faculty since 2012.

He is Warden of Wadham College, Oxford and Chair of the Orwell Foundation.

A founder member of Matrix Chambers, Ken Macdonald was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2001, and a Deputy High Court Judge in 2010. He was elected Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association of England and Wales in 2003, and became a Bencher of the Inner Temple in 2004. He was Director of Public Prosecutions, 2003-2008, and has been a member of the House of Lords since July 2010.

Lord Macdonald QC is regulated by the Bar Standards Board and accepts instruction under Standard Contractual Terms. To find out more information on this and the way we work at Matrix, including our fee transparency statement, please see our [service standards](#).