

RICHARD SMITH QC

CALL: 1986

SILK: 2001

"He is a go-to silk on the Western Circuit and is very hard-working and very approachable."
Chambers UK 2019

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Richard is a criminal and sports law barrister, with over 30 years' experience at the Bar and some 16 years described as a "Leading Silk". He has been described in the independent Chambers UK Guide as a barrister who "*achieves incredible results from seemingly impossible situations*" and as being "*refreshingly unstuffy, proactive and a high-quality lawyer.*" "*An outstanding criminal barrister who is held in the highest regards by peers and clients alike*". Those who have instructed Richard note that "*his client care and courtroom skills are exemplary; he prepares very thoroughly and is very responsive.*"

PRACTICE AREAS

- Crime
 - Sports Law
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CRIME

Having taken Silk at the age of 38 and with 30 years' experience at the Bar, Richard is one of the most senior and experienced Queen's Counsel practicing in serious crime on the Western Circuit. Once again the 2016 Chambers UK guide describes Richard Smith QC as a "Leading Silk" and "Star individual". Richard's criminal practice is marked by particular experience in the defence and prosecution of cases involving allegations of murder, manslaughter, and serious sexual allegations. As the directories note, he regularly appears in the leading cases on Circuit.

Richard combines quality advocacy with a "*wonderful manner with juries*". He is similarly regarded for his caring and approachable manner with clients. "*He is a supreme tactician who thinks about a case through all 360 degrees. You would be hard pressed to find a silk in practice with more murder experience,*" a "*down to earth barrister who pulls out unwinnable results*".

His experience and proven reputation over many years, means that Richard is also regularly instructed in privately funded defence cases by those who want to have the very best representation in respect of the criminal allegations made against them.

Richard also often draws on his criminal court experience, and in particular expertise in the examination of expert and professional witnesses, when acting in family proceedings where the Court is seeking to resolve issues of fact where serious criminal conduct by parents is suspected. Examples include acting in proceedings where it was alleged that a baby had been deliberately burnt with an iron, and where children have alleged to have been shaken to death.

Richard also regularly appears in insurance backed criminal proceedings arising from fatal and serious road traffic accidents.

SPORTS LAW

Richard has a National reputation in Sports Law. His practice covers a wide spectrum of sports that continue to include in particular rugby, horse racing, football and snooker. He is described in this field as being " *A hugely intelligent, articulate counsel who remains resolutely calm in a crisis*".

His advice and advocacy extends to involvement with clubs, professional bodies, and individual participants both at professional and amateur level

For some time Richard has been retained as Counsel to the England Rugby Team, in that role attending the 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2015 Rugby World Cups.

Richard's experience in the field is now recognised and called upon by a number of governing bodies who have invited him to adjudicate on disciplinary matters. He also advises on the drafting of sporting regulations.

Richard has lectured to sporting bodies and solicitors alike, both home and abroad, on the subject of sports discipline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- [Chambers UK 2014](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2013](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2012](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2011](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2010](#)
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APPOINTMENTS:

- Crown Court Recorder
 - Chairmen's List of the Sport Resolutions Panel
 - Football Association Appeal Board Chairman
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- British Association for Sport & Law
 - Criminal Bar Association
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RECENT NEWS

- Richard Smith QC secures the acquittal of Berlinah Wallace
 - Guildhall Chambers are recognised for excellence, Oct 2015
 - Rugby World Cup 2015 - Ready for kick off! Sept 2015
 - Richard Smith QC, successfully prosecuted murderer of Pennie Davis - April 2015
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