



Practice Profile

Mark Heywood QC is ranked as a 'Star Individual' in the Chambers UK Guide to the Bar 2017 and a recognised leader at the Bar.

Mark Heywood QC is the current First Senior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court and his practice is concentrated upon the most serious of criminal work that comes before our Courts, at the Central Criminal Court, Administrative Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Mr Heywood has considerable experience in cases of terrorism, large scale corruption, serious & organised crime and offences of homicide. He regularly provides advice to the Attorney General and Director of Public Prosecutions on a range of matters, particularly those being considered by the appellate courts as well as other governmental departments. Other work includes advising upon matters concerning gross negligence manslaughter involving the medical profession and litigation involving the SFO and FSA. He also advises in matters where a private prosecution is sought.

Cases have included the serial killer Levi Bellfield, Operation Crevice the longest running Old Bailey trial better known as the Fertiliser Bomb plot, Nicola Edginton the mental health patient convicted for the killing of an innocent bystander and the attempted murder of two others in Bexleyheath after a cry for help, the Supreme Court hearing of Gnango [2011 UKSC 59] on transferred malice/joint enterprise, and more recently Arthur Simpson-Kent who was sentenced to life for the murder of Eastenders actress Sian Blake and their two children. Recent defence work has included a murder trial in the Cayman Islands (R v. Sanchez).

Areas of Practice

- Public Access
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Fraud & Financial Crime
- Prosecution
- Terrorism
- Homicide & Corporate Manslaughter
- Inquests
- Appellate
- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- General Crime
- Military Law
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Sexual Offences
- Civil
- Extradition

What The Directories Say

"Breathtakingly intelligent and beautifully eloquent." *Legal 500 2016*

"One of the best lawyers, if not the best lawyer in the country." *Chambers UK 2017*

"You can't get better than Mark Heywood. He's a beautiful advocate with great strategic awareness, who is lovely to work with and a very charming man." *Chambers UK 2017*

Mark Heywood QC "...who is known for the strength of his intellect." *Chambers UK 2016*

Appointments

- 2001 - 2008 - Junior Treasury Counsel
- 2005 - Recorder
- 2007 - 2008 - First Junior Treasury Counsel
- 2008 - Senior Treasury Counsel
- 2010 - Queen's Counsel
- 2015 - 2017 - First Senior Treasury Counsel

Memberships

- South Eastern Circuit
- Criminal Bar Association

News

Plot to Kill Theresa May Terror Trial Begins

19 June 2018

Mark Heywood QC today began opening to the jury in the case of Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman and Mohammed Aqib Imran. Police arrested the 20-year old Londoner days before he intended to carry out a suicide attack on Downing Street to kill the prime minister. Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman believed he was corresponding online with Islamic State while planning the alleged attack but was in fact in talking to members of the security services pretending to be from the terror group, the Old Bailey was told. The British-Bangladeshi, who is charged with preparing acts of terrorism, was arrested on 2 November and is on trial alongside another man, 21-year-old Mohammad Aqib Imran, who is accused of planning to travel abroad either to Libya or Syria in order to to engage in terrorism. The trial is due to last 5 weeks.

Recent Cases

R v. Theodore Johnson [C.C.C] 2018

Prosecution of man for the Killing of his third partner

Mark Heywood QC and Jonathan Polnay acted for the Crown in the case of Theodore Johnson whom was sentenced to life with a minimum tariff of 26 years, increased on appeal against Unduly Lenient Sentence, to 30 years in March 2018. Johnson had been convicted previously for the manslaughters of his partners in 1981 and 1993. His third victim, Angela Best, was murdered with a claw hammer in her flat in North London in December 2016.

BBC report here.

R v. Abdallah [C.C.C.] 2017

Prosecution of British man who traveled to Syria to join so-called Islamic State

Mark Heywood QC acted for the Crown in this prosecution of a British man who was jailed for possession of an AK47 gun, receiving £2000 for the purposes of terrorism and membership of ISIS.

BBC report here

Guardian report here.

Appeal of DS 2016

Gross Negligence Medical Manslaughter

Mark Heywood QC leading Ben Temple, acted in the appeal by a doctor convicted of Gross Negligence Medical Manslaughter following the death of a patient after falling unexpectedly ill following knee surgery.

R v. Simpson-Kent [C.C.C.] 2016

Murder of Eastenders actress and 2 children by partner

Mark Heywood QC prosecuted the case involving the horrific killings of the Eastenders actress Sian Blake and her two children, whom were murdered by the partner and father Arthur Simpson-Kent. The defendant was sentenced to a whole life tariff.

BBC News report here.

Operation Lenwade [C.C.C.] 2016

7-handed gang murder

Mark Heywood QC and Jonathan Polnay prosecuted this 7-handed gang-murder trial at the Central Criminal Court arising out of a feud between two notorious Hackney gangs. Following the convictions, YouTube was put under significant pressure to remove videos that glorified the gangs' activities.

Daily Mail report here.

R v. Dwayne Henry [Blackfriars] 2015

Double-jeopardy prosecution of serial rapist

Mark Heywood QC leading Jonathan Polnay prosecuted this Defendant, who described himself as the 'Hackney Ripper', who stood trial and was convicted of a series of rapes of prostitutes, receiving a sentence of life imprisonment. The Defendant had previously been acquitted of rape. A successful application was made to quash the acquittal under the double-jeopardy provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, and join the re-trial to the new proceedings.

Daily Mail report here.

R v. Jose Sanchez [Cayman Islands] 2015

Murder of special olympian

Mark Heywood QC instructed by Priestleys successfully defended in the Cayman Islands, the trial of JG Sanchez, for the murder of the special olympian Solomon Webster.

News link here.

R v. B & ors [Winchester] 2011

Conspiracy to Murder

Mark Heywood QC led Dickon Reid for a defendant cleared of his involvement in a five-handed conspiracy to murder case in which the defendants were accused of carrying out a series of vigilante attacks over a two-week period. Instructed by Blackfords LLP.

Notable Cases

R v. Edgington [C.C.C.] 2013

Murder.

Mark Heywood QC prosecuted the trial of the mental health patient, Nicola Edgington, for the murder and attempted murder of two women in Bexleyheath.

You can read more about this trial clicking [Here](#)

R v. Armel Gnango [Supreme Court] 2011 UKSC 59 2011

Appeal re: joint enterprise / transferred malice

Mark Heywood QC along with Brian Altman QC represented the Crown before the Supreme Court on this leading authority regarding joint enterprise / transferred malice. The Supreme Court held, restoring Gnango's conviction for the murder of Magda Pniewska, that he was guilty of murder notwithstanding the fact that he had not fired the shot which killed Pniewska during the shoot out which led to her death, and that the fatal shot had been fired by his opponent in an attempt to kill him.

R. v. G; R. v. J [2009] UKHL 13; Archbold 2013: 25-67 2009

Use of Articles for purposes of Terrorism

Mark Heywood QC leading Ben Temple for the Prosecution at first instance, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords where David Perry QC was also instructed.

J was found to be in possession of an extensive library of religious, political, ideological, military and extreme Islamist material some of which had an express terrorist purpose, digitally stored on his laptop, I-Pod, telephone and numerous digital disks comprising several hundred hours of audio and video material and several thousand pages of documentation. J was charged with possessing articles for a purpose connected with terrorism, contrary to section 57(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000. J pleaded guilty to four counts contrary to section 58 of the Act. The Court of Appeal then handed down judgment in R. v. K [2008] EWCA Crim.185 on the point of reasonable excuse under section 58(3). J, having applied successfully to vacate his pleas, claiming erroneous legal advice in the light of R. v. K, re-entered not guilty pleas at a preparatory hearing in the course of which the Recorder of Birmingham, regarding himself bound by R. v. K, ruled on a question of law formulated by the Crown that, by reference to R. v. K, under section 58 where a reasonable excuse is raised the prosecution must prove a terrorist purpose.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted. The three certified questions raised substantial, complex issues. The concept of reasonable excuse had to be considered across numerous statutory contexts. The Crown's appeals (G and J) were allowed and J, a year after he had first done so, pleaded guilty to four offences contrary to section 58.

Operation Seagram [Woolwich] 2008

Planned Car Bomb attacks

Mark Heywood QC along with Jonathan Laidlaw QC conducted the prosecution of 2 NHS Doctors for conspiracy to murder by planning car bomb attacks in 2007 at London's West End Tiger Tiger Nightclub and at the Glasgow International Airport.

BBC news report here.

Operation Crevice [C.C.C.] 2007

'Fertiliser' Bomb Plot

Mark Heywood QC along with David Walters QC and Duncan Atkinson prosecuted the longest running Old Bailey trial which concerned the "Fertiliser Bomb Plot" and conspiracies to cause explosions throughout the U.K.

BBC news report here