



Practice Profile

Ranked in the Chambers UK Legal Guide for both financial crime and crime, Rupert is a polished and sought-after barrister routinely instructed in the defence and prosecution of lengthy and complex cases involving financial crime, in particular in 'white collar' work, as well as in murder and other serious crime cases. He is regularly instructed as leading counsel, and also appears as a led junior or junior alone. He is a Grade 4 CPS General Crime Advocate Panel member, receives Serious Fraud Office instruction (being security cleared), and is public access qualified.

In relation to financial crime, Rupert is both a Grade 4 CPS Fraud Specialist Advocate Panel member and a Serious Fraud Office B Panel member, and has advisory and advocacy experience (for both the prosecution and defence, and on appeal) in the following areas:

- *Business crime*
- *Insolvency*
- *Asset restraint*
- *Confiscation*
- *Money laundering*
- *Investment fraud*
- *Banking fraud*
- *Pension fraud*
- *Tax fraud*
- *Mandate fraud*
- *Duty evasion fraud*
- *Immigration fraud*
- *Procurement fraud*
- *Bribery*

In relation to serious crime, Rupert is a Grade 4 CPS Serious Crime Specialist Advocate Panel member, and a Grade 4 CPS Counter Terrorism Specialist Advocate Panel member, and has advisory and advocacy experience (as above) in the following areas:

- *Murder*
- *Firearms*
- *Drugs supply*
- *Modern slavery*
- *Gang activity*
- *Human trafficking*
- *Export offences*

Rupert's Privacy Policy can be downloaded [here](#).

Areas of Practice

- Confiscation, Civil Recovery & Asset Forfeiture
- Cyber Crime
- Financial & Corporate Crime
- General Crime
- Homicide
- Regulatory & Professional Discipline
- Serious & Organised Crime
- Public Access
- Road Traffic
- 5KBW Criminal Appeals
- 5KBW Criminal Appeals Resources

What The Directories Say

"Rupert Kent has a real trust with the jury. He quickly builds up and establishes command of the case so that they can trust his submissions." *Chambers UK 2025 - Financial Crime*

"He is a terrific junior and particularly skilled in oral advocacy. Judges love him and his presentation is superb." *Chambers UK 2025*

"Rupert is bright, industrious and engaging." *Chambers UK 2025*

"His work pulling out what was relevant and important was exceptional and his advocacy was thorough" *Chambers UK 2024*

"His arguments are very easily digestible by the jury and impeccably presented" *Chambers UK 2024*

"A confident performer who is very good at controlling the courtroom and his opponents." *Chambers UK 2023*

Appointments

- CPS General Crime - Level 4
- CPS Fraud - Level 4
- CPS Serious Crime - Level 4
- CPS Counter Terrorism - Level 4
- CPS Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Panel
- SFO - B Panel
- Kosovo Specialist Chambers Specialist Counsel (Defence; Victims)

Memberships

- Fraud Lawyers Association
- South Eastern Circuit

News

5KBW wins "Crime Set of the Year 2024" at the prestigious Chambers UK Bar Awards

15 November 2024

We are absolutely delighted to announce that 5 King's Bench Walk was awarded "Crime Set of the Year Award 2024" at the Chambers UK Bar Awards held at Old Billingsgate on 15 November. This is Chambers' 5th nomination for the prestigious Chambers UK Bar Awards in the field of Crime. We are very proud to have won this

award for the second time in 5 years.

Commenting on the awards, Heads of Chambers at 5 King's Bench Walk, Sarah Forshaw KC and Mark Heywood KC said:

"We are absolutely delighted that 5KBW has been recognised once again as the UK's pre-eminent Crime Set. It is testament to the outstanding ability of every member of our Chambers, to our excellent clerking services and to our administrative staff. The shortlists and ultimate awards are the result of extensive research by Chambers and Partners. We could not be more proud.

That our own Louise Oakley also carried away the award for 'Crime Junior of the Year' is the icing on the cake. She is, quite simply, a star."



Attempted Murder Conviction Following Frenzied Knife Attack

22 April 2024

Rupert Kent acted for the prosecution in a case involving the attempted murder of the defendants partner, who he had stabbed with a knife in a frenzied attack carried out in her home. The trial involved the calling of contested expert psychiatric evidence regarding the defendant's ability to form specific intent.

At sentence, the defendant received an extended sentence of 28 years imprisonment.

Gang Murder Conviction

15 March 2024

Rupert Kent, led by Philip Evans (QEB Hollis Whiteman), prosecuted a defendant for the 2018 murder of an unarmed and innocent member of the public, who was attacked by a gang wielding knives and a firearm. After a five-week trial at the Central Criminal Court, the last of the four attackers was convicted of murder. The conviction brought to an end a series of linked trials, as a result of which all four of the attackers were convicted of murder, and subsequently sentenced to terms of life imprisonment. Instructed by CPS Homicide Team.

Reporting: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-68570929>.

Domestic Abuse & Attempted Murder

30 January 2024

Rupert Kent was instructed by CPS London North in this trial relating to the 2022 attempted murder by the defendant of his partner after an extended period of domestic abuse. The case involved the calling of the vulnerable victim, and several eye-witnesses to the various incidents of violence. Sentence has been adjourned for an assessment as to how dangerous the defendant is.

Death by Dangerous

16 January 2024

Rupert Kent, prosecuting, achieved convictions for causing death, and causing serious injury, by dangerous driving after a trial at Woolwich Crown Court during which the defendant claimed, ultimately unsuccessfully, that a collision resulting in the death of a 14-year-old boy, and serious injury being caused to his aunt, was the result of sudden-onset sleep, attributable to a previously unidentified, but ultimately confirmed, diagnosis of severe sleep apnoea. After hearing contested expert evidence, the jury accepted the prosecution argument that the onset of sleep, even had it played a part in the incident, could not have been sudden and without warning, meaning the defendant's driving, on any view, was dangerous

Cold Case Murder

25 October 2023

Rupert Kent, being led by Richard Horwell K.C. (3 Raymond Buildings), and with Lucy Coen (Broadway House Chambers) as disclosure junior, secured comprehensive convictions in a 'cold case' three-handed murder prosecution heard over eight-weeks at Leeds Crown Court. The case arose from the 2011 disappearance of the deceased, whose shallow grave was unearthed nine years later by forensic archaeologists after a witness who was present at the murder and subsequent unlawful burial (and who was later granted immunity from prosecution by the D.P.P.) came forward to the police. Instructed by the C.P.S. Complex Casework Unit.'

Convictions in County Line Drug Operation

14 May 2023

Following a 7-week trial at Bournemouth Crown Court, Rupert Kent leading Anna Dutka secured convictions in this multi-handed county line drug dealing operation where the defendants also exploited and trafficked young children to assist their drug dealing enterprise. Instructed by Helen Shaw, CPS London South District Crown Prosecutor for Serious Violence and Organised Crime.

National Health Service Fraud & Bribery

9 March 2023

After a three month trial, James Brown and Rupert Kent secured convictions in a National Health Service fraud and bribery case involving dishonest procurement practices operated by an employee of, and suppliers to, an NHS Trust. Instructed by the Crown Prosecution Service's Serious Economic Organised Crime and International Directorate.'

Acquittal in UKs largest money laundering trial

15 December 2022

Natasha Wong KC & Rupert Kent defended client who was acquitted in UK's largest ever money laundering trial after 7 months at Leeds Crown Court. Instructed by Kangs Solicitors.

News article

Recent Cases

R v G [Central Criminal Court] 2024

Murder

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Homicide Unit as led junior in this month-long trial relating to the 2021 killing of a 16-year-old boy, who was murdered in front of his mother at his home address by a group of eight assailants wielding 'Zombie' knives. The case involved the calling of expert pathologist, forensic science and cell-site expert evidence, and the presentation of part of the closing speech by junior prosecution counsel after his leader became unavailable to conclude it.

R v H & 4 Others [Southwark Crown Court] 2024

Causing Death by Dangerous Driving

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Homicide Unit in this one-week trial relating to the 2021 death of a pedestrian, caused by the careless driving of the defendant in his public bus. The case involved the calling of an expert pathologist, speaking to the cause of death of the victim, who had died some weeks later from ill-health and complications arising from the incident.

R v D & 4 Others [Southwark Crown Court] 2024

Fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed by Lansbury Worthington Solicitors as led junior in this three-month fraud case involving £20m of funds, misappropriated as a result of a large-scale VAT acquisition fraud involving the use of sham trade to apparently offset output tax received in the course of legitimate transactions.

R v D [Southwark Crown Court] 2024

Fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed by Brooklyn Law as junior alone in this fraud case involving £2m of misappropriated funds, taken from a high net worth individual. After pleading guilty to a lesser offence, albeit relating to the same value of loss, the defendant received a 20-month prison sentence, deemed served through a combination of time

spent on remand and on a qualifying curfew.

R v L [Wood Green Crown Court] 2024

Attempted Murder

Rupert Kent was instructed by CPS London North West as junior alone in this one-week trial relating to the 2021 attempted murder by the defendant of his partner, during which incident 10 knife wounds were inflicted. The issue at trial was whether the defendant was capable of forming specific intent, and each party called expert psychiatric evidence as to the mental state of the defendant.

R v A [Wood Green Crown Court] 2024

Attempted Murder

Rupert Kent was instructed by CPS London North as junior alone in this one-week trial relating to the 2022 attempted murder by the defendant of his partner, after a period of domestic abuse. The case involved calling a vulnerable victim, and several eye-witnesses to the various incidents of violence.

R v M [Woolwich Crown Court] 2024

Causing Death by Dangerous Driving

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Homicide Unit as junior alone in this one-week trial relating to the 2021 death of a 14 year-old boy, caused by the dangerous driving of the defendant. The case involved the calling of expert witnesses, from both sides, in relation to the question of sudden-onset sleep caused by diagnosed severe sleep apnoea.

R v T & 2 Others [Leeds Crown Court] 2023

Murder

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Complex Casework Unit as led junior in this three-handed eight week trial relating to a 2011 murder, in relation to which a witness subject to immunity from prosecution gave evidence as to the torture, murder, burial and subsequent cover-up of the victim.

R v T [Snaresbrook Crown Court] 2023

Perverting the course of justice (murder)

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Homicide Team as a junior alone in this single-handed prosecution relating to activities, conducted 24 hours after a murder, that were intended to remove the murderer from the scene of the crime, hide him from the police overnight, and then remove him from London the following day.

R v W & 1 Other [Central Criminal Court] 2023

Murder

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Homicide Team as led junior in this two-handed seven-week trial relating to a 2018 murder, with knives and a firearm, committed by members of a London gang. The trial involved calling an

acquitted defendant from an earlier trial as a prosecution witness.

R v S & 6 Others [Bournemouth Crown Court] 2023

Drugs Supply & Modern Slavery

Rupert Kent was instructed by CPS London South as leading junior in this seven-handed two-month trial focussing on the county lines class A drug supply activity of a London based gang who targeted vulnerable drug addicts in Bournemouth, and used children as drugs runners.

R v A & 2 Others [St Albans Crown Court] 2023

Fraud & Bribery

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS's Serious Economic Organised Crime and International Directorate as a led junior in this three-handed three-month trial centring around the large-scale and dishonest procurement of goods by an employee of, and suppliers to, an NHS Trust.

R v T & 7 Ors [Leeds Crown Court] 2022

Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by Kangs Solicitors as a led junior in a 7-month trial of eight defendants alleged to have been complicit in the United Kingdom's largest ever money laundering scheme, in which £266 million in cash was allegedly laundered through the international trading of gold bullion.

R v B & 3 Others [Southwark Crown Court] 2022

Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS London Complex Casework Unit as leading junior in this two-handed money laundering case, involving the activities of an organised criminal group who laundered the criminal proceeds of stolen, and 'rung', vehicles.

R v G & 1 Other [Isleworth Crown Court] 2022

Confiscation

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Proceeds of Crime Unit as leading junior in a three day contested confiscation proceedings arising out of 1,300 pages of statutory statements and appendices.

R v C & 7 Ors [Southwark Crown Court] 2021

Immigration Fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS London Complex Casework Unit as leading junior in this eight-handed immigration fraud, arising from a Home Office investigation into the large-scale abuse of the UKBA's Tier 2 (skilled workers) leave-to-remain visa system.

R v AA [CCC] 2021

Attempted Murder

Led by Rupert Kent, prosecuting a father charged with attempting to murder his young daughter by stabbing. Trial was before by a High Court judge, and issues relating to mental health, capacity, and the admissibility of confessions to medical professionals arose.

Operation Radiator [Manchester Crown Court] 2021

Revenue Evasion & Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Specialist Fraud Division as junior alone in this three-handed revenue evasion case, arising from an HMRC investigation into the activities of a UK-based organised criminal network involved in the evasion of £41.5m in tobacco duty, and the smuggling of £6.7m in cash out of the UK.

R v G & 5 Others [Southwark Crown Court] 2021

Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS as a junior alone (two-counsel application pending) in this six-handed money laundering case, involving the activities of a bureau-de-change concerned in the large-scale laundering of criminal pound sterling into Euro currency.

R v S & 3 Ors [Southwark Crown Court] 2021

Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS London Complex Casework Unit as leading junior in this four-handed money laundering case, involving the activities of an organised criminal group who laundered the criminal proceeds of stolen, and 'rung', vehicles.

R v A [CCC] 2020

Attempted Murder

Rupert Kent was instructed as junior alone by the CPS to prosecute this attempted murder, relating to the infliction of serious knife injuries by the defendant upon his infant daughter.

R v N [Maidstone Crown Court] 2020

Proceeds of Crime

Rupert Kent was instructed by DJMS Solicitors as junior alone in this opposed pre-charge application for the extension of a moratorium period under s.336A of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, arising from a Defence Against Money Laundering request made in relation to a suspect bank account.

R v A & 8 Ors [Kingston Crown Court] 2020

Drugs Importation

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS as junior alone in this nine-handed drugs case, involving a conspiracy to import large amounts of cocaine into the United Kingdom using HGV vehicles.

R v A & 8 Ors [Southwark Crown Court] 2020

Banking Fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed by ABV Solicitors as junior alone (two-counsel application pending) in this nine-handed fraud case, involving the alleged activities of a criminal network in removing £500,000 from customers' bank accounts. The case comprises over 50,000 pages of evidence.

Operation Merseyside-1 [Isleworth Crown Court] 2020

Proceeds of Crime

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Proceeds of Crime Unit as a led junior in confiscation proceedings arising out of this 4-handed conspiracy to convert criminal property prosecution.

R v C & 7 Others [Southwark Crown Court] 2020

Immigration Fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Complex Casework Unit as a led junior in this eight-handed immigration fraud, arising from an HMRC investigation into the large-scale abuse of the UKBA's Tier 2 (skilled workers) leave-to-remain visa system.

R v T & 12 Others [Leeds Crown Court] 2020

Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by Kangs Solicitors as a junior alone (QC application pending) in this 13-handed money laundering case, involving the alleged laundering of £260m in the proceeds of crime. The case comprises 15,000 pages of evidence, and the trial has a four-month time-estimate.

R v C [Guildford Magistrates' Court] 2020

Insolvency

Rupert Kent was instructed as junior alone by the Insolvency Service to prosecute a defendant accused of s.387 Companies Act 2006, s.13 Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, and s.235 Insolvency Act 1986 offences, and arising from the defendant's various failures after his property company went into administration.

R v S & 3 [Ipswich Crown Court] 2020

Revenue Evasion

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Specialist Fraud Division in this four-handed revenue investigation case

arising from a joint police and HMRC investigation into the activities of a UK-based organised criminal network involved in the evasion of tobacco duty.

Operation Buster [Leicester Crown Court] 2020

Drugs Importation & Supply

Rupert Kent was instructed by ABV Solicitors as a junior alone in this 11-handed drugs conspiracy case, involving the largescale importation and wholesale supply of drugs into and throughout the United Kingdom. The case comprised 12,000 pages of evidence, and this trial (one of four) was listed for 12 weeks.

Operation Gwendreath [Southwark] 2019

Money laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Complex Casework Unit as a led junior in this 18-handed conspiracy to convert criminal property prosecution. The case comprised 8,000 pages of evidence and 270 witnesses, and was split into four trials.

R v T & 2 ors [Court of Appeal Criminal Division] 2019

Firearms

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Appeals & Review Unit as a junior alone to respond in this 3-handed appeal against conviction. The appeal related to the admission of, and directions relating to, wide-ranging gang evidence.

Operation Auxin [Maidstone] 2019

Fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed as leading counsel by the CPS Specialist Fraud Division in a 7-handed fraudulent evasion prosecution investigated by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs. The case involved complicating fitness-to-plead considerations.

Operation Cranfield [Southwark] 2019

Confiscation

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Complex Casework Unit as a junior alone in confiscation proceedings arising from a £7m drug importation prosecution in which he had appeared as a led junior. The POCA proceedings involved use of a European Investigation Order to gather information from Belgium relating to a pre-existing foreign confiscation order.

Operation Merseyside [Isleworth Crown Court] 2019

Money Laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Complex Casework Unit as a led junior in this 5-handed conspiracy to convert criminal property prosecution. The case comprised over 12,000 pages of served evidence and almost 100

witnesses, and involved the service and disclosure of US-sourced material.

Operation W 2019

Money laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed by the SFO to give legal professional privilege advice in relation to material seized during the search of a solicitors firm, members of which were being investigated for the layering of criminal profit through international client accounts.

Operation Mutisia [C.C.C.] 2019

Money laundering

Rupert Kent was instructed as leading counsel by the CPS International Justice and Organised Crime Division to prosecute a money laundering case relating to £6m worth of the proceeds of numerous international invoice diversion frauds. This case arose out of a large multi-jurisdictional National Crime Agency investigation, and comprised 6,000 pages of served evidence.

R v A 2019

Asset restraint

Rupert Kent was instructed by the CPS Proceeds of Crime unit to make an ex parte restraint application under s.41 POCA 2002 (relying on ss.40 & 22), as a precursor to a s.22 application for recalculation of the available amount in confiscation proceedings.

Operation Wintergreen [Southwark] 2019

Investment fraud

Rupert Kent was instructed as junior counsel by the CPS Specialist Fraud Division in a conspiracy to defraud case arising from a large-scale, complicated, carbon credits 'investments' scam leading to £2.4m worth of loss, and comprising over 15,000 pages of evidence.

R v P [Chelmsford Magistrates' Court] 2018

Insolvency

Rupert Kent was instructed as junior alone by the Insolvency Service to prosecute a defendant accused of a s.354 Insolvency Act 1986 concealing property offence, arising from the removal of property after the making of a bankruptcy order, itself arising from an initial failure to pay taxes to HMRC.