

Kevin Dent Q.C.

YEAR OF CALL: 1991 | YEAR OF SILK: 2019



A highly persuasive advocate with a calm, measured, yet robust courtroom manner. Kevin took silk in 2019, building upon his heavyweight practice as a leading junior in the fields of financial crime and serious crime.

Overview

A highly persuasive advocate with a calm, measured, yet robust courtroom manner. Kevin took silk in 2019, building upon his heavyweight practice as a leading junior in the fields of financial crime and serious crime. Kevin is ranked in the Legal 500 in business and regulatory crime (including global investigations) new silks section (2019).

With his talent for taking control of convoluted facts and getting to the heart of the matter, Kevin leads in multi-handed fraud, money laundering

and revenue evasion.

'His diverse practice includes advice on bribery matters.'

Legal 500 2019.

Kevin's tactical acuity enables him to provide balanced, incisive and proactive advice to both individuals and corporates, local authorities and government departments alike. He has particular expertise in advising on matters concerning corporate good governance, bribery and corruption.

Drawing upon his formidable expertise and significant experience, Kevin retains an open mind to new ideas and approaches, a quality treasured by professional and lay clients. He has a singular ability to transform prodigious evidence into a jury-friendly narrative. Kevin is a committed advocate who relishes complex and tough cases and those where his forensic, and occasionally blistering, cross-examination may be critical to outcomes.

Ever open to meeting new challenges, dedicated to acquiring further legal expertise and with a passion for the wider importance of law, Kevin has written on diverse areas such as international criminal law, HBV, post-Brexit security, deferred-prosecution agreements, the 5th Money Laundering Directive and Crimes contrary to the 1954 Hague Convention on Cultural Property.

Kevin has an established practice within the field of professional regulation and discipline, with particular emphasis on cases involving probity concerns and fraud, deploying his formidable experience in criminal cases concerning medical professionals.

Additional information

Direct Public Access

Kevin accepts Direct Public Access instructions.

Professional Panel Appointments

Prior to taking silk, Kevin's experience and expertise were reflected in the following appointments:

Appointed to the 'A' Panel of Serious Fraud Office (SFO) advocates.

Level 4 advocate on the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Unified Prosecution List, the specialist Central Fraud Group Panel, Counter-Terrorism panel, Serious Crime Group panel and Proceeds of Crime Panel.

Appointed to Band 'C' (10 years call and above) on the General Dental Council's (GDC) panel of advocates.

Professional Memberships

Fraud Lawyers Association.

Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers'.

Asset Recovery, Civil Fraud & Confiscation

Ensuring financial recovery is embedded within case strategy, Kevin draws upon his considerable expertise in all aspects of restraint and confiscation, including; piercing the corporate veil, 3rd-party interests, enforcement receivers, assumptions, hidden assets, inadequacy, reconsideration of assets, intervening in matrimonial proceedings and multiple jurisdictions.

Business Crime

For more than a decade Kevin has been regularly instructed as lead counsel in cases of serious fraud and money laundering. Reflecting this expertise, prior to taking silk, Kevin was admitted to the SFO's Panel A and the Serious Fraud Division's Fraud Panel at Level 4. He enjoys the challenge of grappling with financial details in order to provide incisive strategic advice then presenting complex cases to juries in clear powerful terms.

Kevin's wide experience as leading counsel in financial crime includes carbon credits and precious commodities boiler rooms, revenue evasion, vishing

and courier fraud, frauds on pension funds, corporate fraud, abuse of position, fraudulent trading, and multi-jurisdictional money laundering.

Kevin has particular expertise in financial crime involving medical professionals including dentists, medical doctors and optometrists. Through this, Kevin is aplomb in has adducing and cross-examining medical-legal experts, analysing patient records, liaising with parallel regulatory proceedings and navigating NHS regulations and patient confidentiality issues.

Kevin has a keen interest in corruption and bribery cases and has acted as leading counsel in cases alleging corrupt sales of NHS assets and procurement fraud. He has advised on numerous allegations of misconduct in public office.

Kevin enjoys providing private advice to individuals and corporates under investigation for financial crime and also to corporates and agencies seeking to ascertain whether fraud has occurred within their domains.

Crime

Kevin has over two decades of experience in serious and organised crime and, prior to taking silk, was appointed as a Level 4 advocate on the CPS's specialist Counter-Terrorism and Serious and Organised Crime Panels. Kevin has acted as lead counsel in a number of high profile cases investigated by police Counter Terrorism Command.

Kevin is instructed in multi-handed modern-slavery cases and has substantial experience in cases involving children and other vulnerable witnesses. He frequently acts in large-scale drugs importation cases.

Professional Discipline & Regulatory

Kevin has an established practice within the field of professional discipline, with particular emphasis on cases involving probity and fraud and drawing upon his ample experience of criminal cases involving medical professionals.

Kevin's wide experience includes cases involving:

Multiple complainants;

Serious allegations where erasure is likely;

Parallel criminal and regulatory investigations;

Serious dishonesty and want of integrity;

Parallel investigations with different regulators;

Where a patient subsequently died;

Reviews of decisions to refer to professional conduct committees;

Disputed hearsay;

Applications to restore following erasure.

Prior to taking silk, Kevin was appointed to the General Dental Council's (GDC) panel of advocates and has considerable experience in dental cases.

Notwithstanding a calm and positive manner, Kevin has a reputation within the field of professional discipline for forensic, and when required, rigorous cross-examination of both lay and expert witnesses.

Cases of Note

Recent on-going criminal cases

Recent and ongoing criminal cases include

10-handed modern slavery case, a £2M fraudulent trading/laundrying relating to VER carbon credits, an 8-handed £3.5M cross-border laundrying, a 7-handed £1M+ short and long-firm conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to launder, a £1M+ fraud by employee on Westminster Council's pension fund and a 4-handed company fraud targeting a Director's Loan Account.

Notable cases

R v W and W (2017-19)

Leading counsel in £1M+ fraud on Westminster City Council's pension fund by its former fund manager. Monies laundered internally. 5-day fitness to plead hearing involving 4 eminent psychiatrists after D1 claimed selective amnesia disorder.

R v Z and others (2018-19)

Leading counsel in £3.5M 8-handed laundering. OCN laundered proceeds through major UK retail banks, using 500+ bank accounts.

R v P and others (2018)

Leading counsel in 4-handed company fraud targeting Directors Loan Account and involving unauthorised self-awarded pay increases and bonuses. 4-week trial. Expert evidence called regarding vulnerable defendant.

R v C and others (2018-19)

Leading counsel in 7-handed £1M+ conspiracy to defraud involving proceeds laundered through export of high value vehicles and bulk used clothing. 5-week trial.

R v L & N (2017-19)

Leading counsel in 2-handed £2M cross-border laundering dubbed 'The Tangled Web' by City of London Police because of dauntingly complex movements through online payment platforms. 3-week trial.

Operation Miching (2015-18)

Leading counsel in series of fraud and laundering cases investigated by Met Counter Terrorism Command. Courier/vishing frauds targeted large number of elderly and vulnerable victims (average age 83) and proceeds laundered through complex network and cover businesses. 4 trials at the Central Criminal Court and 18 convictions.

R v B and others (2016-17)

Leading counsel in £1.5M cross-border laundering operation. Evidence gathered from 4 jurisdictions. Expert accountancy evidence.

R v W (2016-7)

Leading counsel in fraud by highly-respected dentist on NHS through making £460,000 in false claims over 6-year period.

R v M (2017)

Fraud by dentist on NHS making £700,000 in false claims.

R v M & M (2015-6)

Leading counsel in fraud by NHS treasurer abusing labyrinthine payment systems to steal monies intended for Appointee patients lacking mental capacity. 6-week trial.

R v H and others (2013-7)

Leading counsel in 8-handed £2M cross-border revenue evasion involving fleet of vehicles operated behind various shell companies. 6-week trial.

Operation Easton (2013)

Conspiracy to make false representation in respect of prolific 'courier' frauds involving the targeting of the elderly and vulnerable, persuading victims to part with bank cards by pretending to be from the fraud department of their banks. 8 defendants.

R v M & A (2012)

Instructed as leading counsel in a 6-week NHS dental fraud trial where dentists had fraudulently claimed Units of Dental Activity for private work in order to avoid monies being clawed-back for under-achievement of the contracted target.

R v K and others (2012)

7-handed case of fraud on a Housing Association, involving diverting fraudulent compensation claims into the bank accounts of accomplices. The 4-week trial involved cross-examining a defence witness in Uganda via live-link about the details of the various transactions in order to expose a false 'confession' which potentially exonerated all of the defendants.

R v G and others (2011)

Leading counsel in a 5-week multiple identity Housing Benefit fraud case brought by a Local Authority. The trial led to a landmark ruling by the Court of Appeal concerning the trial judge's decision to bring in verdicts under S.46 of the CJA 2003 after the jury had been discharged following jury tampering.

R v A and others (2012)

Fraudulent evasion. 4-week trial involving 13 million cigarettes and evasion of £2.8 million in Revenue.

R v B and others (2011)

Procurement fraud. Instructed as leading counsel in a case brought by NHS Protect alleging that contracts worth £600,000 had been procured to a firm of contractors on a corrupt basis.

R v G (2009)

Acted as leading counsel in a 12-week trial in a NHS Protect prosecution alleging that a GP had fraudulently obtained bonuses under the Quality and Outcomes Framework, and had falsified patient records. This was the first prosecution brought in respect of QOF.

R v M (2009)

Importation of a £13million consignment of ecstasy, said to be the largest ever single haul.

R v D and others (2008)

Leading counsel in a 7-handed identity fraud and benefit fraud brought by the DWP focusing on members of a Chinese community.

R v P and H (2008)

Bribery and corruption. Lead counsel in a 5-week 2 handed trial alleging that an NHS Director had corruptly conspired to defraud an NHS Trust in the sale of a derelict hospital site to a favoured developer causing around £6 million in lost profit.

R v O and others (2008)

Lead counsel in a 6-handed 8-week trial brought by the DWP alleging that a number of staff

members at Harlesden Jobcentre were creating fictitious benefit claims and fraudulently diverting payments into bank accounts.

R v F (2007)

Fraud by a student midwife had altered computer records to show her to be of sufficient experience in deliveries to qualify as a midwife.

R v P (2007)

Fraud involving falsely claiming to be an optometrist in order to make fraudulent claims to the NHS for conducting thousands of eye-tests.

R v L and others (2007)

Instructed as leading counsel in a 5-handed conspiracy to defraud case brought by the DWP in respect of a large-scale giro cheque fraud involving corruption within London sorting offices.

R v T and T (2006)

Instructed as leading counsel in an 8-week 2-handed DWP trial of an ageing rock star and his wife for multiple benefit frauds.

R v S and M (2006)

Drugs importation. £1.3 million's worth of heroin concealed within a horse box.

R v T and others (2005-10)

Counsel in a series of RCPO surveillance-led multiple-handed money laundering cases targeting drugs-related crime.

Accreditation

