

Josh Normanton

Call 2012

"A formidable junior who is a silk in waiting" "He's good fun, easy to deal with, committed and someone who will always fight your corner" Chambers and Partners

EXPERTISE

Josh is a sought-after advocate in high-profile, sensitive and complex cases nationwide. His practice spans the complementary areas of criminal, regulatory, disciplinary and financial services law. He has considerable expertise and experience in each area and a proven track record of achieving results.

Josh also has a busy advisory practice with three focuses: (1) Advising corporates on criminal and regulatory issues which arise in commercial transactions or relationships; (2) Providing a service to private individuals who are dealing with criminal or regulatory issues and require urgent, reliable and strategic advice; and (3) Advising corporates and entrepreneurs on licensing and regulatory law in the novel food and legal cannabis markets.

Josh practised exclusively in London until 2022 when he joined Trinity and began practising on the North-East Circuit.

CRIME

Financial Crime

Josh is regularly instructed in complex cases involving fraud or dishonesty. His expertise in financial services law and regulation is considered an asset in such cases. Recent instructions include defending in a well-publicised multi-million pound carbon credit fraud and acting for the first defendant in a large-scale accounting fraud against a well-known fashion retailer.

Josh has also been instructed to advise corporates on financial crime and POCA issues either in the context of internal investigations or during initial public offerings and similar transactions.

Serious Crime

Josh has a wide range of experience in serious criminal cases involving violence, sex and drugs, including appearing as leading counsel. He has been instructed as junior in murder cases and regularly appears in cases which are considered to be complex or difficult.

Josh has particular expertise in drug regulation and licensing and is regularly instructed to defend in complex drugs cases. Instructions have included a number of Encrochat cases and, due to Josh's expertise in the legal cannabis market, a now long list of cases involving CBD companies and individuals in the CBD market facing criminal proceedings for selling cannabis (all of whom have been acquitted).



Expertise

Criminal

Regulatory

Private Prosecutions

International & Offshore

Sports Law

Administrative & Public Law

Licensing

Civil Liberties & Human Rights

With respect to sexual offences, Josh was a core member of the Rook Group Advocacy and the Vulnerable Committee which developed the national advocacy programme on cross-examining vulnerable witnesses. Josh therefore has particular skills and expertise to bring to bear in cases involving vulnerable witnesses (he also edits the chapter in a leading practitioner textbook which deals with this area of law). His knowledge has translated into extensive work throughout his career in high-profile and complex cases involving sexual abuse and rape. Recent instructions have included representing a man with a severe mental disability accused of historic rape and other sexual offences against multiple complainants. The fitness to plead process in that case required four experts and spanned over a year and the subsequent trial required an intermediary throughout. The defendant was acquitted of rape and the majority of other counts.

Driving Law

Josh has maintained a practice in driving law since the outset of his practice. He is now regularly instructed to appear in complex cases. Recent instructions have included a successful half-time submission in an extremely complex and novel case involving a refuse lorry operative accused of aiding and abetting death by dangerous driving.

REGULATORY

Financial Services

Josh's expertise in financial services regulation was developed during a secondment to the General Counsel's Division of the Financial Conduct Authority where he worked in an advisory capacity on market and regulatory issues. He continued to build on this practice and now receives instructions from a range of companies and individuals requiring financial regulatory advice or facing enforcement proceedings.

Josh is currently retained counsel at a financial services regulator in the Channel Islands. In this capacity, he advises on and prosecutes complex enforcement proceedings against corporates and individuals. These cases usually involve an international element.

Food Standards & Licensing

Josh is the director of a company which provides regulatory advice in the Foodtech market. He has an interest in the law and regulation relating to novel and technically innovative food production methods. He regularly provides regulatory and strategic advice to companies and entrepreneurs in this sector as well as in CBD and legal cannabis product market (in which he has been operating as an advisor for a number of years now).

Disciplinary

Josh continues to be instructed to advise or act as advocate for professionals facing professional disciplinary proceedings. Instructions have included cases before the GMC, NMC, HCPC and SWE as well as appeals to the High Court. Josh also has experience defending political figures facing internal disciplinary proceedings in national political parties. Recent instruction include successfully overturning the decision of a disciplinary committee and appellate committee (and all disciplinary charges) concerning a very senior executive member of a well-known political party.

APPOINTMENTS

Clerking team



Liam Gorman
Lead Criminal &
Regulatory Clerk
0191 245 9521



Chris Gibbin
Clerk
01642 247 569



Chloe Lau
Criminal & Regulatory
Clerk
0191 245 9550



Edward Shepherd
Criminal & Regulatory
Clerk
0191 245 9542



Fiona Bullock
Direct Access Clerk
01642 247 569



Paul McNab
Civil & Criminal Silks'
Clerk
0113 3235 955

- Retained counsel for a Channel Islands financial regulator
- Contributing Editor to Archbold Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice (since 2017)
- Level 3 panel CPS prosecutor
- Chair of the Young Fraud Lawyers Association (2019-2020)
- Harold G. Fox Scholar
- Middle Temple Lord Diplock Scholar

MEMBERSHIPS

- Criminal Bar Association
- Fraud Lawyers Association
- Financial Services Lawyers Association

DIRECT PUBLIC ACCESS

Josh is a popular direct access practitioner and regularly accepts instructions directly from individuals, businesses and professional and charitable organisations. Such instructions range from advisory work to representation. Josh is qualified as a litigator in direct access cases.

What Others Say

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"A dream for solicitors: he provides written advices promptly and just generally goes above and beyond the call of duty." "His paperwork is first class, and he is a very hardworking and diligent advocate."

Chambers and Partners 2024

"A formidable junior who is a silk in waiting" "He's good fun, easy to deal with, committed and someone who will always fight your corner"

Chambers and Partners 2023

"Whether he is drafting submissions or advocating in court, his work is always excellent." "The clients love him, and his results speak for themselves." "Displays great depth of knowledge and superb attention to detail"

Chambers and Partners 2022

"A rising star, he is one to watch and someone who commands real attention in court." "A wonderful barrister who is hard-working, thorough, efficient and brilliant with clients."

Chambers and Partners 2021