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STUART BIGGS

Called to the Bar - 1999

“Stuart is simply outstanding. He has a brilliant mind and combines it with an effective and charming advocacy style.”

“A junior destined for silk. He is an outstanding lawyer, who is able to crystallise complex issues into persuasive submissions. He is a formidable cross-examiner of expert witnesses.”

“Stuart is quite simply the best junior I have ever worked with. He is extremely bright, and very hardworking. He produces clear and persuasive written work. He is able to charm a jury. He is particularly strong at dealing with tricky financial evidence.”

- Legal 500

BIOGRAPHY

Stuart's practice focuses on matters involving allegations of misconduct by companies, directors, public officials and financial professionals.

He acts for individuals and corporates investigated and prosecuted by the SFO, FCA, HMRC and specialist divisions of the CPS and advises victims of financial crime. He assists corporates with internal investigations and in their interactions with the criminal justice system and regulators. He has considerable experience in Proceeds of Crime Act proceedings.

Stuart advises on a range of matters affecting companies including bribery, fraud, anti-money laundering, sanctions, data protection, brand and content protection and consumer protection. He has a wealth of prosecution experience to draw upon and maintains a specialist prosecution practice, including private prosecutions.

He has complementary experience of advising and acting in respect of individual and company insolvency and has acted for a director in contested company director disqualification proceedings. He has appeared in cases before the tax tribunals as leading junior, led junior and alone.

Since co-authoring the Butterworths' Guide to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 Stuart has maintained a keen interest in this area, conducting confiscation, restraint and enforcement hearings. Recently, he was invited to contribute to the Law Commission's work on suggested reform of the law of confiscation. He has experience in dealing with orders obtained on behalf of foreign prosecutors by MLA, acting in the high-profile successful discharge application of a restraint order obtained on behalf of the Vatican. He has considerable experience in account freezing and cash forfeiture cases: recent matters have seen the release of the trading accounts of a bitcoin brokerage and a construction company.

Stuart has a longstanding specialism in Intellectual Property Crime and content protection. He is instructed by a variety of rightsholders and provides detailed advice on the substantive law and on investigations and procedure. He has spoken on IP crime at the Cambridge Symposium on Economic Crime.

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Stuart acts for clients in proceedings before a diverse range of disciplinary tribunals and regulators. These have included governing bodies in respect of the accountancy profession, the Regulatory Decisions Committee of the FCA, the Electoral Commission and the internal disciplinary committee of a political party.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

“Stuart is simply outstanding. He has a brilliant mind and combines it with an effective and charming advocacy style.” **Legal 500 2023: Fraud Crime**

“Stuart is an outstanding junior. He is exceptionally bright, hardworking and has a sensitive and effective advocacy style.” **Legal 500 2023: Business and Regulatory Crime**

“Stuart is a fantastic advocate and he is great in court.” **Chambers UK 2023: Financial Crime**

“He always gives robust and candid advice.” **Chambers UK 2023: Financial Crime**

“A junior destined for silk. He is an outstanding lawyer, who is able to crystallise complex issues into persuasive submissions. He is a formidable cross-examiner of expert witnesses.” **Legal 500 2022: Fraud – Crime**

“A go-to junior – he is one of the best.” **Chambers UK 2022: Financial Crime**

“He is extraordinarily hard-working, extremely able and has a very lovely manner with the jury.” **Chambers UK 2022: Financial Crime**

“He is really smart and a good advocate.” **Chambers UK 2022: Financial Crime**

“A very good advocate who can draw in different areas of the law.” **Chambers UK 2022: POCA**

“Adaptable and equally strong both prosecuting and defending, he can see problems from both sides.” **Chambers UK 2022: POCA**

“Stuart is an outstanding lawyer; he is excellent in distilling difficult legal issues into clear and persuasive legal submissions; he has a charming manner with the jury and is a formidable cross-examiner of experts.” **Legal 500 2022: Business & Regulatory Crime**

“He is an outstanding junior. He is extraordinarily hard-working, extremely able and has a very lovely manner with the jury.” **Chambers UK High Net Worth 2021: Financial Crime**

“Excellent with clients and very calm in pressurised situations. He is able to break down and explain complex matters to clients with ease.” **Chambers 2021: Financial Crime**

“Technically brilliant and a charming advocate.” **Chambers 2021: Financial Crime**

“When it comes to advisory work he has a very keen eye for detail but also broader strategy.” **Chambers 2021: Financial Crime**

“Knows his way around difficult POCA case law.” “He’s able to take a point in a measured way, advance it without overplaying it and really develop it forcefully.” **Chambers UK 2021: POCA**

“Very bright, hardworking and able to charm a jury. Stuart has a brilliant grasp of the issues of the case. Very calm and persuasive but when necessary a hard-hitting advocate.” **Legal 500 2021: Business & Regulatory Crime**

“Stuart is quite simply the best junior I have ever worked with. He is extremely bright, and very hardworking. He produces clear and persuasive written work. He is able to charm a jury. He is particularly strong at dealing with tricky financial evidence.” **Legal 500 2021: Fraud – Crime**

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“A very efficient worker, who produces beautifully crafted arguments in a few hours. He likes complex, cerebral tasks. Give him an expert witness to cross-examine and he’s totally up for it.” **Chambers UK 2020**

“He pays close attention to detail, knows the area inside out and is very confident and assured.” **Chambers UK 2020**

“Self-assured and street-smart, he is a man with gravitas and great technical knowledge.” **Chambers UK 2020**

“Does an absolutely first-rate job, particularly in relation to the forensic accountancy elements of a case.” **Chambers UK 2020**

“Intelligent, courteous and charming.” **Legal 500 2020**

“Extremely clever, knowledgeable and hard-working and someone who always sees the bigger picture. He has a lovely calm, reassuring manner and always wants to go the extra mile. A technically brilliant and thoroughly charming advocate.” **Chambers UK 2019**

“Extremely diligent and very bright – he also cross-examines exceptionally well.” **Legal 500 2019**

RECENT & CURRENT CASES

- Pre-charge advice to persons under SFO investigations into London Capital & Finance, Rolls Royce, Greenergy and Amec Foster Wheeler.
- Overseas internal investigation into money laundering compliance
- Successful application to remove UK restraint obtained in respect of the Vatican’s £300m corruption investigation
- Acted for a corporate in the private prosecution of former employee for fraud and money laundering
- Defence of a director of a Hong Kong fiduciary services company in respect of allegations of money laundering put at \$120m
- Defence of sales director in £160m financing fraud
- Defence of Director of Corporate Finance and Investment Firm charged with FSMA offences
- Defence of Director of hospitality industry companies accused of multi-million pound tax fraud
- Advising on prosecution of an international bribery case
- Representing a company in negotiation in respect of a potential DPA
- Defence of a Director of a services company against allegations of defrauding consumers.

PREVIOUS CASES

- R v H [2012] EWCA Crim 1113 Arms trafficking
- R v May [2008] UKPC 36 Successful Privy Council appeal
- R v Golizadeh & Others [2008] 2 Cr App R (S) 47
- R v Skansen Interiors Ltd Representing a company in negotiation in respect of a potential DPA
- Operation Elveden including R v Anthony France [2016] 4 WLR 175; [2017] 1 Cr App R 19 and
- R v Chapman & Others; R v Sabey & Brunt [2015] 3 WLR 726
- R v Darren Thompson [2015] EWCA Crim 1820, football investment fraud
- R v Matthew Ames (Unreported 2014, Isleworth Crown Court and Court of Appeal – carbon credit investment scheme fraud)
- R v Sevkett (Unreported 2013, Central Criminal Court and Court of Appeal – £1.5m film loan fraud)
- R v Aston Shim [2016] EWCA Crim 576
- R (Virgin Media Ltd) v Zinga [2015] 1 Cr App R 2
- AC (Wholesale) Ltd v Revenue & Customs Commissioners [2017] UKUT 191 (TCC)
- MBG Associates v Revenue & Customs Commissioners [2012] UKFTT 723 (TC)
- Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Swan and Others [2005] BCC 596

EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE

MA (Cantab) (law), Fitzwilliam College

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Lexis Nexis Corporate Crime Lawyers Consulting Editorial Board

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Butterworths (2003)