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## MARK ASHLEY

"An advocate specialising in criminal, regulatory, inquests, courts martial and civil work."

Call: 1993

For enquiries please call +44 (0)20 7353 0711 or email

Mark Ashley has over 20 years experience as a common law advocate.

His practice encompasses regulatory, civil and criminal work. His experience across different disciplines of law gives him a breadth of knowledge in matters that complement each other. He is involved in all stages of the legal process, from early advice to promote resolution of disputes, to the preparation of pleadings and advising on evidence, negotiating settlements where possible and conducting trials in court and where necessary providing advice on appeal.

Mark is a fully trained Public Access barrister.

## Criminal

He appears in all areas of Crown Court and Appeal work both defending and prosecuting. He has particular experience in matters of fraud, money laundering, large scale drug operations, serious sexual offences and white collar crime.

He was instructed in the first War Crimes trial held in the UK and went on to complete two years as counsel representing a core participant in the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry, chaired by Sir William Gage – which was the largest inquiry into the murder and torture of civilians in Iraq while in British Military custody.

Mark was also a leading junior in one of the largest international human trafficking cases ever prosecuted involving a nationwide organised ring trading women for prostitution.

## Regulatory & Disciplinary

Has considerable experience in regulatory and disciplinary cases. In particular Mark is instructed in matters relating to Health and Safety Regulations, Trading Standards prosecutions together with matters concerning Public Nuisance, Environmental Health and prosecutions involving the Maritime Agency, Local Authorities and the RSPCA.

His work encompasses the full range of seriousness including corporate manslaughter and gross negligence leading to serious personal injury or loss of life to the ever increasing issues of noise and light abatement and privacy from domestic CCTV security systems.

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## Courts Martial

He was instructed in the first War Crimes trial held in the UK and went on to complete two years as counsel representing a core participant in the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry, chaired by Sir William Gage – which was the largest inquiry into the murder and torture of civilians in Iraq while in British Military custody.

## Personal Injury

A significant proportion of his practice relates to large scale fraud matters. He has particular expertise in insurance fraud matters including high value motor and personal injury claims by organised crime groups, complex credit hire matters, phantom passenger claims and large scale fraud rings. He undertakes the full range of advocacy work together with the drafting of often complex litigation pleadings and advice on tactics and the merits of litigation.

He is regularly instructed in civil proceedings by a number of the UK's leading insurance companies as well as private practice defendant firms.

## Transport Law

Mark Ashley undertakes work in all areas of Transport Law.

### Serious Criminal Allegations

Mark has over 25 years experience in defending offences of Causing Death or Serious Injury by Dangerous or Careless Driving.

He is recognised for his ability to deal with factually complex matters as well as technically challenging evidence in cases relating to:

- mechanical failure
- poor vehicle maintenance
- poor highway maintenance
- the effect of drugs and alcohol
- the use of mobile phones whilst driving
- falling asleep at the wheel

### Driving Licence Endorsements and Disqualifications

Mark has had numerous successes defending individuals who have been able to retain their driving licence in circumstances where they had been facing an instant ban, or a ban by reason of “totting up” 12 or more penalty points.

This includes clients who are in danger of losing their employment if they lose their licence and occasions where “exceptional hardship” arguments can be deployed to allow a licence to be retained.

In particular Mark has expertise in matters involving speeding and with cases of drink-driving or driving whilst unfit which involve the back-calculation of blood-alcohol levels or the effect of prescribed medication.

### Inquests

Mark undertakes Inquests where questions arise following fatal road traffic accidents.

He recently represented the family of a deceased where the police had attended an accident in the early hours of the morning and allowed the road to re-open without properly checking the road in the vicinity of the accident for ice. Sadly, 18 minutes after the road was re-opened, the deceased and another man were driving along the same stretch of road when their vehicles collided resulting in the death of both men. Evidence was heard over a period of 7 weeks which led the Coroner to write to the Chief Constable with recommendations as to future police conduct and procedure.

### Tachograph Offences

Mark also accepts work in cases that concern lorry drivers' hours, tachograph offences and breaches of the Construction & Use Regulations (overweight vehicles), including appeals to the Crown Court.

#### Direct Access

Mark is happy to accept work in relation to matters of transport law from members of the public on a Direct Access basis.

## Professional associations

- Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers