



Patrick O'Connor QC

Year of call: 1970
Queen's Counsel: 1993

Office: London

doughty street chambers



Telephone: 020 7404 1313

Email: p.oconnor@doughtystreet.co.uk

Specialist Areas

**Criminal Law
Human Rights**

**Actions Against the Police
International Law**

Public & Administrative

Overview:

Patrick O'Connor Q.C. has 40 years' experience of the broadest range of criminal and civil work. Whether it be at trial or on appeal, in high profile criminal or civil law, at an Inquest into a death in custody or a Public Inquiry, he brings his experience, his imaginative creativity and his commitment to bear for the benefit of the client.

What the directories say

He is regularly recognised for his work in Chambers and Partners (crime, civil liberties and police law) and Legal 500 (civil liberties and human rights). "A really stellar reputation": "a hugely talented major player boasting a wealth of experience": "formidable advocacy and tigerish cross-examination": "strength wisdom and experience": "a compelling force in court": and "A really fine and lengthy track record and a wonderful skills base to work from; he is first-class." Most recently; "the tremendously experienced Patrick O'Connor QC is renowned for his long-established and broad-ranging civil and criminal law practice. He is viewed as "a real senior statesman who has more experience of complex cases than most."

Career cases

CRIME

Appellate

He has conducted many leading 'miscarriage of justice' appeals:

- the '**Guildford Four**', for Gerry Conlon and his father, Giuseppe
- the '**Birmingham Six**'



Patrick O'Connor QC

Year of call: 1970
Queen's Counsel: 1993

Office: London

doughty street chambers



Telephone: 020 7404 1313

Email: p.oconnor@doughtystreet.co.uk

- the '**Carl Bridgewater**' case, for Jimmy Robinson
- the '**M 25**' appeal, for Raphael Rowe
- **Andrew Evans**, released after 25 years in prison for murder:
- **Robert Maynard** in the 'headless torso' case from the 1970s.

In several Privy Council death penalty appeals he has acted on a pro bono basis: **Stanley Abbott**, 1976, authority on duress in murder: and '**Farrington**', 1996, and '**Higgs**', 1999.

He won the points of law in four leading House of Lords criminal appeals:

- **R v Chard** (1984, Home Secretary's references to Court of Appeal)
- **B. v DPP** (2000, strict liability in crime) [2000] 2 WLR 452: "one of the most important of the last century" (Professor Smith)
- **R v Looseley**, the guideline case on 'entrapment' and the limits upon incitement: [2001] 1 WLR 2060.

He acted for the successful appellant in **R v Kennedy** [2007] UKHL 38, overturning his ten-year-old conviction for manslaughter, after supplying drugs to the deceased. Several Court of Appeal decisions were overruled, and basic principles of causation and complicity re-affirmed.

In 2010, he conducted a major 'abuse of process' criminal appeal before the Supreme Court, **R v Maxwell**.

After his reference from the C of A to the ECJ, Luxembourg, in 1980, **R v Tymen**, he won the first ever criminal appeal based on Community Law.

Trials

He defended in many high profile political and '**terrorist**' criminal trials, including the '**Bradford 12**', the Orgreave miners, the Harrods bombing and in 2003, the '**Real IRA**'



Patrick O'Connor QC

Year of call: 1970
Queen's Counsel: 1993

Office: London

doughty street chambers



Telephone: 020 7404 1313

Email: p.oconnor@doughtystreet.co.uk

BBC and Ealing bombings: and the first major Islamic terrorism trial, '**Operation Crevice**'.

He has defended in many murder trials: and prosecuted a high profile corporate manslaughter case. He acted for the DPP in the prosecution against BNP leaders for 'incitement to racial hatred' arising out of an undercover BBC operation.

CIVIL

For 20 years, he has pursued actions against the police, including

- record damages in **Rupert Taylor v CMP**, 1988
- the first damages award for police 'torture', **Treadaway v CC West Midlands, 1994**:
- the 2004, appeal **Paul v CC Humberside**, on the trial role of judge and jury.
- the 2009 appeal **Clifford v CC Herts Police**, overturning the findings of fact of the Trial Judge.

He won the first two civil claims for victims' families against unconvicted murderers: '**Halford v Brookes**' and '**Francisco v Diedrick**', both also later convicted.

He represented the family of **Zahid Mubarek**, who was murdered by his cell-mate in Feltham YOI, winning a landmark 2003 House of Lords order for a public inquiry, under Article 2, ECHR, **R [Amin] v SSHD** [2003 3 WLR 1169: and in the Mubarek public inquiry. He represented the Conlon family at the '**May Public Inquiry**', into their miscarriages of justice. He is instructed to act in the forthcoming '**Al Sweady**' public inquiry.

He has acted, pro bono, at Inquests for the families of the victims of deaths in police custody. He obtained 'unlawful killing' verdicts in both '**Ibrahim Sey**', and '**Richard O'Brien**' inquests. He is acting for the victims of the **London 7/7 bombings**, in their forthcoming Inquest and their JR of the Home Secretary's refusal of a public inquiry. He resisted the government's attempts to exclude his clients from parts of the evidence hearings, on alleged 'national security' grounds.



Patrick O'Connor QC

Year of call: 1970
Queen's Counsel: 1993

Office: London

doughty street chambers



Telephone: 020 7404 1313

Email: p.oconnor@doughtystreet.co.uk

He acted for the family of the deceased boy, who died in a secure training centre, in their successful JR of proposed amendments to the restraint practices of custody staff; [2009] 2 WLR 1039.

He won three of the rare successful JR challenges to CPS decisions: '**Treadaway**', '**O'Brien**' and '**Simon Jones**', the Shoreham Docks case.

Patrick O'Connor acted for Lorraine **Osman**, in the longest ever fight against extradition from the UK; for the solicitor victim of Revenue powers of search and seizure, **Tamosius v IRC**, 1999; and for the child claimants in early environmental litigation, against lead in petrol: **Budden v Shell**, 1980.

Academic and Professional standing

- LLB (Hons) University College, London.
- He is authorised counsel before the new ICC in The Hague.
- He has been called to the Bar of Bermuda.
- He is a Bencher of Inner Temple.

Publications

He has written two authoritative articles in the Criminal Law Review, which have received judicial approval: on criminal appeals and prosecution disclosure: and a review of documentary hearsay, for *Archbold* Supplement.

In 2002, Patrick O'Connor visited and jointly reported for the Human Rights Committee of the Bar on the Israel/Palestine conflict.

He has written a paper published by 'Justice', in January, 2009, on 'The Constitutional Role of the Privy Council and the Prerogative'.



Patrick O'Connor QC

Year of call: 1970
Queen's Counsel: 1993

Office: London

doughty street chambers



Telephone: 020 7404 1313

Email: p.oconnor@doughtystreet.co.uk

Seminars/Lectures

He has conducted many seminars on legal and human rights issues: most recently, upon constitutional reform, namely the 'Privy Council and the Prerogative': upon 'Hate Speech and the criminal law' at a Justice conference on 'Freedom of Expression.': and upon Inquests and state secrecy.

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Justice
- Inquest Lawyers' Group
- Haldane Society

Languages

French, at a moderate level