Email: clerks@churchcourtchambers.co.uk
Phone: 020 7936 3637

Colin Witcher

Year of call: 2010 | Year of silk:
Ranked as a Leading Junior Tier 1, Legal 500 2027 and Leading Individual, Chambers and Partners 2027

Deputy District Judge, and Recorder (Crime)

Appointed in 2022 and 2024

About

Stand out Junior Colin Witcher is ranked by both Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500, where he is described as completely brilliant, a KC in waiting and a formidable opponent. He receives universal praise for his charisma, flair and natural advocacy skills. Colin is known for his commanding courtroom presence, meticulous case preparation and excellent client care; as the directories observe you want him on your side. Colin has cemented his position as Counsel of choice for instructing solicitors and Kings Counsel in complex and paper-heavy cases. In 2026 alone he is led by seven different Kings Counsel. He also routinely appears as sole counsel and leading other juniors. He is often instructed in the most sensitive and well publicised criminal and regulatory cases including those involving high profile defendants. In 2026 he has appeared as Junior Counsel in the landmark Operation Afterburn embargo trial; defended a member of Foreign Royalty before Southwark Crown Court; been instructed to prosecute a former MP for sexual assault; and has advised a trillion-dollar turnover company. Historically he has appeared in the FA Bribery and Corruption Trial, defended in the high-profile lorry manslaughter case where 39 individuals lost their lives, and represented Kings Counsel before the Bar Standards Board. Whilst covering the broad spectrum of serious general crime, Colin is a recognised specialist in financial crime and corporate wrong-doing, including specialising in confiscation, AFOs and cash forfeiture. He has appeared as Leading Junior in three lengthy fraud trials at Southwark Crown Court (on behalf of the first defendant in each case) and prosecuted a fatality at work arising from Health and Safety failings. Colin also regularly advises individuals and corporate bodies in the ever-growing area of Private Prosecutions and has developed a strong client base in this area of law. Alongside a busy court practice, Colin was retained by the Bank of England assisting in a complex investigation (including managing a team of Counsel) and prior to that spent three years assisting a Regulator with an EU competition procurement matter. He is as comfortable in the boardroom as he is in Court with clients appreciating his realistic, pragmatic, and user-friendly approach. In addition to extensive trial advocacy experience, Colin has a strong appellate practice: three of his recent appellate cases feature in the current editions of the leading practitioner texts. Colin also provides training and seminars, internationally, on financial crime, trial preparation, and advocacy. Colin is a Recorder (Crime), Deputy District Judge (MC), Grade 4 Prosecutor, Rasso Prosecutor, and an Advocacy Trainer at Middle Temple. He is also a legal commentator and was described in the media as a shows secret weapon following his appearance on a prime-time Channel 4 programme. 2026/2027 instructions: Operation A: Led by James Hines KC in a complex embargo case described by the Times as the most significant arms case to come before a domestic court and described by HMRC and the Crown as a landmark prosecution Operation X: Led by Richard Fisher KC in a 85m+ evasion of duty case. Operation T: Led by Lisa Wilding KC on behalf of the lead defendant in historic sexual offending case. R v E: Led by Kate Bex KC in prosecution of two defendants for rape, which occurred within a psychiatric unit. R v D: Led by Benjamin Aina KC in sensitive prosecution for murder within a family context. R v E: Led by Maria Karaiskos KC in murder appeal, concerning when self-defence should be left to the jury in the absence of the same forming part of the positive defence case. Re X: Led by Lewis Power KC in cross-boarder international fraud. AG v X: Leading Creana Dodson in respect to a matter of law and principle concerning AG References when a Respondent has been deported. R v A: Attempted murder trial at the Central

Central Court 25 Southampton Buildings London WC2A 1A

Criminal Court. Instructions of note: BSB v J: Led by Alisdair Williamson KC for the Respondent Silk in high-profile professional discipline case (2025) R v X: Defending a member of foreign Royalty in proceedings before Southwark Crown Court (2026) R v X: Defending a member of foreign Royalty in proceedings before Westminster Magistrates Court (2025) R v D: Counsel alone over six week trial for international trafficking (2025) R v E: Defending world-eminent surgeon of sexual offences (2024) R v D: Leading Junior (Leading Michael Polak of Chambers) defending banker in internal banking fraud (2024) R v E: Counsel alone on behalf of defendant charged with attempted murder and conspiracy to posses firearms with intent to endanger life over two six-week trials (2024) R v G and others: Led by Kate Bex KC in the prosecution of five defendants for conspiracy to rape over a 5 week trial (2024) R v D: Leading Michael Polak in respect to an internal banking fraud (2024) R v T: Led by Kate Bex KC in unusual and sensitive historic sex case concerning deception as to anatomical sex both a trial and in the Court of Appeal (2024) R v D: Leading Fiona McAddy on behalf of the first defendant in an investment fraud over a six week trial (2023) R v D: Led by Lewis Power KC in point-blank revenge shooting on behalf of extradited defendant at the Old Bailey (2023) R v E: Leading Junior (Leading Michael Polak) on behalf of the first defendant in a large-scale sporting event fraud over a six week trial (2022) R v H: Led by Alisdair Williamson KC in high profile manslaughter case in which 39 people died over a two month trial (2021)

Practice Areas

- Regulatory And Disciplinary Law
- International Law
- Public Law
- Civil Law
- Business Crime
- Criminal Law
- Art And Antiquity
- Sports Law
- Private Prosecution

Languages

- English

Publications

Extradition: Old Dogs, New Tricks (published by IFO) Colin co-wrote this article on extradition law with Kerim Fuad QC offering commentary on the separation of powers in the light of recent high-profile cases.

Disabled Children, a legal handbook (published by LAG) Colin was a researcher for this leading textbook on child disability law, focusing on researching and drafting content in respect of Statements of Special Educational Needs.

An Innocent Mans Parole (Published by Converse) Article co-written with Charles Archer of J4E ltd offering advice for prisoners seeking parole whilst maintaining their innocence

Seminars and Lectures

The Value of Legal Learning (Law Conference 2014)

TUPE, an update (Chambers Lecture Series)

Contempt of Court (Chambers Lecture Series)

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Forensic Science (Chambers Lecture Series)

Confiscation in drug conspiracies (Chambers Lecture Series)

Comparative Trial Advocacy (Stetson Law School, USA abroad programme)

Effective Technology in case presentation (Delaware, USA)

Memberships and Appointments

Recorder, Crime (2024)

Deputy District Judge, Appointed 2022

Member of the Criminal Bar Association (CBA)

Inns of Court: Pegasus Scholar 2014

Grade Four Crown Prosecution Panel Member

SFO: LPP Disclosure Counsel

Scholarships and Education

Nottingham Law School, LLB (top 2.5 % in cohort)

BPP Law School, BVC (top 2.5% in cohort)

Nottingham Law School: European Funding Award

Middle Temple: Jules Thorn Scholarship

Middle Temple: Certificate of Honour for performance in Bar Finals

Cases of note

R v C

Appeal against conviction; judicial conduct in VAT fraud.

R v D

Appeal against conviction; cross territorial jurisdictional of document fraud offences.

R v G

Appeal against sentence in respect of manifestly excessive sentence; drugs.

R v P

Appeal against conviction in cold case review; murder, fresh evidence.

R v N

Appeal against sentence in respect of error of law and manifestly excessive sentence.

R v G

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CCRC Appeal in respect of cold case review; bank robbery, fresh evidence.

R v M [Maidstone Crown Court]
Led Junior in five day final hearing; confiscation sought for 152million; awarded 500,000.

R v P [Warwick Crown Court]
Privately retained on behalf of company directors in patent/trade mark offences.

R v G [Harrow Crown Court]
Privately retained on behalf of multimillionaire property developer; confiscation sought for 1million; awarded 190,000.

R v E [Snaresbrook Crown Court]
Privately retained; successfully opposed an application by the Crown under section 22 to increase available amount.

R v D [Harrow Crown Court]
Successfully made section 23 application.

R v R [High Court]
Application for Certificate of Inadequacy.

R v O [Leicester Crown Court]
Leading Estelle Thornber of Chambers in paper heavy case (150,000 pages) where 11 defendants faced an indictment alleging violent disorder in the context of an attempted murder.

R v D [Central Criminal Court]
Led Junior in four week murder trial.

R v R [Leicester Crown Court]
Led Junior in multi-million pound conspiracy to supply Class A and B Drug, value in excess of 5million.

R v S [Maidstone Crown Court]
Led Junior in two month conspiracy to supply / import class A Drugs trial, value in excess of 7million.

R v N [Luton Crown Court]
Led Junior in a five week conspiracy to murder trial.

R v D [Southwark Crown Court]
Led Junior in 1m fraud against the Government (deaf defendants).

R v S [Maidstone Crown Court]
Led Junior in a seven week multi-million pound money laundering trial.

R v P [Central Criminal Court]
Led Junior in 1.5m fraud against HMRC.

R v G [Kingston Crown Court]
Led Junior in three week attempted murder trial.

R v E [Croydon Crown Court]
Gang rape by young males of drunk complainant.

R v D [Reading Crown Court]
Multi-Count familiar rape (24 alleged occasions of rape); cross-examination of young complainant.

Central Court 25 Southampton Buildings London WC2A 1A

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R v P [Northampton Crown Court]

Violent rape in the context of domestic violence.

R v W [Woolwich Crown Court]

Knife point repeated rape of prostitute.

R v C [Inner London Crown Court]

Assault allegation jointly charged with codefendant facing attempted murder; cross examination on premises of fabrication and stitch up.

R v X [Woolwich Crown Court]

Successfully defended in Section 18 and Threats to Kill matter.

R v O [Woolwich Crown Court]

Successfully acted at trial on behalf of a defendant (a victim of domestic violence) who stabbed her husband four times in self-defence.

R v D [Central Criminal Court]

Secured not guilty verdict for lifer charged with aggravated burglary.

R v E [Isleworth Crown Court]

Defence of company accountant; three separate trials resulting in acquittal.

R v X [Kingston Crown Court]

Six week 17 handed conspiracy to rob trial (69 separate high value robberies). Secured one of two only acquittals.

R v E [Southwark Crown Court]

Led by QC in high-profile and unusual fraudulent trading case.

R v B [Central Criminal Court]

Led by QC in cheating public revenue matter.

X v X [Advisory]

Together with QC advising on an international injunction case for LA based clients.

MYE [Advisory]

Retained privately by the European subsidary of an international finance company (with $2.5billion holdings) to advise on insider trading (both FSMA and CJA).

SFO [Advisory]

Retained as LPP Counsel by SFO in respect of international bribery case.

HMRC [Advisory]

Retained as LPP Counsel by HMRC in respect of 400m tax fraud.

R v S [Canterbury Crown Court]

Defence Counsel on behalf of an accountant charged with fraudulent trading.

R v P [Nottingham Crown Court]

Instructed defence Counsel in 12 handed trading standards trial, prosecuted by Queens Counsel.

R v M [Kingston Crown Court]

Privately retained in a five day fraud trial concerning misrepresentation to induce and retain building contracts.

R v G [Warwick Crown Court]

Privately retained on the behalf of a company director of a large-scale importers and distributors in respect of trade

description offence arising from EU patent breaches.

X v D [High Court, QBD]

Junior Alone in a 3million Freezing Injunction arising out of a breach of fiduciary duty.

HSE v F [Bromley Magistrates Court]

Successfully secured not guilty verdicts in a health safety prosecution in respect of contractors working at height.

U v S [High Court, QBD]

Led by Damien Brown QC in a high-value Employment/Commercial Dispute involving high profile clients and media coverage.

X v X [Bournemouth County Court]

Successfully acted at trial in respect of defending liability for valuable cargo which was damaged during transportation.

P v P [Advisory]

Led by Kerim Fuad QC in advising a leading commercial firm in respect of private prosecutions and injunctions due to conduct by former employee.

Quotes

"Colin's ability to analyse complex legal issues, formulate persuasive arguments and maintain composure under pressure distinguish him as a truly outstanding advocate"
Chambers & Partners 2027, ranked in Band 5 for London, Crime

Colin is a superb junior. He is clever, charming and able to see the heart of the case straight away.
Chambers & Partners 2027, ranked in Band 5 for London, Crime

"Dedicated, reliable, charismatic and a fighter."
Chambers & Partners 2026, ranked in Band 5 for London, Crime

"A fantastic, heavyweight advocate."
Chambers & Partners 2026, ranked in Band 5 for London, Crime

"Colin is an exceptional advocate and a true master of the courtroom. His advocacy is consistently precise, persuasive, and strategically astute."
Legal 500 2026 Ranked Ranked as a Leading Junior Tier 1.

"He is a complete delight, a very good barrister and a wonderful advocate."
Chambers & Partners 2025, ranked in Band 6 for London, Crime

"Colin is a class act. He has very good rapport with the court and judges, is very professional and knows what to do in difficult situations."
Chambers & Partners 2025, ranked in Band 6 for London, Crime

"Colin is a completely brilliant junior. He is always on top of the facts, excellent with both solicitors and lay clients, and has an ability to command the attention of his audience. He is a formidable opponent and certainly a KC in waiting."
Legal 500 2025, Ranked Ranked as a Leading Junior Tier 1.

"Colin is a natural advocate. His charisma and flair can make even the most unlikely and difficult defence seem plausible. His commitment and passion to his clients cause is obvious to all. The combination of these qualities as well as a commanding grasp of the law make him a formidable opponent. You want Colin on your side"
Legal 500 2023, Ranked as a Leading Junior Tier 1.

His written submissions are really persuasive and his speeches are brilliant. He uses the right level of humour when it's needed

Colin is the sort of lawyer you would want on board if you were faced with a novel point of law. He has a real passion for his subject and understands the law very well

Chambers & Partners 2023 - Ranked as Leading Junior

"Colin is extremely bright, with a very calm and engaging manner. He is a fearless court advocate. Clients know they are in safe hands with him"
Legal 500 2022, Ranked as a Leading Junior

"Colin Witcher is incredibly calm and well organised, safe and reassuring with clients, with a superb legal brain which gives great attention to the detail in the most complex of cases"
Legal 500 2021, Ranked as a Leading Junior

"Juries warm to him; he approaches the cross-examination of vulnerable witnesses with care and skill."
Legal 500 2020, Ranked as a Leading Junior

A very fine Advocate, an impressive knowledge of law and procedure
Legal 500 2019, Ranked as a Leading Junior