

Don Tait

**Degree:**

BA (Hons)

Year of call and Inn:

1987; Inner Temple. Former solicitor: Admitted 1980. In private practice 1980 to 1983 and Senior Prosecuting Solicitor (Avon and Somerset Constabulary 1983 to 1987)

Professional Membership:

Western Circuit; CBA

Email:

don.tait@albionchambers.co.uk

Appointments:

Recorder 2000 (Crown Court)

Specialist Areas:

Crime, including Courts Martial

Practice Overview:

Don Tait is a specialist criminal practitioner. He is a CPS panel advocate level 4 prosecutor and is on the approved list of counsel for the Attorney General (unified prosecuting list A).

Recommendations:

Recommended for a purview of serious crime cases

Legal 500 2019

His practice covers high-profile fraud, homicide, and sexual offences cases

Legal 500 2017

He has recent experience in prosecuting and defending historic sexual abuse cases

Legal 500 2016

He has particular experience in multi-handed cases, including drugs conspiracies and burglaries

Legal 500 2015

Known for being able to assimilate vast amounts of evidence and present concise cases.

Areas of Practice

Crime

Don has considerable experience gained over many years in the prosecution and defence of the most serious criminal cases. He has appeared in many high-profile cases including homicide, fraud, serious sexual offences (often of an historical nature) and drug and cigarette trafficking. His practice extends throughout the western circuit and beyond. He is regularly instructed as a leading junior.

Don is known for his ability to handle cases involving vast amounts of evidence. He is able to assimilate and present clear and concise cases, and to absorb, understand and present detailed and extensive data, in particular in relation to the examination and analysis of mobile phones.

He has extensive experience in relation to public interest immunity issues, human and covert intelligence gathering and the interception of communications.

Significant cases include:

Operation Garmin: Multi-handed conspiracy to burgle commercial premises and jewellers in the South West;

R v Coleman: Defence of historic sex abuse;

Operation Apollo: Multi-handed Class A drugs conspiracy including allegations of extensive money laundering to Jamaica;

Operation Churchill: Multi-handed conspiracy to burgle commercial premises and jewellers in Devon;

R v Morley and Others: Fraudulent trading involving high-value motor vehicles;

R v Abbott-Compton and Others: Fraudulent trading prosecution involving property developers in Devon and Cornwall;

R v M: Prosecution of historic sexual abuse where a sentence of 23 years was imposed;

R v Clarke: Prosecution of male individual on charges of kidnapping and wounding with intent. Due to witness intimidation significant reliance upon the hearsay provisions was required;

R v Favetta: Successful defence of one of four defendants charged with manslaughter. Medical evidence involving death by positional asphyxiation;

Operation Signalkuppel: Prosecution of multi-handed importation of drugs from Spain to UK;

R v Ogunyemi and Others: Prosecution of a multi-handed money laundering case involving the interception of high value packages from Royal Mail and the opening of bogus bank accounts with the aid of a bank employee;

Operation Sheffield Empire: Joint operation by Gloucestershire Constabulary, HMRC and the Department for Work and Pensions targeting a family involved in wide-scale fraud, money laundering, tax evasion and benefit fraud throughout the south of England and Wales;

Operation Bowsprit: Allegations of blackmail by a south west car clamping company which targeted vulnerable members of the motoring public;

R v Maclean: Defence of a young man charged with the murder of his step-mother. Mental health issues involved;

R v Squire and R v Choudhury: Prosecution of two cases of attempted murder;

Operation Fabula: Six-handed conspiracy to import multi-kilo quantities of cocaine from Brazil via Madrid. Investigations by Dorset police, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and HM Revenue and Customs. Case heard at Bournemouth Crown Court during 2008 and 2009. The case involved, amongst other things, the extradition of an Iranian national from Brazil – believed to be the first successful extradition to the UK from that country. Confiscation proceedings with benefit figures in the millions of pounds. As leading junior prosecuting counsel, Don received a Chief Constable’s commendation.

Crime Clerks:

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