



## Peter Csemiczky

Partner

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Peter Csemiczky is an expert criminal defence solicitor in our Serious & General Crime team who offers his clients a complete service from investigation to trial.

He acts for individuals and organisations facing a broad spectrum of criminal allegations: from homicide and other violent offences to serious sexual assaults, drugs, communications and motoring offences. Whatever the allegation, Peter understands the impact of an investigation or proceedings on his clients and gives the same intense commitment to all his cases.

Peter has a particularly strong reputation for representing professionals, high profile and HNW individuals facing allegations of sexual offences, for all of whom any suggestion that they are connected to a crime is professionally and personally devastating.

Peter's clients have included some of the best known people in Britain facing the most serious allegations. He takes pride in providing a truly personal and dedicated service, whatever their problem.

As litigator and advocate in both Magistrates' and Crown Courts, Peter is expert in navigating the investigation and prosecution processes so that allegations are either ended early or are completed in the most discreet way possible. His diligent case preparation, fierce determination and sympathetic manner mean that clients are highly enthusiastic about the results he achieves. Peter's success in this area is, in part, due to his ability to handle with sensitivity matters which, if not given the appropriate care and attention, would cause huge personal, professional, financial and reputational damage. Peter has developed niche specialisms advising individuals on the criminal, regulatory and reputational implications of social media posts and maintaining an online profile, and advising students facing university disciplinary investigations and/or proceedings arising out of criminal allegations, most commonly of a sexual nature.

After initially training to be a musician and a fledgling career in Fintech, Peter qualified as a solicitor in 2009 and joined Hickman & Rose in 2015. He was made a partner in January 2018.

Peter is a recommended lawyer in the Legal 500 and maintains his band 2 ranking in Chambers & Partners.

Peter is an active current member of the European Criminal Bar Association, and is the former secretary and committee member of the London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association.

## Areas of Expertise

### Sexual Offences

Peter is regularly instructed in relation to allegations of sexual offences, both non-recent and contemporary. His deep experience of the criminal investigation process means he is able to offer his clients expert advice on the best way to engage with authorities.

He also advises individuals facing sexual misconduct investigation by institutions such as universities, schools and employers. While institutional investigations are serious and can be very complex in their own right, they also have the potential to develop into criminal investigations. Peter ensures that these quasi-criminal investigations are treated carefully with an eye on the potential impact in any subsequent police investigation or trial.

Peter is often instructed in these matters at the very earliest stages. His long experience in this field enables him to determine the best way to approach potential interviews and to retain control in what is often a bewildering and worrying process.

His clients in these matters include household names from the sporting and entertainment worlds, regulated professionals such as financiers, doctors, teachers and lawyers.

Recent work highlights include:

- being a key member of the team acting for footballer Benjamin Mendy, who was acquitted of multiple counts of rape and sexual assault over two trials of serious sexual offences
- acting for singer-songwriter Rex Orange County accused of numerous sexual assaults, the prosecution of whom was stopped after representations from the defence
- persuading the police to end their investigation into a key figure in the music industry accused of rape

### Crisis & Reputation Management

Peter has a strong reputation for handling sensitive cases which, if not given the appropriate care and attention, can cause disproportionately large financial and career damage to clients. He provides robust yet realistic advice to professional and high profile clients with valuable reputations to protect, for whom merely being named in respect of a police investigation is potentially devastating.

He recognises the importance of his clients' privacy and reputation which remain at the forefront of his strategy throughout the life of a case.

Peter's diligent case preparation, fierce determination and sympathetic manner means clients are highly enthusiastic about the results he achieves.

He has acted for some of Britain's best known individuals in criminal matters both serious and relatively minor and has achieved significant successes not only in persuading law enforcement agencies to end investigations without charge, but also ensuring minimal, or no, publicity.

Recent cases include:

- ensuring a police investigation into alleged sexual offences by a household name from the entertainment industry ended without the need for interview
- advising a high-profile client in relation to an unusual aspect of wildlife protection law
- acting for a major international music star accused of a serious sexual assault. That investigation, like many others Peter has worked on, ended without charge and without public scrutiny for the accused

## Murder, Manslaughter & Violent Crime

Peter is instructed in the most serious of cases, including those involving a death.

Notable cases include:

- acting for Gene Gallagher, son of Liam Gallagher and Nicole Appleton, accused of affray and racially aggravated assault. These serious allegations were resolved without conviction
- securing the acquittal of a professional accused of grievous bodily harm
- ensuring an allegation of a serious assault by a young US national was discontinued before trial
- acting for the suspect in a 'home invasion' murder investigation, against whom the police took no further action
- advising a nurse in relation to an allegation of gross negligence manslaughter
- persuading the prosecution to accept a plea to careless driving when acting for a driver initially investigated for a serious assault using a vehicle.

## Professionally Damaging Allegations

Peter routinely represents individuals accused of crimes which, while not necessarily the most serious, can nonetheless be hugely damaging. Drink and drug-related allegations, certain types of assaults, motoring allegations, communications offences: these sorts of crimes can be hugely damaging even if the allegation never reaches the charge stage.

Peter works alongside colleagues in the firm's civil litigation team – and with a select group of trusted reputational and media experts outside the firm – to ensure that 'collateral damage' from any criminal allegation is kept to a minimum.

He has enjoyed significant success preventing unmerited allegations from entering the public domain. Often this is done by taking decisive action at an early stage by persuading an investigating authority to end its inquiry before the charging stage.

His clients in these matters have included celebrities, politicians and other household names but they are also HNWs and doctors, lawyers and City professionals for whom an allegation of

wrongdoing would be reputationally and professionally devastating.

## Motoring Offences

Peter often represents drivers charged with the whole range of motoring offences, from the most serious which tragically involved a death to drink or drug driving and speeding. He understands the impact these investigations and prosecutions can have on an individual and brings his tenacity and attention to detail to every case.

Notable case include:

- successfully defending a stonemason charged following the death of a pedestrian on a construction site so that the case was dismissed before trial
- advising a high-profile individual in a police investigation following the tragic death of a motorcyclist. Peter worked closely with experts to ensure that no charges were brought
- persuading the police not to charge a driver involved in a serious road traffic collision involving serious injuries to a child
- acting for a household name facing a drink-driving charge
- acting for a Hollywood A-list actor facing losing his driving licence

## What Others Say

- “Band 2” lawyer in General Crime – *Chambers UK, 2024*
- “Key Lawyer” in General Crime – *Legal 500, 2024*