

Gareth Rees, QC

Partner

*Special Matters and Government
Investigations*

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Gareth Rees defends clients facing investigations in the UK and abroad and provides financial and corporate crime and regulatory advice. He is a partner in the firm's Special Matters and Investigations practice.

Gareth spent five years as the Executive Director of Enforcement and Executive Counsel at the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), the UK's statutory audit regulator and corporate governance authority. He led high-profile investigations and prosecutions of accountants, auditors and actuaries in matters which affect the UK public interest.

Before his appointment to the FRC in 2012, Gareth spent more than 30 years in private practice. In particular, he specialised in corporate and financial regulatory defence as well as criminal investigations related to fraud, corruption, bribery, sanctions, money laundering and insider dealing. Gareth was appointed Queen's Counsel (QC) in 2003.

Gareth practiced at the UK Bar as a trial lawyer in some of the highest profile cases of the last 25 years including the earliest Serious Fraud Office (SFO) cases in 1992. He was described as "simply fantastic to work with" and "dynamic and very astute" for fraud in the directories and, in addition, he was sought after as a speaker at international seminars and has written widely on these matters.

As Queen's Counsel he was the leader on trial strategy and as the lead advocate. In other matters he gave advice at early stages to prevent matters from being litigated. His reputation consistently placed him as a leader in the Bar Directories and led to him being appointed to the FRC resulting in the successful restructuring and expansion of the team responsible for the investigation and prosecution of accounting and auditing misconduct in the preparation and audit of financial statements.

Matters

Fraud

London Jubilee Line extension Fraud 2003

Versailles Plc 2004

Independent Insurance Plc(SFO and FSA) 2007

Bribery and Corruption

Millenium Dome Corruption 2005

Mars UK bribery 2010

United Nations ‘Know-How Fund’ DRC Corruption 2012

Advising the Attorney-General of Jersey on an investigation involving alleged African corruption

Insider Dealing and Market Abuse

Market manipulation case 1996

Insider Dealing criminal trial 2010

Insider dealing regulatory settlement 2009

Sanctions

Oil-for-Food Iraq sanctions 2010

Iranian military sanctions 2011

Money Laundering

Involved in leading international money laundering criminal litigation leading to clarification of the law on statutory conspiracy 2002

Advising hedge fund of offshore ML obligations 2011

Disciplinary

Instructed by the FRC in accountancy and audit disciplinary matters 2009-11

Acting for the Bar Standards Board 2010

Member of Rugby Football Union Disciplinary Tribunal since 2009

Credentials

EDUCATION

Diploma in Law, Polytechnic of Central London

B.A., University of Reading, honors

ADMISSIONS

England and Wales

Queen’s Counsel

ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers

Fraud Law Association

England & Wales (Admitted July 1981; Reg # 15340)

Insights

CLIENT ALERT

December 3, 2018

A Rock or A Hard Place?

September 5, 2018

Court of Appeal decision in SFO v ENRC: litigation privilege wins the day (for now)

NEWSLETTER

May 31, 2018

Financial Services Focus

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

December 3, 2019

Gareth Rees QC to Speak at GIR Live London Winter Event

June 28, 2019

Gareth Rees QC to Speak at ABA's Global White-Collar Crime Institute

April 9, 2019

Gareth Rees to Chair the Association of Regulatory & Disciplinary Lawyers' Seminar

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News

IN THE NEWS

March 7, 2019 • Source: Financial Times

Gareth Rees QC comments on the UK's poor record on corporate crime

RECOGNITION

October 10, 2019

Chambers UK 2020 Guide Recognizes King & Spalding With Multiple Rankings

September 27, 2019

Legal 500 UK 2020 Recognizes King & Spalding Among Leading UK Law Firms

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