



*"Leila is a stand out individual in the next generation of the financial crime market. She has impeccable judgement and has a very impressive work ethic."*

Chambers and Partners 2025

*"Leila is phenomenal. She is incredibly bright and hard-working, superb with clients, and tactically astute"*

Legal 500 2025

*"Leila is client friendly and exceptionally experienced. She is responsive, thoughtful, strategic and a dream to work with. She is destined for greatness."*

Chambers and Partners 2024

Leila has a varied criminal practice, with particular experience defending corporate and individual clients in large, complex financial crime cases. She is ranked in Chambers and Partners for both Financial Crime and Corporate Crime, in Legal 500 for Fraud (Crime), and in Lexology (formerly Who's Who Legal) for Investigations.

Leila came to the Bar from a career as a solicitor. She trained and qualified at Slaughter and May between 2013 and 2015, before spending a further five years in the London office of WilmerHale where she specialised in financial crime and investigations. She therefore has criminal litigation experience, skill and judgement well beyond her years of call.

Leila's work highlights include appearing as junior defence counsel in the Serious Fraud Office prosecution of Balli Steel, and in bribery proceedings against the former Chief of Staff to the President of Madagascar. She is instructed to represent the former COO of Petrofac, prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office for bribery, and is junior counsel for the Serious Fraud Office in the investigation of suspected fraud at the Safe Hands Plans funeral company. Leila also has experience of deferred prosecution agreements, having represented Entain plc in its £615 million deferred prosecution agreement with the Crown Prosecution Service.

#### Fraud, Bribery and Corruption

Leila represents a number of individuals charged with fraud, bribery and corruption. This includes high-profile, complex cases prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office. She is ranked in Band 3 in Chambers and Partners for Financial Crime: Corporates, and is on the Serious Fraud Office's B Panel of Counsel.

Leila appeared as first junior counsel at trial for a defendant in the Serious Fraud Office prosecution of fraud offences at Balli Group and Balli Steel, and in subsequent confiscation proceedings. She was junior counsel at trial to Romy Andrianarisoa, the former Chief of Staff to the President of Madagascar, who was prosecuted for requesting a bribe under section 2 of the Bribery Act 2010. She is also instructed to represent the former COO of Petrofac in a bribery matter prosecuted by the Serious Fraud Office.

While working as a solicitor, Leila represented Jean-Daniel Lainé, the former-Chief Compliance Officer of Alstom, who was charged with conspiracy to corrupt in relation to contracts secured by Alstom in Hungary. After a ten-week retrial, Mr Lainé was acquitted. She also represented suspects and witnesses in a number of other Serious Fraud Office investigations, including the investigations into British American Tobacco, Rolls Royce, GlaxoSmithKline, KBR, and Barclays.

Leila has experience in Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 matters, including contested confiscation proceedings, High Court civil recovery proceedings, and unexplained wealth orders. She was instructed as second junior counsel for the National Crime Agency in multi million pound civil recovery proceedings against the wife of the former Chairman of the International Bank of Azerbaijan, Jahangir Hajiyev.

Although Leila's practice predominantly focusses on defence work, she also prosecutes serious financial crime. She is currently instructed as junior counsel for the Serious Fraud Office in its investigation and prosecution of alleged fraud at the Safe Hands Plans funeral company.

In addition to her work for individuals, Leila represents corporate clients in these areas, both for standalone advisory work and on longer-running investigations and prosecutions.

## Corporate Crime

Leila's commercial background - first as a City solicitor at Slaughter and May with a predominantly commercial practice, and subsequently as a white collar criminal practitioner at WilmerHale - means she is exceptionally well-placed to take on a wide range of corporate criminal work. She is ranked in Band 2 in Chambers and Partners for Financial Crime: Corporates.

Leila has experience representing corporates in a number of Serious Fraud Office investigations, including the investigation into Glencore plc. She appeared as second junior counsel (led by David Perry K.C. and Katherine Hardcastle) for Entain plc in connection with its £615 million deferred prosecution agreement with the CPS (the first ever DPA agreed with the CPS). She has provided advice to corporate clients on a range of criminal and regulatory matters, and has represented several organisations, including banks and other financial institutions, in proceedings before the Financial Conduct Authority. Leila has also worked on a number of investigations by overseas authorities, in particular the United States Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

As a result of Leila's depth of experience representing corporates, and her understanding of corporate structures and procedures, and her experience in civil, criminal and regulatory matters, she is able to provide pragmatic and commercially-sensitive legal advice to these clients.

Leila has particular experience advising on complex issues of legal professional privilege. At the Bar, she has provided standalone advice to corporate clients on these issues, including in the context of Serious Fraud Office investigations.

## Crime

Leila undertakes a wide range of criminal work. Building on her previous experience as a solicitor, she is developing a reputation as an astute trial advocate, with excellent client management skills.

Leila has particular expertise in the area of financial crime. She appeared, led by Duncan Penny K.C., as junior counsel for the first defendant at trial in a Serious Fraud Office prosecution for conspiracy to defraud and fraudulent trading. She was junior counsel to Romy Andrianarisoa, the former Chief of Staff to the President of Madagascar, who was prosecuted for requesting a bribe. She is instructed to defend an individual in connection with an alleged £20 million VAT fraud. As a solicitor, she represented the former Chief Compliance Officer of Alstom, who was acquitted of conspiracy to corrupt. She has experience in Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 matters, including contested confiscation proceedings, civil recovery, and unexplained wealth orders.

Leila is also instructed to defend and prosecute in a number of general criminal cases. Work highlights in this area include:

- **R v Soldier F:** Appeared as junior defence counsel (led by Mark Mulholland K.C. and Ian Turkington K.C.) in the historic Northern Ireland prosecution of Soldier F for events on 'Bloody Sunday' in January 1972.
- **R v KG:** Appeared as junior defence counsel (led by Simon Ray K.C.) in the trial of a senior member of the armed forces, accused (and acquitted) of involvement in the sale of ammunition to an undercover police officer posing as an organised criminal.
- **R v AS:** Defended alone in a historic rape case for a defendant with a previous conviction for rape. The defendant was acquitted.
- **R v JM:** Defended alone at trial an individual client charged with (and acquitted of) rape, assault by penetration, and coercive or controlling behaviour.

TOP TIER SET

Legal500

UNITED KINGDOM

2026



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