



Michael Mansfield QC

Called 1967 (QC 1989)

Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year Award for Outstanding Achievement 2010

The Monitoring Group Lifetime Achievement Award 2009

Chambers & Partners Lifetime Achievement Award 2008

Association of Muslim Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award 2007

Professor of Law at City University

Fellow at Kent University

Honorary Degrees in Law at a number of United Kingdom Universities

Background

Michael Mansfield QC was born in 1941 and educated at Highgate School and Keele University. Called to the Bar in 1967, he established Tooks Chambers, in 1984 and became Queen's Counsel in 1989. Michael has represented defendants in criminal trials, appeals and inquiries in some of the most controversial legal cases the country has seen, particularly where issues of Civil Liberty have arisen.

Barry George, accused of killing TV presenter Jill Dando; **the family of Stephen Lawrence** both in the private prosecution for murder and the Public Inquiry and the families of victims at the on-going **Bloody Sunday Inquiry** in Derry and London. He also chaired an Inquiry into the "Shoot to Kill" policy in the North of Ireland at Cullyhanna.

More recently he has successfully represented, **Fatmir Limaj, the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo** at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague; successfully represented clients in the notable "**Ricin**" Trial, and "**Shaken Baby**" Appeals and **Nabeel Hussain** in the so-called "**Fertiliser plot**" trial; has acted for **the family of Jean Charles de Menezes**, shot by the Metropolitan Police in 2005 and **Mohammed Al Fayed** in his pursuit of the truth surrounding the death of his son, Dodi, and Princess Diana in Paris in 1997 as well as being involved in helping the family of solicitor **Patrick Finucane**, shot by agents of the British state, to seek a public judicial inquiry. Currently representing the family of **Laurence Rush** whose wife was killed in the Omagh bombing in his action against the Police in Northern Ireland and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Michael has represented many families at Inquests, including **Tom Hurndall** and **James Miller**, two British journalists murdered by the

tooks chambers

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Israeli army, the **Marchioness** Disaster, the **Deptford/New Cross Fire**; the **Lockerbie/ Dublin Monaghan** bombings, and **Michael Barrymore**.

Notable Cases

Michael's past clients include: **Angry Brigade**; **Phone Freak Network**; **Endell Street Squat**; **Incitement to Disaffection**; **Welsh Arson Conspiracy**; **QEII Conspiracy**; **Price Sisters**; **Persons Unknown**; **Armenian Dissidents**. **Angela Cannings**, the acquitted 'cot death' mother; **Tahira Tabassum**, acquitted widow of the first British suicide bomber in Israel; the **Orgreave** miners who were unjustly accused of riot during the miner's strike in 1984 and **Arthur Scargill**. The **Birmingham Six**, who were released in 1991, nearly sixteen years after being wrongly convicted followed by the **Cardiff Three**; the **Tottenham Three**; the **Winchester Three**; the **Bridgewater Four**; the **Cardiff Newsagents** murder Appeal. Those in the **ABC Official Secrets** case and the **Operation Julie** drugs trial; **Searle and others** (cannabis joint possession); **Ameer and Lucas** (cannabis recycling). **James Hanratty**, hanged in 1962 for murder; **Mattan** executed for murder but exonerated on Appeal; **'spy' Michael Bettany**; **Frank Critchlow** and the Mangrove; the **Bradford 12** and the **Newham 7** against the National Front; **Tottenham Riots** trial; **Dr O'Shea**; **Brighton Bombing and Resorts Conspiracy**, **Sikh Conspiracy** to murder Indian Prime Minister. Robbers in the **Knightsbridge Heist**; **Ronnie Knight**; cases related to **Operation Countryman**; **Colin Wallace**. The **'Camberwell'**, **'Torso'**, **'Big H'**, **M25**, **Eddie Gilfoyle**, **Morris** murder trials and Appeals; **Judith Ward**; **Iraqi dissidents** fleeing Saddam Hussein; **Turkish and Kurdish exiles**; **Palestinians** charged with the Israeli Embassy bombing in London and **Ruth Ellis**, the last woman to be hanged in Britain.

Prison cases – the **White Moor** escape; **Risley** riots; **Strangeways** riots. The **Cambridge Two (community workers)**; the **Veal Crate Protest**; **Poll Tax** riots.

Advising the **McLibel Two** and the **Sea Empress** disaster. **Saajid Badat**; **Patel**.

Cases involving issues of forensic science – **Angela Weir** (hand-writing); **McFadden**, **McNamee** and **McNamara** (all fingerprint cases); **Kempster** (ear prints); **Kevin Callan** (neuro-pathology); **Simon Hall** (fibres); **Ian & Angela Gay** (salt poisoning); **Lorraine Harris and four others** (SIDS and shaken-baby). **Pendleton** (fresh evidence House of Lords); **re. 'P'** (similar fact evidence joint trials House of Lords); **Deen and Hanratty** (DNA); **Power, Ward** (explosives). And **Superintendent Ali Dizaei** in two Trials and an Appeal.

Current Commitments

In the Spring of 2009 Michael was part of an independent lawyers mission to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) investigating the operation of the military court system, a legacy of the British Mandate

In December 2009 he participated as an expert in a conference on Transitional Justice organised at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Chair of the White Paper Conference 2009 and 2010, Surveillance on Security Matters.

Michael is a member of the jury panel on the Russell Tribunal inquiry into the legal ramifications of Israel's human rights and humanitarian law violations in Palestine. Part 1 was heard in Barcelona in March

2010, Part 2 was heard in London in November. There are to be three more hearings, the next is to be in South Africa in November 2011.

Michael is currently engaged in assisting a team of Canadian lawyers mounting a challenge in relation to the **Tar Sands** environmental disaster on behalf of the Cree Nation.

Michael will lead the prosecution at the Ecocide mock trial – Thursday 30th September at the Supreme Court with Jane Russell <http://thehamiltongroup.org.uk/common/ecocide.asp>

Michael has been invited to stand as a candidate for the office of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, by a number of academics. Voting will be in person on 14th & 15th October 2011 at Senate House, Cambridge. See press release in the [News](#) section for more information.

Publications

Michael's latest book is *Memoirs of a Radical Lawyer*, published by Bloomsbury, 2009. (See book signings under [Events](#)).

'A fascinating and passionate record of the author's major cases in courts, inquests and public inquiries, whose context will be as familiar to the general reader as to the lawyer, and which concerned or raised issues beyond the narrowly legal'

Spectator

'I hugely admire him ... This book is not just a show-off catalogue of his greatest hits. It is a shaming, chilling list of injustices.'

A.N. Wilson, Daily Mail

'A fascinating insight into the mind of a man who has devoted his life to securing the liberty of others ... It is in the transcripts of his cross examinations where the book really comes alive'

New Statesman

'An in-depth insight into the skills that make an outstanding barrister ... Mansfield is refreshingly lacking in pomposity - surprising in any barrister, let alone such a successful one'

Time Out

'Probably the biggest household name at the criminal Bar is Michael Mansfield QC, a sure-fire role model for students wondering about a career in criminal (or civil rights) law.'

The Times Online, 20 October 2008

'There is no question that he has been a force for good in this country, and has kept the flag of civil liberties flying when governments would have been very happy to have seen it suppressed. He can't retire - his country needs him. Carpentry must wait.'

Lynn Barber, 'A Law unto Himself', Observer, Sunday 19 January 2003

'Michael Mansfield QC is a die-hard grand old rebel. He has rejected the Labour Party, dismisses Blair as a Tory, and thereby disqualifies himself from the headlong rush of so many of his senior legal contemporaries to sup in the Labour Government trough of power.'

Guardian, 25 October 1997

'The radical lawyer has become an icon in a disenchanted age ... (Mansfield's) high profile victories take on a hallowed significance: the good guys against the rotten state... with a flourish of his insolence and a refusal to shut up... they flock to him, the disaffected, the inner city victims, Arthur Scargill, and he looks after them all. The Establishment loathes him.'

Lesley White, 'One of the Good Guys', Sunday Times, 6 June 1993

Articles to date in 2011 include: *The Guardian Online* 'Why we are marching on 26th March', *The Guardian Online* 'Barristers Right to Comment', *The Guardian* and *The Guardian Online* 'The French Resistance', *Government Gazette* January 2011 two articles Legal Aid and Russell Tribunal, *Politics First* Control Orders, *Electoral Reform Society* Alternative Vote 'A Purple Spring' (publication date unknown) and the Role of the CCRC (yet to be published), Professor of Criminal Justice - Kate Moss foreword for book 'Human Rights: Human Wrongs' (publication date unknown), *Financial Times* CCF article 'How to Give It', *Sunday Times magazine* 'Relative Values' article 17th April 2011.

Articles in 2010 include: *The Times* on the Chilcot Inquiry into the Iraq war; two articles on the Russell Tribunal on Palestine for *The Times* and *Socialist Lawyer*; an essay for the *Justice Gap* edited by Jon Robbins; a print debate with Melissa Benn for *Red Pepper* on the general election. In addition: Forewords to two books - one on the Ricin Trial and the other on the Tichborne Claimant.

Michael has presented a number of television documentaries and series, including *Presumed Guilty* for BBC1. He is a regular contributor to television and radio current affairs programmes and was a panel member of *The Moral Maze* for many years. He has also published numerous articles for all the major broadsheets and law journals, a children's book *The Whale Boy* and *The Home Lawyer* - a legal handbook. Over the last few years he has also given a number of successful talks at theatre venues around the country in a series entitled "An Audience with...."

In 2011 he participated in a number of TV and film documentaries – on Bloody Sunday, Legal Aid, Lockerbie, Human Rights Act and Forensic Science.

Societies

President of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, founder of Interights, President of Amicus, President of the National Civil Rights Movement, Patron of several other organisations including Viva!, Cambodian Children's Fund, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights.