



# Michael Topolski QC

Called 1986 (QC 2001)  
Solicitor 1974-1986  
Recorder

## Professional History

- 1974: admitted as a solicitor. Specialised in crime, childcare and international environmental law as a partner in a substantial practice.
- 1976: founder member of Law Society Childcare Panel (through which every solicitor who wished to practise in childcare law had to pass).
- 1983: instructed by Greenpeace UK and Greenpeace International.
- 1986: called to the Bar. Pupillage and early practice in Chambers of David Turner-Samuels QC.
- 1991: joined Chambers of Michael Mansfield QC.
- 1991-2001: built a significant and high profile practice, predominantly in crime. During same period served for 3 years as member of the Bar Council. Also appointed Honorary Fellow of the University of Kent at Canterbury.
- 2001: appointed Recorder and Queen's Counsel.
- 2006/7: authorised by Presiding Judges to try serious sexual offences. Also appointed as a Tutor Judge by and for the Judicial Studies Board.

## Domestic cases

- The Bloody Sunday Inquiry. Appeared for family of deceased.
- Foster: murder allegation dating back to 1970's. Acquitted.
- Loughman: gangland murder. Defendant acquitted after re-trial.
- Marianne Williams: young mother accused of salt poisoning infant child. Particularly difficult and complex case involving a large number of experts. Acquitted.
- Ian and Angela Gay: couple charged with salt poisoning and shaking of adopted child. Even more complex than Williams, involving some 30 medical and expert witnesses. Acquitted.
- Kendrick: father charged with baby shaking infant child. Described by judge as 'the most complex case I have ever had to try in 35 years.' Acquitted.
- Smith: first prosecution of Prison Officer charged with gross negligence manslaughter in relation to suicide of an inmate in a maximum security prison. Judge stopped case on defence submission at close of prosecution evidence.
- McCann: a verdict of not guilty returned in relation to this well-known Irish journalist who with others destroyed the computer

tooks  
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system of a major arms manufacturer in protest against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

- Ahmed: first prosecution for directing the activities of Al Qaeda.
- Appeared in several complex inquests into deaths in custody and police shootings.
- Appeared on behalf of main appellant in widely reported shaken baby appeal. Report can be found at (2010) 2 Cr. Appeal Reports 24 CA. [R v. Henderson & Ors]
- Currently instructed to appear in two major Public Inquiries in N. Ireland.

## International Cases

- Greenpeace UK and Greenpeace International: focus of the work was the international campaign and litigation arising from issues of whaling and nuclear reprocessing.
- The Dublin/Monaghan inquest: represented several families at an inquest held in the Republic.
- ICTY: defended first Kosovan Albanian defendant to be tried – Commander of the KLA. First defendant at the Tribunal to be acquitted without calling a positive defence case.
- ICTY: conducted response to Prosecutor's appeal against acquittal of same client.
- Advised at ambassadorial level regarding the impact and effect of a proposed investigation/prosecution by the ICC.
- Member of an International Bar Association mission to Uganda, culminating in a report entitled *Judicial Independence Undermined: A Report On Uganda*. The mission consisted of a judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, President of the Law Society of Zimbabwe and Michael Topolski QC.
- Advised and assisted the Special Tribunal for the Lebanon regarding the creation and remit of the office of Head Of Defence, established by the Secretary General as the fourth organ of the Tribunal.
- Appeared on behalf of Donald Payne, the first British soldier to be convicted of a war crime in the forthcoming Public Inquiry into the death of Baha Mousa, chaired by Lord Justice Gage.