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Principal occupation

Shaun is a Chartered Certified Accountant with over 20 years direct experience as a forensic accountant and specialises in cases involving crime and the proceeds of crime.

Shaun trained with a top 50 firm of Chartered Accountants in the South West of England, qualifying in 1991. He is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, a Registered Auditor and a member of The Academy of Experts and Expert Witness Institute. He is a TAE accredited mediator.

Overview

Over the last 20 years, Shaun has produced independent expert reports in numerous criminal cases from pre-trial, on appeal or pending confiscation.

Cases on which Shaun has been instructed include:

- Fraud
- Money laundering
- Confiscation
- Drug related
- Proceeds of Crime
- General criminal

Shaun accepts instructions on behalf of the prosecution and defence, in cases under the Proceeds of Crime Act; Drug Acts; Theft Act; Fraud Act, Bribery Act, Companies Acts and other legislation.

In addition to criminal casework, Shaun also provides Expert Witness reports on civil matters, including commercial litigation, personal injury and medical negligence, matrimonial, professional negligence and forensic insolvency.

Shaun has provided reports as a single joint expert, as a party appointed expert and where required, as an expert advisor to either party. He has given evidence in the Crown Court and High Court on numerous occasions and is noted for the clarity of his reports, together with a pragmatic approach to cases.

Examples of cases are set out below.

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Registered in England No: 08728092, registered & head office: Pryn Court, The Millfields, Plymouth, PL1 3JB



Summary of career

- Following qualification as a Chartered Certified Accountant with a top 50 firm, Shaun started a management consultancy practice specialising in Local & Health Authority finances and special investigations.
 - In 1994, he started his own accountancy practice providing business advisory, audit, accountancy and tax compliance services to SME businesses throughout the South West of England.
 - From 1994, he commenced specialising in expert witness work and over the course of the next 12 years developed a specialist forensic accounting practice.
 - In this role, he has covered corporate finance assignments involving due diligence, business sales and acquisitions, mergers and acquisitions, together with various litigation support assignments.
 - In his role as Expert Witness, he has prepared reports across all disciplines and has given evidence in the Crown and High Courts and at Tribunals.
 - In October 2006, he became managing director of S W Forensic Accounting Ltd with responsibility for the development of the firm's forensic accounting and litigation support services.
 - In October 2008 he was appointed a Partner in BTG Forensic (a division of the Begbies Traynor Group), subsequently leaving in September 2011 to set up the niche practice **Matrix Forensic**.
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The following are examples of cases undertaken:

Criminal and PoCA

Acting for the defence in numerous cases involving fraud, money laundering etc., together with the associated confiscation actions under the Proceeds of Crime Act. **Example:** report into the UK operations of a multi-million pound Ponzi scheme based in the Philippines

Prosecution independent expert – Operation Octagon

Acting on behalf of the prosecution as an independent expert in respect of fraudulent trading, false accounting and related charges. Provided lead evidence at Southwark Crown Court (first paperless criminal trial) in relation to the prosecution of the directors of Crown Currency Exchange in respect of a £20m fraud relating to foreign exchange transactions involving losses to 13,000 victims

Forensic insolvency

Reports on claims under the Insolvency Act and Company Acts, including wrongful and fraudulent trading, illegal dividends, disqualification of directors and related matters. **Example:** report on the liquidation of the UK subsidiary of a USA registered company. Identifying irregularities in the valuation of stocks and the diversion of sales by the directors through a third party company

Commercial litigation

Reports on loss of profits, breach of contract and warranty claims, business and share valuations; dissolution of partnerships and other related claims. **Example:** report in respect of a claim against a landlord following a catastrophic fire at a nightclub allegedly caused by workmen instructed by the landlord. The case was dropped following the identification of accounting irregularities by the claimant and associated fraudulent insurance claims

Professional negligence

Advice or opinions on liability in respect of the conduct and competence of accountants, auditors or financial services professionals. **Example:** report on the professional negligence of an auditor of a company following the reliance placed by the purchaser on the audited accounts that contained material misstatement of sales and assets, leading to a loss of £2.6m

CRIMINAL CASES

Awaiting trial

R v K (2016) Southwark Crown Court. **Defence** - This case involves allegations of false accounting and fraud to the loss of £1.0m from the client account of a firm of solicitors. There are currently 3 individual defendants. The defendant represented is a partner of the firm and faces 5 counts on the indictment.

Significant cases

R v R (2016) Nottingham Crown Court. **Defence** – This case involved fraud and money laundering allegations, and further connected charges by the National Trading Standards Board. The investigation commenced in January 2010 in relation to a group of 95 companies known as Wyvern Media Group following significant number of complaints by individuals and companies based across the UK and Europe. The defendant represented is a director of the principal company.

R v G (2015) Leeds Crown Court. **Defence** – Acted for company director who was alleged to have participated in a £3 million pound fraud against the NHS involving the receipt of contracts facilitated by an NHS manager and the diversion of the contract back to the manager's own company.

R v H (2015) Central Criminal Court. **Defence** – Acted for company director who was alleged to have participated in a £1.5 million pound conspiracy against the charity “Shelter Box Trust” to exploit contracts placed by them to the company. Acquitted on all counts.

R v J (2015) Southwark Crown Court. **Prosecution** – Retrial in relation to “Operation Octagon” (see below) against the second defendant on the indictment.

R v B & Others (2015) Southwark Crown Court. **Prosecution** – Acted as principal expert witness for Devon & Cornwall Constabulary in “Operation Octagon”, a large scale “Ponzi” style fraud with losses in excess of 20 million involving 13,000 victims in relation to the sale of currency. A second element to the case involved the sale of gold bullion and the theft of gold from customers. The case involved 8 defendants and a 19-count indictment alleging in the main false accounting, fraudulent trading and theft of bullion gold. This was the first paperless criminal “IPad trial”.

R v N Southwark Crown Court (2014). **Defence** – Acted for defendant in £1m benefit fraud involving the theft of identities. Case involved in excess of 700 bank accounts and the movement of monies between them. Demonstrated that monies were moved between accounts and that benefit significantly overstated.

R v B Cardiff Crown Court (2012). **Defence** – Acted for defendant in £16.5m PoCA case relating to importation of drugs and mortgage frauds. Demonstrated that basis for valuing drugs was contrary to case law, leading to a reduction in the benefit to below £5m.