



## Red Lion Chambers

**Sailesh Mehta**

**Call: 1986**

**Recorder: 2009**

### **Practice**

Sailesh Mehta has advised on and appeared in major fire safety cases for over 20 years. Sailesh heads the Red Lion Chambers Fire Law Team.

He is highly experienced and well-respected advocate with a proven record for defending and prosecuting at the highest level. Sailesh is regularly instructed in high-profile, complex and ground-breaking cases. He was appointed a Recorder on the South Eastern Circuit in 2009.

He lectures at Law Society accredited seminars on aspects of criminal law, has been appointed to the Editorial Board of a leading work on Directors' Disqualification, and has achieved the highest ranking in the CPS Prosecution List.

He has been the Times Newspaper's and the Gazette's "Lawyer of the Week", was "Lawyer of the Month" in the BLD Directory, was voted "Criminal Lawyer of the Year" by the Society of Asian Lawyers, and has been regularly quoted in The Lawyer and the Law Society Gazette.

He has been on Bar Council committees, was the first vice-Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee, has represented the Bar as a member of international delegations, is a past Chair of the Society of Asian Lawyers, and helped to launch the Law Society's flagship project, the Diversity Charter. Until recently, was an elected member of the Bar Council. Is editor of a regular legal column in a newspaper.

### **Fire Law**

- Recently successfully concluded a high-profile prosecution at Leeds Crown Court relating to a fire which led to two fatalities of young jockeys. This case received wide publicity. The local authority considers it to be amongst its most important and complex cases it has ever prosecuted. Two fire officers received formal commendations from the Court.
- Appeared in the Crown Court and the Court of Appeal in relation to a fire from which many people were rescued from the roof of a building. This case is now cited as a sentencing case of importance.

- Prosecuted a number of companies (some are international oil companies) in relation to the selling of petrol to under-aged buyers and the leakage of petrol. In one case, so much petrol had leaked out of an underground tank that a part of north-west London was sealed off by the Fire Brigade as it was feared that a major explosion was imminent.
- Defended and prosecuted a number of international hotel chains for breaches.
- Advised in relation to a fire in a hotel after an arson attack.
- Lectured fire law experts on managing a complex fire case in criminal courts.
- Prosecuted the Co-Op and other national chains for breaches of Fire Safety legislation.

### **Other Regulatory Cases**

- Regularly instructed by the Health and Safety Executive to prosecute companies and directors in cases involving death or serious injury. In 2009, instructed in two “death in the workplace” cases; currently instructed in a tractor death case;
- Instructed in the first contested trial pursuant to the Health Act, of a pub landlord who smoked cigarettes with customers in his pub;
- Cited as a “Leading Junior” and a “real heavyweight” in Environmental Law by Chambers & Partners UK Guide 2009;
- Advised and represented the Environment Agency for 20 years in some of the most complex and high-profile environmental cases;
- Currently instructed as leading Counsel in one of the environment Agency’s biggest prosecutions involving waste dumping on a large scale by many defendants and money laundering;
- Prosecuted, as leading Counsel, in a politically sensitive case (and the first of its type) relating to the transfrontier shipment of waste from the UK to China and India;
- Advises the Environment Agency on key aspects of policy and law;
- Has advised and represented “household name” companies in regulatory cases;
- Prosecuted in two leading cases involving European waste packaging regulations, which resulted in a change in the interpretation of the law; after a series of appearances in the Court of Appeal, has changed the law on export of hazardous waste;
- Regularly lectures on aspects of regulatory law, including prosecuting (and defending) in complex environmental cases.

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