
Public Eye, Private Lives

Advising high profile figures on every aspect of their public and personal lives.



With a proven track record of delivering legal solutions to clients in the public eye, Kingsley Napley has been involved in some of the most significant and high profile cases of the last 75 years.



1939

A "Jitterbug" lesson

Inspectors found 60 or 70 people dancing the "Jitterbug", a dance called "The Yam", and other dances. Charges of public dancing without a licence were brought against a dance hall. David Napley (then Naphtali) was the solicitor for the defence and succeeded in having these charges dropped.



1967

Rolling Stones drugs charge

Swiss pop singer, Prince Stanislaus Klossowski De Rola, Baron De Watteville, (known as "Stash") was charged, alongside Rolling Stones drummer Brian Jones, with possessing illegal drugs. "Stash", David Napley's client, was acquitted.



1974

Princess Anne kidnapping attempt

David Napley represented Ian Ball who shot and wounded four people during his unsuccessful attempt to kidnap Princess Anne. Ball had a history of mental illness and the court ordered him to be detained under the Mental Health Act 1969.



1979

Jeremy Thorpe murder plot

David Napley changed the law with the Jeremy Thorpe case. The scandal forced Thorpe to resign as Liberal Party leader in 1976. He denied the claims of a homosexual affair and was charged with conspiring to murder Scott, though he was acquitted of these charges in 1979. As a result, reporting restrictions could only be lifted if all defendants unanimously agreed.

Public Eye

Being in the public eye makes a person particularly vulnerable when crisis strikes. When trouble is brewing and reputations are at stake, getting the right advice is crucial.

Some of our clients have been forced into the spotlight by circumstance, others live in the constant media glare but whatever their situation, we have the expertise to advise. Our reputation is based on a 75 year history of acting in landmark cases and we are currently acting in some of the highest profile cases in the UK today. Our clients trust us to act quickly and offer the right advice early, two aspects that are critical to the outcome of a case.

We offer tailored expertise to those in the public eye, giving specialist advice whenever it is needed.

- Defamation, privacy & reputation management
- Media crisis management
- Protection from harassment
- Criminal investigations
- Public inquiries
- Sport regulatory proceedings and tribunals



1995

Nick Leeson, Rogue Trader

We represented the former derivatives broker whose fraudulent, unauthorised speculative trading caused the collapse of Barings Bank.



1995

Ian Maxwell

We acted for Ian Maxwell, son of Robert Maxwell, defending accusations of defrauding the Mirror Group's pension fund. We were involved in all facets of the case and were able to draw on expertise all around the firm; civil, regulatory, fraud, foreign procedures and tax investigations.



2003

Hutton Inquiry

We acted for Tony Blair in the judicial inquiry chaired by Lord Hutton to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of David Kelly, a biological warfare expert and former UN weapons inspector in Iraq



2007

Disappearance of Madeleine McCann

We advised Gerry and Kate McCann on the media intrusion following the disappearance of their daughter Madeleine.

Private Lives

We appreciate that our high profile clients have personal lives too. The lines between a public and private persona are all too often blurred and media intrusion can make navigating personal changes in circumstance all the more stressful.

We understand the unique needs of those in the public eye. We protect our clients and fight their corner. Our clients demand the utmost discretion and trust us to advise them on complex issues in their personal lives with confidence and sensitivity.

We offer tailored advice in the following areas:

- Business affairs
- Buying and selling property
- Divorce and other family matters
- Employment issues
- Mismanagement of financial affairs
- Moving to/coming to work in the UK
- Private client services
- Protection and exploitation of intellectual property



2009

**Harlequins RFC
"Bloodgate" enquiry**

The firm was an Advocate for the HPC before the Conduct and Competence Committee hearing misconduct allegations against Steph Brennan arising out of the 'Bloodgate' scandal. Brennan's ban was upheld.



2011

**Allegations of cricket
match fixing**

Kingsley Napley represented a cricket agent and others against allegations of large scale match fixing.



2012

Leveson Inquiry

Kingsley Napley represented a core participant and key witness in the ongoing public inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the British press following the News International phone hacking scandal.



2014

Rebekah Brooks acquitted

Kingsley Napley successfully defended Rebekah and Charlie Brooks for offences arising out of the phone hacking scandal.

Responding to the unique needs and changing demands of life in the spotlight

We have been advising high profile figures for over 75 years. Our lawyers understand the pressure of being in the public eye and seek to shield our clients from the constant media glare when this becomes intrusive. We offer tailored expertise to clients to enable them to manage their public and private lives and their business interests. Our history of discretion and sensitivity inspires trust in our clients. They are confident that we will look after every aspect of their lives and protect their rights and interests.

We have represented public figures in the highest profile cases of the last century whilst managing the media scrum such matters inevitably attract. Our understanding of our clients' right to privacy, and the reputational damage a difficult case can bring, make Kingsley Napley the lawyers of choice, when looking for a trusted advisor.

Our lawyers work closely with agents, managers and other professionals giving tailored advice specific to the needs of individuals in the media spotlight, including those working in sports, film and TV, media, publishing, music, fashion, politics and other high profile public figures, such as government officials and business leaders.

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