

# BUSINESS CRIME

## QEB Hollis Whiteman

QEB Hollis Whiteman are a set of barristers offering first class advocacy and advice services in the full range of business crime, representing and advising corporations and individuals at every stage from pre-investigation through to prosecution in the courts and regulatory tribunals.

QEB Hollis Whiteman have a proven track record and reputation in the field for the highest quality work and are involved in a number of major current cases, including developing areas such as the investigation and prosecution of cartels as criminal offences under the Enterprise Act.



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## Business Crime Team

QEB Hollis Whiteman has an enviable reputation for expertise in representing and advising companies, corporations and individual company directors involved in criminal litigation.

This year the leading legal directories identified QEB Hollis Whiteman as a set that “delivers legal advice with a corporate identity” with consistent quality of barristers within its ranks, and continue to “perform in a manner that leaves clients highly impressed”. Several sources praised it for hosting “always topical and informative” conferences and lectures which allow practitioners to keep up with current trends. The barristers here are all “extremely savvy”.

Indeed, the firm’s barristers have acted on behalf of businessmen, accountants, solicitors, brokers, professional advisors and companies.

It’s knowledge and understanding of the criminal justice system means the firm is well-positioned to advise throughout. It can provide expert advice before any charges are laid, to minimise the chances of a criminal prosecution ever being brought. In the event that a criminal prosecution is commenced, counsel aim to protect a company’s long-term position. It will provide expert advice and representation throughout any litigation, while aiming to keep legal costs proportionate to the risks the individual or company face.

## QEB Hollis Whiteman have advised and appeared in cases involving:

- Serious corporate fraud
- Anti-competitive behaviour
- Corporate compliance
- Corporate manslaughter and other offences against the person.

Their barristers regularly appear before the Regulatory Decisions Committee of the Financial Services Authority and the Financial Services and Markets Tribunal. In addition, it has considerable expertise in advising clients in money-laundering legislation, offences and notification requirements.

With the firm’s breadth of experience in financial and corporate crime as well as regulatory and disciplin-

ary matters, it is able to provide the appropriate barrister or team of barristers to meet specific requirements. It is expert in the management of document-heavy cases, in electronic preparation and presentation and in managing the involvement of professional experts.

## The Business Crime Team’s Strengths

Mark Ellison QC, Leading Fraud Barrister at the chambers, highlighted the strengths that are essential for a firm in such a marketplace: “Having the experience and innovation necessary to adapt to a changing market for the supply of advocacy and advisory services, including the ability to lead teams of multi-discipline professionals where required, and to conduct in-house investigations, and if necessary to follow through right to trial.”

Corporate fraud such as Enron and Worldcom and more recently Satyam raise serious questions about corporate governance. The fallout requires assets to be traced across the world. Fraud specialists like QEB Hollis Whiteman play a crucial part in such a process.

Mark Ellison QC commented: “The international money laundering aspect of investigations and prosecutions is an area we have worked in and know, and we have a proven record in the cross-border negotiation and handling of investigations in more than one jurisdiction.”

There is also a clear need for more companies to overhaul their corporate governance procedures and put fraud controls in place that comply with industry regulations.

QEB Hollis Whiteman has been involved in internal money laundering investigations on behalf of clients so as to review and re-structure money laundering and governance regimes, and to advise on appropriate disclosures under statutory duties, so as to reduce the risk of intervention by law enforcement agencies.

Regulatory bodies are in the process of tightening controls and increasing corporate transparency to prevent fraud / white collar crime. If a client inadvertently breaches regulatory rules they will require legal representation. QEB Hollis Whiteman act for clients in the process of regulatory compliance, the conduct of internal investigations, dealing (pre and post) investigation, and ultimately, where it arises, prosecutions.