

# PETERS & PETERS

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## Profile



**Name:** **Michael O'Kane**

**Position:** **Partner and Head of Fraud and Regulatory Department**

Michael was called to the bar in 1992 and after completing pupillage, worked as a senior prosecutor for the CPS. He then joined Peters & Peters in 2002 and after re-qualification as a solicitor became a Partner in 2004, and head of the Fraud and Regulatory department in May 2009.

Michael specialises in domestic and international business crime and regulation, with particular expertise in cartel investigations, money laundering, mutual legal assistance/extradition and FSA investigations. He has successfully represented many individual and corporate clients facing criminal and regulatory investigations in the UK, US and other jurisdictions.

His practice and ability was recognised very recently in **'The Lawyer' Hot 100 2009** where he was described as: *"an influential practitioner in fraud and regulatory work, so much so that he is top of the referral lists of many City firms for independent advice for directors."*

### Directory Entries

#### Chambers UK 2009

**Michael O'Kane** is *"an extremely imaginative and creative lawyer with a fresh, modern and dynamic approach."* His expertise lies in business crime and regulation, both domestic and international, with a particular focus on cartel and FSA investigations

as well as extradition and mutual legal assistance matters. He recently acted for the managing director of Dunlop Oil & Marine in a cartel investigation, and represented a senior executive of a global freight forwarding company in a criminal investigation involving allegations of price-fixing surcharges in the industry.

### **Chambers UK 2008'**

*"Young, successful and reliable"* **Michael O'Kane** is coming up through the ranks according to barristers, while fellow solicitors espy a lawyer who is *"extremely good to work with, even when the going gets tough"* '

### **Legal 500 2008 edition**

'It should be noted that for executive representation, particularly in the area of cartels, firms such as Peters & Peters partner **Michael O'Kane**....deserves special recognition.'

### **Recent cases include:**

#### **International Cartel Investigations**

- acting for the Managing Director of Dunlop Oil and Marine Ltd, the first person to be charged with the cartel offence in the UK and played a key role in negotiations with the OFT and the US Department of Justice that concluded in the innovative "**Marine Hose Deal**".
- advising 3 senior executives currently and formerly employed by **British Airways plc** in respect of an OFT and US Department of Justice investigation into alleged price fixing of fuel surcharge with Virgin Atlantic on passenger flights around the world;
- advising a manager employed by **British Airways Worldwide Cargo ('BAWC')** in an investigation into alleged price-fixing of fuel surcharges
- advising a senior UK executive in an investigation by the US Department of Justice and the European Commission into the alleged fixing of various charges by numerous Freight Forwarding companies;
- advising a senior company executive in an investigation by the European Commission into price fixing and bid rigging in the European car glass market;
- acted for 2 UK based sales executives employed by **Crompton** before their interviews with the European Commission in a global cartel investigation into price fixing "rubber chemical" products;
- advised a senior sales executive in an investigation by the US Department of Justice and the European Commission into price fixing in the DRAM ('Dynamic Random Access Memory') market.

#### **Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance in International Investigations**

- acting for a senior member of the *Tollman family* currently facing possible *extradition to the United States for alleged tax evasion*.
- advised a UK based medium sized *financial services provider* in relation to mutual legal assistance requests in relation to 3 separate foreign insider dealing investigations.

## **Corruption and compliance**

- acted as *a legal expert to the Commonwealth Working Party on Corruption in drafting the report on asset recovery* provided to the Commonwealth Heads of State conference in 2006.
- invited by the *UK government to present to the G8 regional seminar on corruption and asset recovery in Abuja, Nigeria* in December 2005.
- Invited by the *Commonwealth Secretariat to participate in the training of anti corruption law officers in Nairobi, Kenya* in March 2007.

## **Other**

- Co-author of the mutual legal assistance section of the leading practitioner textbook “*Jones and Doobay on Extradition and Mutual Assistance*” (Sweet & Maxwell).
- Recent lectures delivered have covered US cartel investigations, The Proceeds of Crime Act, the European Evidence Warrant and International Fraud Investigations.
- Michael frequently provides training to City Law firms on criminal cartels and extradition. He was also part of the Peters & Peters' team that presented nationwide seminars on anti-money laundering to solicitor and accountant clients of Barclays Bank Plc.

## **Memberships**

- International Bar Association (co-Vice Chair of IBA’s Business Crime Committee);
- American Bar Association;
- Competition Lawyers Association