

**Clarion**

21 September 2010

### **Leeds Criminal Lawyer Joins Legal Services Commission Committee**



One of the North's leading criminal lawyers, Rob Rode of Clarion Advocates, has been appointed as vice chair of the Legal Services Commission Very High Costs Cases Appeal Committee (VHCC).

The committee, which has been created in accordance with the new VHCC arrangements under the Legal Services Commission contract, determines appeals in relation to public funding and expenditure in VHCC cases, complex trials which tend to last more than 40 days and are often centred on fraud.

Based in Leeds, Rob is a nationally recognised expert in crime, particularly in the field of fraud work. He is an approved supervisor in complex crime cases for the Legal Services Commission; and a Higher Court Advocate, undertaking fraud, regulatory, tax, motoring and general criminal matters. Rob is also Chairman of the Serious Fraud Association; a member of SAHCA, CLSA and the International Criminal Bar; and a member of the Law Society's Duty Solicitor Scheme.

Only firms with suitably qualified supervisors are able to undertake VHCC cases. Clarion Advocates has three such supervisors Rob Rode, Tony Murphy and Steve Milner. The firm was one of the first recognised by the Legal Services Commission as being able to undertake cases of this nature,



media relations and profile

representing numerous clients in relation to prosecutions by bodies such as the Serious Fraud Office, HMRC, the Fraud Prosecution Service and the FSA.

“It is an honour to be recognised in this way and testimony to the national reputation we have established, handling numerous high profile and complex cases all over the country,” commented Rob Rode, partner at Clarion Advocates. “We have once again been ranked as a top tier firm in the Legal 500 for our work in this field and look forward to continuing to grow this specialism.”

Clarion recently built on the success of its established criminal and fraud services practice by launching a separate division known as Clarion Advocates comprising its growing Leeds practice as well as a new base in Liverpool. The team consists of twelve criminal lawyers across the two offices, led by Rob Rode.

Clarion Advocates offers a full range of business crime and regulatory services, defending prosecutions and investigations of all kinds at any stage, and also advising businesses about regulatory compliance to avoid prosecutions.

To find out more, please visit [www.clarionadvocates.com](http://www.clarionadvocates.com)

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#### **Editor's Notes**

Current Chambers and Legal 500 comments about Clarion's criminal practice:

Practice head Rob Rode and Steve Milner are leading figures in business crime and general crime (Legal 500, 2010)

Rob Rode has built a strong reputation in corporate crime and corporate risk management (Chambers UK, 2010)

This firm covers a number of practice areas, including business crime and regulatory. Clients say they “feel safe in its hands”. Rob Rode has built a strong reputation in corporate crime and corporate risk management (Chambers UK, 2010)

Rob “has built a strong reputation in corporate crime and corporate risk management” (Chambers UK 2010)