# Joshua Kern



Junior Counsel - Under 15 Years
**CALLED 2013**

*"His work is of very high quality and of great value. He displayed intellectual stamina, acuity, and professional..."*
**LEGAL 500, 2027**

**Joshua Kern is a criminal defence barrister specialising in serious and complex crime, extradition, and international criminal law.**

He is regularly instructed in sensitive and high stakes matters where courts and tribunals are required to assess contested evidence, complex factual narratives, and issues of procedural fairness at the domestic and international level.

He is known for a calm, methodical approach to advocacy and is trusted in cases where careful judgement and disciplined presentation are essential. His practice spans jury trials in the Crown Court, appellate and first-instance extradition proceedings, and advisory, oral, and written advocacy before international courts, tribunals, and related bodies.

Joshua is an accredited advocacy trainer with the Inner Temple and sits on its International Practice Committee.

## Crime

Joshua is regularly instructed as defence counsel in serious and complex Crown Court

proceedings, including cases involving allegations of terrorism, corruption, organised crime, and sexual violence. He is trusted in matters where the evidence is contested, the factual narrative is sensitive, or the stakes are high, and where careful judgement is required throughout trial.

He is known for a forensic approach to cross-examination, close attention to evidential and legal detail, and an ability to test the prosecution case rigorously. He is frequently instructed in multi-handed cases and matters attracting public or institutional attention.

### Extradition

Joshua is regularly instructed in complex extradition proceedings before Westminster Magistrates' Court and the High Court. His extradition practice includes cases raising issues of proportionality, fair trial rights, political motivation, and systemic deficiencies in requesting States.

He is trusted in sensitive matters where courts are required to scrutinise contested evidence, procedural fairness, and the reliability of assurances advanced by requesting authorities. He is known for a measured and forensic approach to extradition advocacy, combining close analysis of international and domestic legal frameworks with sound judgement in cases carrying significant personal, diplomatic, or institutional consequences.

### International Criminal Law and Public International Law

Joshua is instructed in international criminal and public international law matters requiring careful analysis of jurisdiction, admissibility, evidential standards, and institutional process. His international practice focuses on advisory and written advocacy work, including the preparation of submissions and amicus curiae interventions in proceedings before international courts and tribunals.

He is particularly trusted in matters involving contested factual narratives, sensitive allegations, and complex institutional processes, and is known for a measured, process-focused approach grounded in legal and evidential discipline.

### Public Law

Joshua undertakes advisory and advocacy work in public law matters concerning the lawfulness of decision-making by public authorities, including issues of procedural fairness, equality duties, and Convention rights.

## Notable Cases

## Extradition

### Romania v CC

High Court appeal concerning trial in absence, Article 6 ECHR, and section 20 of the Extradition Act 2003.

### District Court Košice II v Macko [2024] EWHC 2564 (Admin)

Successful defence of proportionality-based discharge upheld on appeal.

### Bulgaria v VN

Extradition proceedings and associated judicial review raising issues under section 20 of the Extradition Act 2003.

### Georgia v Kezerashvili

Extradition proceedings concerning multiple requests for the surrender of the former Defence Minister of Georgia; extradition ultimately refused on political motivation grounds.

### PI v Svishtov (C648-20 PPU), 2021

Joshua was led by Helen Malcom KC (Three Raymond Buildings) in a criminal / extradition preliminary reference heard by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) following a reference from

Westminster Magistrates' Court

**Extradition**

## General Crime

### R v ER, 2026

Allegations of inter alia child cruelty, controlling or coercive behaviour, and non-fatal strangulation. Acquitted on all counts following jury trial.

Winchester Crown Court

### R v MDA, 2025

Multiple allegations of rape and actual bodily harm. Acquitted on all counts following jury trial.

Hull Crown Court

### R v MM, 2025

Defence of historic allegations of serious sexual offences involving multiple complainants.

Wood Green Crown Court

### R v NS, 2025

Leading junior for D1 in a complex multi-handed corruption and money laundering prosecution of significant public interest.

Southwark Crown Court

### R v VK

Multi-handed prosecution arising from the escape of detainees from Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. Acquitted following trial.

Luton Crown Court

**Crime**

## International Crime

### International Criminal Court / International Court of Justice

Preparation of written submissions and amicus curiae interventions concerning jurisdiction, admissibility, and institutional competence.

### Mohamed Soltan v Hazem El Beblawi (US District Court)

International consultancy work concerning diplomatic immunity and jurisdiction; claim dismissed on immunity grounds.

### Armenia–Azerbaijan Conflict (2021)

Contributing author to an international law report analysing allegations arising from the conflict.

### International Criminal Court – *Prosecutor v Uhuru Kenyatta*

Legal Assistant on the Defence team in proceedings before the Trial Chamber.

### Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia – *Case 002 (Ieng Sary)*

Legal Consultant on the Defence team.

### International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia – *Prosecutor v Jadranko Prlić*

Legal Assistant on the Defence team.

International Crime

Public Law

### Stonehenge World Heritage Site

Advisory work concerning public authority decision-making and compliance with Articles 8, 9, and 14 ECHR in relation to access arrangements.

### Regent's Park (Cycling Safety)

Advisory work concerning engagement with public authorities on safety, regulation, and governance issues affecting use of public space.

Public Law

# Achievements

Memberships

- Accredited Advocacy Trainer, Inner Temple
- Member, International Practice Committee, Inner Temple
- Law Society, Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- Defence Extradition Lawyers Forum
- International Defence Associates

Appointments

- Admitted as a solicitor in 2008
- ICC List of Assistants to Counsel
- American Bar Association's International Criminal Justice Standards Advisory Group
- Bencher of The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

## Education

- Modern History, University of Oxford (academic scholar)

## Recognition

"His work is of very high quality and of great value. He displayed intellectual stamina, acuity, and professional diligence and commitment in what was a labyrinthine task." **Legal 500, 2027**

"Joshua is helpful and is forever willing to go the extra mile. It doesn't matter what you give him; he gives the same amount of attention to detail no matter what he's working on." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Joshua's ability to forensically examine and analyse a case is very fine indeed. He has good judgement and he is a pleasure to work with." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Joshua is a very skilful barrister." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Joshua will progress through the extradition field very quickly." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"Joshua's ability to forensically examine and analyse a case is very fine indeed." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"I think Joshua has matured into a very skilful barrister." **Chambers and Partners, 2027**

"An excellent advocate, unflappable and very good on the details." **Legal 500, 2026**

"Joshua's drafting quality is second to none." **Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"Joshua is a tenacious advocate who fights for his clients." **Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"Josh is a fearless advocate, with a sharp intellect and in-depth knowledge of international law. His calm style of delivery and personable manner are a real asset." **Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"Josh is a skilled advocate with an impressive breadth of knowledge in international criminal law." **Legal 500, 2025**

"He is a very good barrister and a very sound international lawyer. He is top rank." **Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"His methodical, incisive, and highly strategic approach to the presentation of cases is highly engaging." **Legal 500, 2025**

"Josh is a fearless advocate, with a sharp intellect and in-depth knowledge of international law." **Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"His oral advocacy skills are matched by his rigorous and intelligent written work." **Legal 500, 2025**

"Very diligent and articulate, and is helpful in guiding you, especially in higher courts." **Legal 500, 2024**

"He's a prodigious drafter: so efficient, so fast." **Chambers and Partners, 2024**

"He is prodigious, academically rigorous and a great grafter, who has excellent analytical skills." **Chambers and Partners, 2023**