

# JEFFREY HUNTER KC

## DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone: 07 3210 6884

Mobile: 0419 723 293

Email: [jhunter@qldbbar.asn.au](mailto:jhunter@qldbbar.asn.au)

Year of call - 1987

Year of silk - 2008

## CHAMBERS MANAGER/RECEPTION DETAILS:

Nikki Powell

Phone: 07 3211 0040

Email: [lucaschambers@qldbbar.asn.au](mailto:lucaschambers@qldbbar.asn.au)

---

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

Criminal (trial and appellate)

Workplace Health and Safety (incl mining)

Environmental

Administrative

Commissions of Inquiry

Inquests

Health Practitioner Regulation

Police Discipline

## EDUCATION

B. Com, University of Queensland 1983

LLB, University of Queensland 1986

## CAREER HISTORY

Jeff spent 10 years at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions between 1987 and 1997. During that time, he conducted several hundred jury trials, including approximately a dozen murders as well as multiple appeals. He then moved to the Legal Aid Office (Qld) as Deputy Public Defender, where the bulk of his work comprised murder trials and appearances before the Court of Appeal. He also circuited regularly to Mt Isa and the Gulf of Carpentaria, appearing for many First Nations defendants.

In 1999, Jeff came to the private bar, joining Lucas Chambers. Since that time, his practice has evolved from a steady stream of high-profile murder cases to a more diverse practice that includes a substantial component of workplace health and safety and environmental matters where he is regularly briefed by both prosecution and defence. In addition, he is often briefed on either side in matters involving health practitioner discipline.

He was senior counsel assisting the Coal Mining Board of Inquiry into the serious accident at Grosvenor Mine and was retained by the Queensland Police Service at the Commission of Inquiry into police responses to domestic and family violence and also that with respect to forensic DNA testing.

Jeff retains an ongoing interest in "mainstream" criminal law and is regularly briefed in these matters in both appeals and at first instance.

He has also served for several years as a member of the Council of the Bar Association of Queensland, is a current member of the Professional Conduct Committee and a former Chair of the Criminal Law Committee.

EST. 1997

**LUCAS  
CHAMBERS**

LEVEL 13, 420 GEORGE STREET, BRISBANE QLD 4000

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation.

## NOTABLE CASES

### Recent cases

[Palmer v Magistrates Court of Queensland & Ors; Palmer Leisure Coolum Pty Ltd v Magistrates Court of Queensland and Ors \[2024\] QCA 8](#)

Application for a stay of criminal proceedings – abuse of process

[HCF v The Queen \(2023\) 97 ALJR 978; \[2023\] HCA 35](#)

Juror misconduct – independent research

[Du Toit v Health Ombudsman \[2023\] QCAT 373](#)

Review of immediate action by Health Ombudsman – expert evidence

[Rowlingson v Parole Board Queensland \[2023\] QSC 253](#)

Review of decision to refuse parole to convicted murderer

[Smith v PRQ \(2022\) 11 QR 102; \[2022\] QSC 123](#)

Contempt of CCC – refusal to answer questions – whether fear of retribution a reasonable excuse

[R v Rose \[2021\] QCA 262](#)

Rape – directions regarding special witness

[DBX v TAT \[2021\] QCA 242](#)

Strike-out of private prosecution for murder

[Lee v Crime and Corruption Commission \[2020\] QCA 201](#)

Police discipline – right of appeal – whether sanction was manifestly inadequate

[Inquest into the death of Mason Jet Lee \(2020\)](#)

Death of toddler – role of Department of Child Safety

[Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry](#)

Reports concerning the serious accident at Grosvenor Coal Mine in May 2020

[Stenner v Crime and Corruption Commission \(2019\) 2 QR 89; \[2019\] QSC 202](#)

Application for a stay of proceedings – perjury - alleged failure to take all relevant circumstances into account when issuing an attendance notice

[Agnew v Thacker and Commissioner of Police \(2019\) 1 QR 480; \[2019\] QSC 161](#)

Review of refusal to make orders permitting cross-examination at committal

[Slatcher v Globex Shipping SA \(2019\) 2 QR 134; \[2019\] QCA 167](#)

Alleged pollution of Australian waters by oil - whether service properly effected on non-resident corporation

[R v Mazza \(2017\) 80 MVR 419; \[2017\] QCA 136](#)

Jury misconduct – independent research

[R v Hannan \(2016\) 259 A Crim R 558; \[2016\] QSC 161](#)

Interpretation of *Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013* – whether person was *vicious lawless associate*

EST. 1997

**LUCAS  
CHAMBERS**

LEVEL 13, 420 GEORGE STREET, BRISBANE QLD 4000

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation.

[R v Smith \[2014\] QCA 315](#)

Unreasonable verdict

[Newman v New Zealand \(2012\) 206 FCR 1; \[2012\] FCAFC 133](#)

Extradition – whether representative charges permitted in NZ meant the appellant could not get a fair trial

[R v SBU \[2012\] 1 Qd R 250; \[2011\] QCA 203](#)

Sentencing – murder – whether life sentence appropriate

Older cases

*R v Mitchell* [2008] 2 Qd R 142

Post-offence conduct – whether probative of murder or merely manslaughter

*R v McDougall and Collas* [2007] 2 Qd R 87

Serious violent offence declaration – relevant criteria

*R v Brennan* [1999] 2 Qd R 529

Lies as consciousness of guilt – need for prosecutorial restraint in seeking directions

*R v Skedgwell* [1999] 2 Qd R 97

Sentencing – pre-sentence custody - totality

*R v Julian* (1998) 100 A Crim R 430

Murder – self-defence

*Weissensteiner v The Queen* (1993) 178 CLR 271

Inferences able to be drawn from failure to explain a circumstantial case (junior counsel)

*Wakely and Bartling v The Queen* (1990) 93 ALR 79

Improper restriction of the right of counsel to cross-examine (junior counsel)

Significant trials

*R v Allen* (1993)

Murder of taxi driver – common unlawful purpose (see [1993] QCA 546)

*R v Griffiths* (1994)

Fraud – retirement village scheme (see [1994] QCA 455)

*R v Craggs* (1995)

Murder of older man by young male – intent – blood spatter (see [1995] QCA 405)

*R v Barnes* (1995)

Murder of domestic partner – intoxication – intent (see [1995] QCA 11)

*R v Donald Jeffrey, and Pascoe* (1997)

Murder of harmless drunk – common unlawful purpose (see [2003] 2 Qd R 306)

EST. 1997

**LUCAS  
CHAMBERS**

LEVEL 13, 420 GEORGE STREET, BRISBANE QLD 4000

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation.

*R v Fitzherbert (2000)*

Murder of veterinarian – DNA – alibi (see [2000] QCA 255)

*R v Mullins & Ors (2000)*

Attempted murder – bashing of cyclist who was dumped in river (see [2001] QCA 440)

*R v Morrison (2001)*

Murder of sex worker and drug dealer near Tedder Avenue, Main Beach (see [2001] QCA 184)

*R v Bargaquest (2004)*

Murder – abduction over drug debt

*R v Clumpoint (2007)*

Palm Island riot

*R v Hayes (2008)*

Murder x 3 – arson

*R v Stoten (2010)*

Tax fraud – Operation Wickenby (see (2011) 245 CLR 257)

*R v Falls (2010)*

Murder – domestic violence – self-defence

*R v Abell (2013)*

Murder of police officer (see [2015] QCA 144)

*R v Shaw (2013)*

Murder – sex worker procured shooting of boyfriend (see [2017] QCA 38)

*R v Cox (2014)*

Murder – bashing of girlfriend's former sexual partner (see [2016] QCA 165)

*R v Howell (2014)*

Murder – bashing of drug dealer – DNA – blood spatter

*R v Armitage (2017)*

Abduction and torture of drug dealer (see [2019] QCA 149)

EST. 1997

**LUCAS  
CHAMBERS**

LEVEL 13, 420 GEORGE STREET, BRISBANE QLD 4000

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation.