**Sir Nigel Hamilton Sweeney**

Sir Nigel Sweeney studied law at the University of Nottingham University where he was taught by Professor Sir John Smith. He was called to the Bar in 1976, and came to specialise in terrorism, official secrets, murder and major health & safety trials.

His high-profile cases include the Brighton Bombing, the appeal of the Guildford Four, the Clapham bomb factory, the ricin conspiracy, and the 21/7 London bombers; official secrets cases (such as David Shayler (MI5) and David Tomlinson (MI6)); murder cases (such as Derek Bentley, James Hanratty, Carl Bridgewater, Michael Stone, Stephen Lawrence, and Damilola Taylor) and health & safety cases such as the Clapham, Ladbroke Grove, Hatfield & Potters Bar rail disasters.

Sir Nigel was appointed First Senior Prosecuting Counsel to the Crown in 1997, and took Silk in 2000. He was appointed to the Queens Bench Division of the High Court in October 2008. In that capacity he has presided over numerous high profile trials including the Al Qaeda transatlantic airliner bomb plot, the murder of Lee Rigby and the trial of Rolf Harris. His caseload in the appellate courts has included leading authorities on DNA, fingerprints and terrorism.

He was appointed a Presiding Judge of the South Eastern Circuit in 2012, and the Judge in Charge of the Terrorism List in 2013. He is also the Judge responsible for European Liaison in relation to criminal law issues, and is a member of the Judges’ Council.

Sir Nigel is also an Associate Professor at the School of Law at Nottingham University.