



Austin's practice encompasses all areas of criminal work, acting for both the defence and the prosecution. He has also represented individuals and companies charged with regulatory offences in both the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court.

Before being called to the Bar Austin was a commercial solicitor at an international law firm in the City of London. Austin also worked for the United Nations at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Since being called to the Bar Austin has developed a busy practice in the Crown Court, with a particular emphasis on defence work. He is frequently instructed in cases involving serious allegations of violence, sexual offences and drugs offences. In recent years Austin has been instructed, either alone or as a led junior, on a number of large and complex cases involving allegations of conspiracy to supply drugs and fraud.

Austin has a particular interest in business crime, regulatory offences and fraud,. He is a member of the Serious Fraud Office list of approved Counsel.

CRIMINAL LAW

Austin is instructed to both prosecute and defend in all areas of criminal litigation in the Crown Court. The majority of Austin's practice is comprised of defence instructions and he has represented clients charged with offences of serious violence, drugs, sexual offences including rape, serious incidents of public disorder, firearms and dishonesty. He is experienced in dealing with cases at all stages in the Crown Court and the Court of Appeal.

Austin also prosecutes cases on behalf of the Crown Prosecution Service and is graded as a category 2 prosecutor. In 2009 Austin was appointed to the Serious Fraud Office C Panel of barristers who are able to prosecute on behalf of the SFO.

Notable cases

- Operation Sunrise – Autumn 2007 – represented a defendant in a multi-handed conspiracy to commit robberies and burglaries. 4-6 week trial estimate
- R v S and others – March 2008 - Led by Chris Daw in a conspiracy to supply firearms case. At the time of this case this was the second biggest recovery of firearms ever in the North West of England. The case raised a complex abuse of process argument relating to the legality of charging a defendant with conspiracy after he had previously pleaded guilty to a substantive offence arising out of the same facts. 4 week trial estimate
- R v B – June 2008 – Led by Simon Csoka in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs case. 8-10 week trial estimate.
- R v C – September 2008 – Represented a defendant in a conspiracy to commit robberies and burglaries. Successfully argued before His Honour Judge Adrian Smith that an application by the prosecution to go back on a promise to accept pleas to certain substantive offences was an abuse of process. 4 week trial estimate
- R v W – March 2009 - Represented a defendant alleged to have been involved with others in the cultivation of cannabis. The estimated value of the drugs involved in the conspiracy was £20 million and at the time this was the biggest seizure of cannabis farms in the North of England. 4 week trial.
- R v K – August 2009 – Led by Chris Daw in a conspiracy to commit fraud. Mr K was the lead Defendant in the case in which it was alleged that he had set up a number of companies who were fraudulently selling sponsorship on drugs education booklets. 4-6 week trial estimate.
- R v M – February 2010 and September 2010 – Led by Simon Csoka in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs case. The Defendant was one of two brothers alleged to have been involved in the large-scale supply of Class A drugs in the Scunthorpe area. After 8 weeks the jury was discharged because of failures in the disclosure process by the prosecution that had meant that the court considered instructing special counsel. The case against Mr Miah was discontinued at the re-trial after certain evidence was excluded.

- R v T – October 2010 – Represented a defendant charged with numerous counts of rape stretching back over a number of years. The Defendant was acquitted of all charges.
- R v H – May 2011 – Represented a defendant in an eight handed multi- million pound conspiracy to supply Class A drugs at the Crown Court at Teesside. 6 week trial
- R v C – July 2011 – Represented a defendant charged with the rape of two complainants. Mr C was acquitted of both charges.
- R v S – August 2011 – Represented a defendant charged with allegations of historic sexual abuse. Mr S was acquitted of all charges.
- R v F – February and September 2011 – Led by Chris Daw in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and possession of firearms case. The original indictment in this case was quashed on the grounds of misjoinder of counts. The prosecution eventually offered no evidence in respect of the firearms charges faced by Mr F following expert evidence that had been obtained by the defence relating to the firearm.
- R v B – October 2011 – Represented a defendant charged with production of cannabis. The two defendants in the case ran “cut-throat” defences. The co-defendant in this case instructed leading counsel. Mr B was acquitted of the charge.

Regulatory Law

Austin Has advised and represented in the Magistrates Court and Crown Court individuals and corporate bodies charged with breaches of

- Fire safety legislation
- Planning legislation
- Food safety legislation

Austin has also represented companies in appeals against civil penalties imposed for allegedly employing individuals contrary to the Immigration Nationality and Asylum Act 2006 and has acted for both companies and local authorities in licensing appeals.

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

LL.B (Hons) University Of Leeds

The College of Law, Chester, - Legal Practice Course

Manchester Metropolitan University - Bar Vocational Course

Queen Mother Scholarship awarded by the Middle Temple

Member of the Northern Circuit

Member of the Young Fraud Lawyers of the North Association

PERSONAL

In his spare time Austin enjoys mountain biking, the cinema and going to the gym.