

James joined Chambers in 2010 having built up a strong criminal defence practice covering all aspect of criminal law, principally in the Preston, Burnley, Blackburn and Barrow-in-Furness areas.

Able to quickly establish a rapport with his lay clients, James works tirelessly to ensure the best possible outcome for them: whether that be in resolving the case or at trial. A persuasive and focussed advocate, he believes in maintaining a close liason with his instructing solicitors and is always contactable by phone or email.

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CRIMINAL LAW

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James has a busy practice encompassing all areas of criminal litigation in the Crown Court; with a particular emphasis on defence work. He has been instructed on cases ranging from drugs offences, dishonesty and fraud, violence, football related disorder, arson and sexual offences.

In the last 12 months he has represented a number of serving and former members of the UK Armed Forces; in those cases his inside knowledge of the military has assisted both solicitors and lay clients alike.

NOTABLE CASES

R v Hudson and others (2007): led in an 11 week, multi-handed, fraud conspiracy trial which featured on the BBCs "Rogue Traders" programme.

R v Wen and others (2009): led in a multi-handed money laundering trial involving Chinese takeaways across the North West

R v Hartley (2010): James represented one of the main defendants in a 21 handed conspiracy to commit violent disorder trial, involving alleged members of the Burnley "Suicide Squad".

R v Casey (2010): Section 18 wounding involving a former soldier suffering from PTSD.

R v B (2010): rape case involving a 15 year old with fitness to plead issues.

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

James was educated at Stonyhurst College before completing his A-levels at Nelson & Colne College.

He read Psychology at The University of Leeds, before joining the Royal Navy on a short-career commission.

After passing out from Britannia Royal Naval College, James spent most of his time at sea as an Officer of the Watch in the Warfare Branch. He then qualified as a ship's diver and served as Diving Officer in HMS Glasgow, before being selected for training as a mine-clearance diver. James also became a qualified bomb disposal officer in 2003.

During his six years in the Royal Navy James travelled all over the world, taking part in operations in the Far East, South Atlantic, Sierra Leone and boarding operations in Northern Ireland.

Following his military service, James completed the Graduate Diploma in Law (with commendation) and the Bar Vocational Course (very competent) at Manchester Metropolitan University.

PERSONAL

James was born in Burnley and grew up in Barrowford, and is very proud of his Lancashire roots. He enjoys scuba diving (PADI Divemaster), cycling, motorbikes and watching rugby. He is married with two children.