



"The next generation of stars" Legal 500 2010

Alex Leach joined Chambers in 2002 after successful completion of his Pupillage. His practice encompasses all areas of criminal law for both prosecution and defence. Alex has particular experience in the areas of Firearms, Drugs, Sexual Offences and Football related public order offences.

Alex read Law and Manchester University before studying for his Bar exams at the Inns of Court School of Law in London.

He regularly lectures to fellow practitioners on areas of criminal law and has recently delivered a series of lectures on anonymity in criminal proceedings.

CRIMINAL LAW

Alex has prosecuted and defended in a wide range of cases. Most recently his practice has involved a series of multi-handed gang related cases, firearms conspiracies, rape, murders and attempted murders. Alex has a broad range of experience in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division where he has conducted numerous appeals against sentence, conviction and Attorney General's References.

CORONERS INQUESTS

Alex practises as counsel to Coroners Courts Inquests, dealing specifically with questions arising out of Unlawful Act Manslaughter.

NOTABLE CASES

R v Ali and others - Murder – (ongoing). Alex is instructed as junior counsel in this murder of a nightclub doorman in which seven defendants have been charged on an indictment alleging Violent Disorder and Murder.

R v Osbourne and others – Conspiracy to rob – (ongoing). Alex is instructed in this case in which it is alleged that the defendants conspired to rob cash in transit lorries and other criminals of substantial quantities of cash. The case involves cell siting and telephone billing evidence as well as tracking devices and observation evidence.

R v Donald and others - Conspiracy to possess firearms with intent to endanger life – 2009. Alex was instructed to prosecute a number of firearms indictments which were joined to become an 11 handed firearms conspiracy. Alex then assumed the role of junior counsel in the trials that followed during which 10 of the defendants were convicted, (some by their plea). The case involved the supply of self-loading pistols, sound moderators and infra-red sighting systems between London, Manchester and Leeds. The prosecution relied upon an enormous volume of telephone evidence, (traffic and cell siting).

R v Ryan - Attempted Murder – 2009. Alex was instructed to prosecute this attempted murder in which the defendant was convicted of shooting another man using a self-loading pistol. The defendant received 19 years imprisonment.

R v Mousah and others – 2009. Alex was instructed in this 9 handed gang related Affray during which members of a Manchester gang surrounded and made threats (including threats to kill) towards three police officers and another male.

R v Cameron – Attempted Murder - 2008 – Alex was instructed in this case in which the defendant was alleged to have attempted to murder two men using a self-loading pistol. The case involved evidence of facial mapping

R v Akhlaq – Kidnap – 2008 – Alex was instructed in this case in which the defendant was alleged to have been part of a group who kidnapped the complainant as part of an ongoing dispute.

R v Main – Money Laundering – 2008 – Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this case which alleged money laundering on the part of this defendant who was said to have acted as an accountant concealing funds from a diesel fraud. The trial was followed by a complex £1.5 million confiscation hearing which dealt with properties in the USA the United Arab Emirates, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.

R v Parmar - Possession prohibited firearms and Class A drugs - 2008 Alex was instructed in this case which involved the possession of an arsenal of firearms including self-loading pistols and shortened barrelled shot guns along with Class A drugs to the value of £90,000+.

R v Johnson and Wint – Possession prohibited firearm with intent to endanger life – 2008. Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this gang motivated 'drive by' shooting which took place at a family fun day in Moss Side in Manchester. The case involved anonymous witnesses and an enormous quantity of audio probe evidence.

R v Peniston and Peniston – Murder/Manslaughter 2008. Alex was instructed as junior counsel in this case (which resolved by way of plea to Unlawful Act Manslaughter and possession of a prohibited firearm), in which a 15 year old boy shot and killed his 12 year old sister.

RAPE AND FAMILY ABUSE CASES

Alex is an accredited Rape Prosecutor and has undertaken a wide range of rape and family abuse cases.

R v A - Rape (ongoing) – Alex is instructed in this case in which the defendant is said to have raped his partner’s 15 year old niece.

R v C – Rape (ongoing) – Alex is instructed in this case in which the defendant is alleged to have raped his common law wife.

R v H – Rape (ongoing) – Alex is instructed in this case in which the defendant is alleged to have raped a woman he met on the street.

R v D – Child abduction (ongoing) – Alex is instructed in this case in which the defendant is alleged to have abducted his brother’s children

R v Twigg – Child abduction & Conspiracy to Rob – 2008. Alex was instructed in this case which involved a conspiracy to rob a post office. The defendant stole a car and abducted a young child in his attempts to escape capture.

R v N and A – Rape (ongoing) – Two defendants are alleged to have taken two young girls to a flat where they were separated from each other and raped and sexually assaulted respectively.

FOOTBALL RELATED DISORDER

Operation Gale – 2009. Alex was instructed pre-charge to review and advise upon this investigation into the widespread disorder surrounding the Glasgow Rangers v Zenit St Petersburg UEFA cup final in 2008.

Operation Bridge – 2008. Alex was instructed in this clash between Manchester City and Birmingham City supporters outside the City of Manchester Stadium.

Operation Brill – 2007. Alex was instructed in this case which involved a large scale disorder between Manchester United and Manchester City supporters following the Manchester derby.

Operation Lucas – 2006. Alex was part of a team of three members of Chambers who prosecuted more than 40 defendants for offences arising out of citywide disorder following a world cup qualifying match played at Old Trafford. Alex prosecuted a 24 handed sentence over five days which marked the culmination of this operation.