



Dennis Watson was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2009. Dennis specialises in crime for both the prosecution and defence with particular emphasis on fraud, money laundering, homicide and serious sexual offences.

He (and Kevin Donnelly) successfully prosecuted a large waste disposal fraud on behalf of Cumbria CC Trading Standards Dept in the summer of 2009 where the business owner and 2 members of the management team were jailed for their part in defrauding Cumbria CC.

In the Autumn of 2009 he (and Kate Blackwell) successfully defended the 2nd defendant (the advertising manager) in the "Vance Miller Kitchen Case" brought by Oldham Trading Standards Dept. The trial was said to be largest ever UK Trading Standards prosecution but ended in January 2010 after 12 weeks when the Judge found at the end of the prosecution case that the prosecution was an abuse of the Court process and that, in any event, there was no case to answer.

Dennis has been delighted to retain his links with the Lancashire Courts. In June 2010 he and Tim Storrie successfully prosecuted Michael Casey, Keith Peel and David Carroll for Murder at Preston Crown Court on behalf of Preston CPS. In October he prosecuted Jonathan Vass for the murder of his former girlfriend Jane Clough at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. At the time Vass was on bail awaiting trial for serious sexual offences against her. He is also briefed to represent one of three defendants in a major drugs conspiracy prosecuted by SOCA to be heard in Leeds in 2011 (Operation Junko).

He has also appeared for the prosecution and defence in a number of murder and manslaughter trials.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Recorder (2003)

NOTABLE CASES

R v Brodie, Miller and Others (2009/2010). Defence in Trading Standards prosecution for conspiracy to defraud and trading standards offences relating to the supply of kitchens (Manchester).

R v Skarnes and Monks (2009). Prosecution in Conspiracy to Murder where intended victims were the parents of one of the defendants (Preston).

R v Armer and Others (2009). Prosecution of company owner and management team for waste disposal/weightbridge fraud (Carlisle).

R v Hudson and Others (2007/2008). Prosecution of company owner and sales team for Conspiracy to Obtain Property by Deception and Money Laundering offences in relation to bogus damp proof installations carried out by a business which changed identity every few months (as featured on BBC TV 'Rogue Traders') (Preston)

R v Wright & Others (2007/2008). Defence of financial adviser/mortgage broker for allegations of money laundering and in confiscation proceedings (Manchester)

R v O'Neil and Others (2007). Prosecution of loan shark operation, money laundering offences and subsequent confiscation proceedings (Carlisle)

R v Routledge (2005/2006). Defence of company director where the company was centrally involved in MTIC/VAT fraud and money laundering allegations (Birmingham)

EDUCATION / PROFESSIONAL

Uppingham School 1976 – 1981

Leeds Polytechnic BA (Hons) Law 2:1 1981 – 1984

Member of the Criminal Bar Association.

Co-opted member of the Northern Circuit Executive Committee.

External Advocacy Assessor for CPS advocates.

PERSONAL

LEISURE

Sport - keen golfer
Reading & travel